

Welcome Back To School!

Guest Article By **Dr. David Eisler**, President, Ferris State University



There is always a feeling of excitement in the air at the beginning of the school year. New students, new faculty, and new facilities combine to bring a freshness and expectation of "New Beginnings, Fresh Starts, and New Challenges." I will feel much the same way as I face my freshman class as the semester begins.

Over the past two years I have had the opportunity to visit many of the schools chartered by Ferris State University. Each time I am impressed by the children, their smiling faces, their respect for their teachers, and the learning that is taking place. It is impossible to observe

all that is happening in our charter schools, but see the incredible difference you are making in so many young lives.

From the bottom of my heart I want to thank you for your commitment to these children and to create a supportive learning environment where kids can succeed. Each of us remembers extraordinary teachers who have changed our lives. Thank you for caring and to help provide the education that will create lifelong opportunities for these students.

Each June we gather our Ferris leadership team together and spend the week together visiting our educational partners, alumni, and friends. On this past Presidential Bus Tour we were able to host a luncheon for our Charter School Leaders and Board Members. In

my remarks that day I challenged us to work together to help create bright futures for our charter school students. My hope is that we can create an expectation that they will not only do well in high school, but also plan to attend college. To facilitate that future I want to work with you to raise scholarship support for these students so we can make this dream a reality. Throughout this year I look forward to working with you toward that end.

I am hopeful that each of you will have a meaningful and successful year. Please accept my best wishes for your continued success and accomplishments.

David L. Eisler, President



Special Points Of Interest

- New Faces in New Places
- CSO Customer Satisfaction Survey Results
- Staying in Touch Over Summer
- 4th Annual Shining Star Award Recipients



Spotlight On Academies



New Faces In New Places

The CSO is pleased to introduce two school leaders new to their positions at FSU – authorized academies. **Tim Harris** has assumed the position of Middle School Director



at *Benton Harbor Charter School*. Tim grew up in Benton Harbor and graduated from Coloma High School. He is an army veteran with several years of service. Tim had previously worked for the Benton Harbor Charter School in the alternative education program. He has also spent time teaching life skills in the Benton Harbor Boys & Girls Club. Tim replaces Barbara Bernard and will be working with BHCS Elementary Director Cynthia Jack.

Fran Gardulescue has assumed the position of Upper Elementary Principal at *Joy Preparatory Academy-Dexter*. Fran has a wealth of educational experience. Prior to her assignment at Joy, Fran served as the Academic Administrator and New Teacher/Mentor Coordinator at Allen Academy. She also served as Curriculum Coach at ABT Elementary & High School. Ms. Gardulescue has 26 years of teaching experience in the Pittsburg, Inkster, and Ypsilanti school systems. Fran replaces Omega Mostyn at Joy-Dexter.



at Joy-Dexter.

Welcome New School Leaders!

Customer Satisfaction Survey Results

In an effort to better understand how we can best serve our academies, the CSO initiated a Customer Satisfaction Survey this summer. Board of Director members, School Leaders, School Administrative Assistants, and Educational Service Providers were asked to comment on a wide range of services and initiatives of the CSO.

In order to allow for freedom to express views, surveys were sent to Creative Technologies Academy for tabulation. The CSO has not seen the actual surveys.

Total number of responses=66. Response Rate=42.5

Below is a brief summary of those responses:

- In questions about CSO general service, (*courtesy, response to questions/problems, accurate information, visi-*

bility in the schools) respondents gave the CSO an average score of **8.47** out of **9.0**.

- In information services, (*newsletter, website, performance reports*) respondents gave an average score of **8.38** out of **9.0**
- Regarding academic support (*programs, expectations, and initiatives*), respondents gave us an average score of **8.56** out of **9.0**

In the *Comments Section* many respondents told us about their appreciation for the monetary support the office gives each academy. Several helpful suggestions for the future were also given regarding balancing compliance with student performance, and improving internal communications.

To view the complete survey results, please visit our website and click the *Announcement/Info* button. The staff of the CSO expresses a sincere **Thank You** to Lexie Coxon from CTA for her willingness to assist with the survey tabulations. Thanks to all of you for your responses and comments. We will consider your comments as we constantly look for ways to help support the FSU-Academies throughout this school year. We look forward to our continued partnership with each of you on behalf of the children we all serve.



