



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

THOMAS D. WATKINS, JR.
SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

November 1, 2004

MEMORANDUM

TO: State Board of Education

FROM: Mrs. Heidi Capraro, 2004-2005 Michigan Teacher of the Year

SUBJECT: Report on Teacher of the Year Activities for October 2004

October Activities

- Michigan Earth Science Teachers Association Conference and Banquet
- Meeting with Mr. Malin Wagner, Flat Rock Downriver Technical Consortium
- Tour of *Experiencia*
- Novice Teacher Workshop serving Clinton, Ingham, and Eaton ISDs
- Conference Call with Microsoft – Michigan Partners In Education
- Tri City Science Advisory Council, Saginaw
- Meeting with Women in Science Education (WISE), University of Michigan
- Education Policy Fellowship Program (EPFP)
- State Board of Education Meeting
- Radio interviews
- Partnering for Character Conference
- Speak at Aquinas College *FIRE-UP!* A conference for student teachers
- Northville Science Curriculum Meeting
- Listening Panel for the Statewide *Kidspeak*
- Microsoft Michigan Partners in Learning Advisory Council
- Northville Board of Education Meeting at Hillside Middle School
- Navigator Elementary School, Pinckney
- Hillside Middle School, Northville--Japanese student visitors
- Plymouth-Canton School District
- IDEA Partnership Meeting

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

KATHLEEN N. STRAUS – PRESIDENT • HERBERT S. MOYER – VICE PRESIDENT
CAROLYN L. CURTIN – SECRETARY • JOHN C. AUSTIN – TREASURER
MARIANNE YARED MCGUIRE – NASBE DELEGATE • ELIZABETH W. BAUER
REGINALD M. TURNER • EILEEN LAPPIN WEISER

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

Reflections

Looking back at the highlights from October, I realize why time is flying in my new position! The willingness of people outside K-12 public education to meet with me has been a heartwarming experience. In particular, I was greeted with enthusiasm by Mr. Malin Wagner from the Downriver Technical Consortium (DCTC) in Flat Rock and Ms. Jamie Saville from the University of Michigan, Women in Science and Engineering (WISE) Program.

Mr. Malin Wagner of DCTC spent the morning with me demonstrating their exceptional partnership between industry and schools. Malin is the director of DCTC, a partnership between Auto Alliance (Ford and Mazda), and eleven school districts in the Downriver area. Auto Alliance encourages students to come to their factory to learn about careers and to practice skills. I was surprised at the breadth of opportunities that they provide for kids. I assumed that students would learn about technology and robotics, but the program is designed to teach many other career skills, such as employee health rehabilitation.

Mr. Wagner was excited to share with me another phenomenal learning experience for kids, *Experiencia*. This large facility has two parts, a miniature city, and a science habitat wonderland. Mr. Harold Michaelis, the site director, provided a thorough tour of the facility. The programs taught at *Experiencia* use real world topics. Schools send up to 100 3rd through 6th graders to *Experiencia*. Students learn about careers, responsibility, and content that meets the Michigan Curriculum Framework. I truly enjoyed my visits to both locations. I was impressed by the commitment of Mr. Wagner and Mr. Michaelis to the partnerships with schools.

I had a delightful lunch and meeting with the Women In Science and Engineering (WISE) Program at the University of Michigan. Ms. Jamie Saville invited me to learn about their program involving girls in science. Jamie and her colleagues, Dr. Cinda-Sue Davis, director, and Debbie Taylor provided a wonderful lunch, an extensive agenda, and a book bag of materials and readings to enlighten me. I was so impressed by the volunteering they were doing. Their summer programs, weekend activities, and involvement with teachers provide real world experiences to promote interest in science and careers to middle and high school girls.

Dr. Davis enlightened me on recent studies regarding girls and career choices in science. I left pondering some information that she shared with me. She had spoken of standardized test scores being much higher now for girls in high school science, yet girls are not going into science in college or careers immediately after high school. She said that studies are showing a percentage of women are actually going into the science field well past exiting high school. We discussed why girls aren't entering into science and engineering in college. This sounds like another research study that needs to be done!

Learning about the partnerships was of great value to me. As I travel through Michigan, I am looking for career-focused partnerships between industry and higher education that can be replicated. The excellent resources provided at DCTC, *Experiencia*, and through the WISE program are ones I will share and promote to teachers everywhere.

I was proud to be a part of the Tri-City Science Advisory Council meeting, where I helped write Content Expectations for the Michigan Curriculum Framework Science Objectives. It was great fun meeting and working with middle school science teachers from around the state.