



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN
SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

November 26, 2007

MEMORANDUM

TO: State Board of Education
FROM: Ms. June Teisan, 2007–2008 Michigan Teacher of the Year
SUBJECT: Teacher of the Year Report

In the Classroom

T3 is heating up our chilly December mornings in science class! "**Tremendous Tech and Tutoring**" is a voluntary science and technology experience I offer to beat the blahs and engage middle schoolers in fun-tastic learning. Students arrive at 6:30 am and dig into a variety of Lego construction kits, exploring basic concepts of simple machines, building working models of electronic devices, and assembling miniature pneumatic presses and movable dentist chairs. Using Lego kits I've had from years back when I taught a high school Intro Physical Science (it pays to be a packrat!) and purchasing newer Lego robotic kits with award monies I received from Chrysler's "Closing the Technology Gap in Education" in 2006 and 2007, my students are designing, investigating, constructing, and opening their minds to careers in the STEM fields of science, technology, engineering, and math.

On the Road

I am eagerly anticipating the December 6-7, 2007, Network of Michigan Educators Conference in Lansing. Co-sponsored by the Michigan Department of Education and the State Board of Education, this event brings together recognized educators from across the state. This year's theme, "Teaching and Leading in the 21st Century" will foster discussion about meeting the challenges of teaching, learning, and leading to best prepare our students for life in a "world is flat" future. I will assist in the facilitation of this event, speak at the Thursday evening banquet, as well as prepare a breakout session that will connect veteran Michigan Teachers of the Year with new and pre-service teachers.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

KATHLEEN N. STRAUS – PRESIDENT • JOHN C. AUSTIN – VICE PRESIDENT
CAROLYN L. CURTIN – SECRETARY • MARIANNE YARED MCGUIRE – TREASURER
NANCY DANHOF – NASBE DELEGATE • ELIZABETH W. BAUER
REGINALD M. TURNER • CASANDRA E. ULBRICH

608 WEST ALLEGAN STREET • P.O. BOX 30008 • LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909
www.michigan.gov/mde • (517) 373-3324