



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING

RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

March 31, 2014

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: State Board of Education

FROM: Gary Abud, 2013-2014 Michigan Teacher of the Year

SUBJECT: Teacher of the Year Report

- Designed a hands-on workshop for the Webmasters Special Interest Group at the Michigan Association for Computer Users in Learning (MACUL) Conference.
- Four of my presentations were featured at the MACUL Conference during Featured Speaker sessions, though they were given by an alternate speaker when I was unable to attend the Conference.
- Reviewed a manuscript in the Marzano Teacher Evaluation Workbook for Learning Sciences International. The focus of the book is helping students practice skills, strategies, and processes.
- Co-founded the Teacher of the Year Talks Podcast with the 2014 Indiana State Teacher of the Year. This podcast project is going to feature each state's teacher of the year in the class of 2014 in a short and informative presentation much like TED Talks. The podcast is set to launch this summer for all educators to be inspired by the work of our National Network of State Teachers of the Year.
- Gave the keynote address at the Michigan Association of Middle School Educators Conference in Walled Lake, where I also gave an impromptu presentation on social media and digital footprints for the State Attorney General's office.
- Attended the Galileo Teacher Leadership Academy where I am working on a research project investigating the relationship between classroom grading methods and student achievement.
- Visited Trombly Elementary School in Grosse Pointe to conduct a Next Generation Science Standards lesson on balance and motion with 1st, 2nd, and 3rd graders.
- Worked with our district administrators and teachers to plan Common Core State Standards implementation professional learning activities.

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- Coordinated the Interim Assessment Pilot in social studies and science for secondary schools in Grosse Pointe.
- Implemented a pilot program for mobile learning that included 20 high school classrooms. The program involves classroom teachers getting an Apple TV and professional development for Bring Your Own Device mobile learning. Teachers are creating lessons for this program and sharing them on a crowd-sourced blog with other educators.
- Gave the keynote address at the 3rd Annual I Am a Teacher Expo at Michigan State University's College of Education.
- Worked with professional learning communities and school culture programs at Grosse Pointe North High School to bring the Challenge Day event to our Link Crew program.
- Led workshops on Common Core State Standards instructional shifts and Visible Thinking at the Michigan Education Association Professional Development Conference at Schoolcraft College.
- Coordinated the statewide Math-Science -Partnership Grant program for Modeling Instruction in Chemistry and Physics with educational leaders from around the state. We have established three-week academies for science teachers around the state of Michigan. More information at [www.mimodelinginstruction.org](http://www.mimodelinginstruction.org).
- Presented at Wayne State University on behalf of the Michigan Eye Bank for the kickoff event of Donate Life Month through the Michigan Department of State.
- Worked with elementary reading specialists on podcasting as a technology to support reading fluency, differentiated instruction, and performance assessment for students.
- Continued my work helping educators share their voice through blogging with the Teacher Leadership Challenge.