CSO Staff: Front Row (L to R): Sue Impellizzeri, Julia Quillan, Esther Simpson. 2nd Row: Suzanne Finney, Ron Rizzo, Art Willick. Back Row: Ed McKeenan, Jimmie Rodgers, Larry Lindquist, Lee Robinson

Staying in Touch Over The Summer

The Charter School Office had the opportunity to stay in touch with school personnel and members of academy Boards of Directors this summer through a variety of activities. Some of the time we brought teachers and administrators to our FSU campus for activities such as the Scantron/Data Driven School Improvement workshops in August. We also gathered with the FSU President, Vice Presidents, and University Deans for a special luncheon in Detroit to thank Board members and school leaders and their staff for their work.

In June, we met with school leaders in Detroit for the 3rd Annual CSO summer briefing. Many topics and CSO initiatives were discussed. The Dean of The FSU College of Education toured several academies in early June with Associate Director Ron Rizzo. Our sincere thanks go to all of those who attend our workshops and gatherings this summer. We look forward to future opportunities to get together with Board members and educators from our academies.

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FSU College of Education Dean Dr. Michelle Johnston receives an official "Cougar" T-Shirt from Consortium Principal Rod Atkins



FSU President Dr. David Eisler addresses School Leaders and Board members at a luncheon in their honor in Detroit Renaissance Center



Academic Assessment Specialist Suzanne Finney gives presentations on FSU Campus



School Leaders, and Curriculum Directors attend CSO Summer Briefing Held in Consortium High School in Detroit

2005 Shining Star Award Recipients Announced

The CSO is pleased to announce the recipients of the **2005 Shining Star Award**. They are:

- **Conner Creek Academy-East, Roseville**
- **Creative Technologies Academy, Cedar Springs**
- **George Crockett Academy, Detroit**
- **Hope of Detroit Academy, Detroit**
- **Huron Academy, Sterling Heights**
- **Voyageur Academy, Detroit**

"We're extremely proud of all of our academies' performance this past year. We're especially pleased that five of our six recipients this year have received this distinction for the fourth time in four years," said Esther Simpson, CSO Compliance Officer. "We also had six other academies in the 95%-99% range."

All FSU-Authorized academies will be honored at the 4th Annual Shining Star Awards Reception on October 7 at the Dearborn Inn (across from the Greenfield Village Museum.)

Please return your RSVP by 9/15!

In 2000, the CSO established a "Compliance Incentive Fund" whereby its academies are monetarily rewarded for maintaining a satisfactory level of compliance. Based on a five-point scale (100%), \$1,000 per point is awarded to supplement the academy's general operating budget.



CSO Website Updated

The CSO has updated its website this summer. Several new features have been added to the site to offer more information on the 16 FSU-Authorized academies, and the charter school movement in general.

Beginning in mid-September, you can view a 2 minute video about each academy by clicking on the Video button and then choosing the school you wish to view. In addition, there is a new section titled Performance/Enrollment where you can view current data on each academy.

Visit us at:

www.ferris.edu/charterschools



CPD 1020 E. Maple Street
Big Rapids, MI 49307-1676

Phone: (231) 591-5802
Fax: (231) 796-1448
Email: rizzor@ferris.edu

Ferris State University Charter Schools
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www.ferris.edu/charterschools



MAPSA Prepares For 8th Annual Conference

On October 27-28, the Michigan Association of Public School Academies (MAPSA) will be hosting 2,000 charter educators and parents at this year's conference. The conference will be held at Cobo hall.

"Excellence For Every Child"-is why charter public schools exist. Charters are embraced because of their belief that every child can and will learn; they are applauded because they view excellence as the only option.

-Dan Quisenberry, MAPSA President

For information of the conference and to register, visit the MAPSA website at:

www.charterschools.org

New Voice At The CSO

It is our pleasure to introduce Elizabeth Tanner, a work study student at the Charter School Office this semester. Elizabeth will be assisting with answering phones and general secretarial work. Welcome!



FSU Mission

Ferris State University will be a national leader in providing opportunities for innovative teaching in career oriented, technological and professional education.