



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM  
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN  
SUPERINTENDENT OF  
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents  
Public School Academy Directors

**FROM:** Mike Flanagan, Superintendent of Public Instruction

**DATE:** January 29, 2008

**SUBJECT:** Michigan Council for the Social Studies 52nd Annual State Conference

At this time in our nation's history, we recognize the vital importance the subjects of social studies (economics, government, history, and geography) play in the Michigan curriculum. Social studies education is the thread that holds our democracy together with the goal of creating responsible citizens. The efforts by you and your staff to improve student achievement in social studies are to be commended. Research indicates that a key strategy to increase student achievement is quality professional learning for teachers.

The Michigan Council for the Social Studies' Annual Professional Learning Conference will be held February 18-20, 2008 in Dearborn at the Hyatt Regency Hotel.

This year's theme, "Transformational Citizenship for a Global World," will highlight the new Social Studies Grade Level Content Expectations and High School Content Expectations. Michigan Department of Education staff and writers/reviewers of the documents will be on hand to present practical sessions on how to implement the expectations into your districts and classrooms.

There will be over 170 sessions showcasing the latest teaching strategies for kindergarten through the university level. Highlights include Judge Michael Warren, who will discuss his new book; Dr. Bruce Haight, respected Africanist; and featured sessions on Islam and the Arab World. Educators will have the opportunity to earn State Board Continuing Education Units (CEUs) at all sessions.

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608 WEST ALLEGAN STREET • P.O. BOX 30008 • LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909  
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Monday's luncheon speaker will be Dan Mulhern, First Gentleman of Michigan, who will receive the Mel Miller Mentoring Award. State Senator John Gleason and Chuck and Rita Gelman will receive the Great Influence Award in recognition of their efforts to improve and support social studies education in Michigan. Tuesday, February 19, social studies educators and students will be honored for their outstanding work in the field as nominated by teachers from Michigan. I hope you will attend to help recognize their contributions.

The Michigan Council for the Social Studies is an organization of over 2,000 Michigan educators. The Michigan Council for the Social Studies Executive Board, a small group of dedicated volunteer educators, works nights and weekends to make this conference a success.

I hope you are able to sponsor teachers from your district to attend the conference.

For registration and/or more information, contact Michigan Council for the Social Studies at <http://michcouncilss.org>.