



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING



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PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

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TO: ISD and Local District Superintendents
Public School Academy Directors

FROM: Mike Flanagan,  Superintendent of Public Instruction

SUBJECT: Michigan Council for the Social Studies Annual Professional Learning Conference

The Michigan Council for the Social Studies (MCSS) Annual Professional Learning Conference will be held February 26-28, 2007 in Lansing at the Radisson Hotel and Conference Center.

Research indicates that the factor most directly related to improvement in student achievement is quality professional development. This conference will offer solid information and speakers to help you accomplish your goals in student achievement. The conference theme is the *Meeting of Three Worlds: Business, Education and Government*. I will be there to kick off the General Session which will emphasize this theme with a distinguished panel including; Nolan Finley, Reginald Turner, Tom Walsh, and Michael David Warren. They will respond to crucial questions about the economy, environment, and democracy.

There will be over 180 sessions showcasing the latest teaching strategies for kindergarten through the university level. Pre-conference clinics include; *How to Read Social Studies, Social Studies Integration, Using National Centers as a Resource*, as well as sessions sponsored by publishers. Special sessions are designed for first-year teachers and pre-service students.

The February 27th luncheon will honor teachers, students, and other citizens for their contributions to social studies education. One highlight of this year's event will be an evening Social Studies Summit reception entitled, *Get Into the Act and Walk the Talk*. Identified Teacher Ambassadors will meet with their Michigan legislators and share examples of best practice from their schools (indicate participation on registration form). State Board of Education members and the four social studies content organizations will be on hand as well.

We are hopeful you will be able to sponsor several teachers from your district to attend this conference. The Michigan Council for the Social Studies Executive Board, who represent the more than 2000 members, volunteer nights and weekends to make this conference a success. Registration applications are available on the Michigan Council for the Social Studies web site at <http://www.michcouncilss.org>. If you have any questions about this event, please call the MCSS business office at 734-975-2811. Educators will have the opportunity to earn State Board Continuing Education Units (CEUs) at all sessions.

The efforts you and your staff are making to teach social studies and to increase student achievement is to be commended. We look forward to seeing you and your staff in Lansing, February 26-28, 2007.

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