

From The Director's Desk . . .



The Ferris State University Charter Schools Office, in collaboration with the Ferris State University Department of Humanities, is offering a Charter Schools Arts Invitational. The purpose of this event is to offer students of FSU-authorized academies an expanded opportunity for fun, recognition and exposure to career opportunities in the arts and design field.

The Charter Schools Art Invitational, "Self and Society", is an arts competition for students in grades 9-12 attending a FSU-authorized academy. Participating students will have the opportunity to compete for monetary merit awards as indicated below:

Five awards will be given: first, second, third and two honorable mentions

- First place award - \$300 and a plaque
- Second place award - \$200 and a plaque
- Third place award - \$100 and a plaque
- Honorable mention - \$50

Students winning awards will have their work framed and displayed at the Rankin Center Art Gallery on the FSU campus. Award winning students will also be invited to FSU and may invite two adult guests. Mileage reimbursement will be provided.

Many other beneficial activities will also be offered, as listed in the November/December Charter Schools Office newsletter. Among these is the opportunity to meet a recruiter from FSU/Kendall College of Art and Design to discuss career opportunities in the art and design fields. Students will also have a tour of Michigan Art Walk and a discussion with Robert L. Barnum, FSU Professor of Fine Arts and Resident Artist. You are also reminded that there is a scholarship opportunity for graduates of FSU authorized academies.

We ask that Academy Boards of Directors, school leaders and teachers of FSU-authorized academies assist in making this event a success by encouraging your students to participate.

Lawrence V. Wells, Ph.D.

Happy New Year!

New Year Rings In Seven Ten-Year Anniversaries



Happy New Year to one and all! We trust your holiday season was joyous and provided opportunities for time with family, friends, and for some relaxation. This new year will undoubtedly bring a number of challenges, but also some opportunities.

The economic challenges facing our State and nation will continue to have significant impact on education at all levels. It will be more important than ever to embrace our stated missions and visions to make sure that all decisions made reflect those statements. This is a great opportunity to re-evaluate those things we hold most important for our institutions, and then to do everything possible to insure they remain intact during decision-making.

The arrival of 2009 also brings with it opportunities for celebration. Seven of the eighteen FSU-authorized academies are entering their tenth year of existence. The CSO is pleased to announce the ten-year milestones of the following FSU-authorized academies:

- *Benton Harbor Charter School* (Benton Harbor)
- *Conner Creek Academy-East* (Roseville & Warren)
- *Hope of Detroit Academy* (Detroit)
- *Huron Academy* (Sterling Heights)
- *Joy Preparatory Academy* (Detroit)
- *New City Academy* (Lansing)
- *Northridge Academy* (Flint)

Ferris State University began chartering schools in August of 1998. The median age of the FSU-authorized academies is 9.58 years.

***Congratulations to our academies who
have reached this milestone!***

January is Board Appreciation Month

The month of January is Board Appreciation Month, and it is our pleasure to honor the following individuals for their service to public school academies as members of the Board of Directors. These individuals put in

countless hours of service by serving on committees and attending academy activities in addition to monthly Board meetings. **We sincerely thank** all Board members for their service and commitment to the youth of our State.

Allen Academy - Detroit

James Blanks, President; Ronald DeHondt; Lillis James; Ivan Johnson; Cephis Sands; Karen Simpson

Benton Harbor Charter School

Benton Harbor

N. Jean Nesbitt, President; Glenda Bell; Walter Brown; Shanta Culpepper; Betty Mason; Willie Mitchell

Bridge Academy - Hamtramck

Lisa McGuire Ahmed, President; Toyab Al-Bari; Jamal Aljahmi; Ali Mahmood; Muhammed Nasser; Najma Jamaludeen

Clara B. Ford Academy - Dearborn

Gale LaRoche, President; Susan Brennan; Patricia Claramunt; Lisa Sasaki; Anna Wallette

Conner Creek Academy East

Roseville/Warren

Sarah Stepnitz, President; Amanda Allen; David Chegash; Danielle Filipiak; Deborah Frontiera; Darnicia Simley; Caroline Wolfrom

Creative Technologies Academy

Cedar Springs

Craig Vandebos, President; Marcey Allington; Daniel George, Holly Lehman; Rebecca Powell; Rob Rowland, Jr.; Thomas Witters

Francis Reh Academy - Saginaw

Willie Casey, President; Maria Beckman; Ed Hall, Jr.; Stanley Krajkowski; Penny Lichon; Marsha Wilson

George Crockett Academy - Detroit

John King, President; Lisa Bey-Knight; Linda Daniels; Queen Dooley-Randall; William Smith

Hope of Detroit Academy - Detroit

Tom Rys, President; Luis Ceballos; Joe Gappy; Erin Irwin; Danielle Jackson; Roslyn Love

Huron Academy-Sterling Heights

Jeffrey Duchene, President; Katherine Colombo; Colleen Dickey; James Perna; Ramzi Twal; Robert Wheeler

Joy Preparatory Academy-Detroit

Frances Brockington, President; James McNair; John Rivers; Glenn Thurman; George VanAntwerp; Thelma Vance

Lighthouse Academy - Kentwood

Daniel VanderArk, President; Wendy Johnson; Brenda King; Greg Lambert; Arvin Tap; Marvin VanderVliet; Garry Reenders

Marshall Academy - Marshall

John Swett, President; Marie Bachmann; Christine Brundage; Patti Cornwell; Daniel Coupland; Robert Olson; David Twiss

New Bedford Academy - Lambertville

Jennifer Cherry, President; Patrick D'Ambrosio; Ivy Smith; Carl Whitson; Wanda Winslow

New City Academy - Lansing

Marcus Burkholder, President; Michael Botke; Yvette Green; Cynthia Primes-Heard; Calvin Tompkins

Northridge Academy - Flint

Rose Murphy, President; Cecilia Miller-Sims; Pauline Pryor; Sybil Sharp; Charles Winfrey; Authur Eva

Pierre Toussaint Academy - Detroit

Daryl Carson, President; Crystine Brantley; Earleen McDaniel; Dennis Nordmoe; Monique Sharpe; Curtis Smith

Voyageur Academy - Detroit

Joe Rush, President; Darryl Barnes; Judith Donnell; Mattie Ellis; Joe Hightower; Barbara Smith; Curtis Wade

Benton Harbor Charter School Students Receive Hats, Scarves, and Gloves

Just before the holiday break, students at Benton Harbor Charter School were recipients of a large pile of scarves, hats, and gloves collected and donated by the CSO staff. This was the third year the CSO donated to a Hat and Mitten Tree in lieu



CSO Staff pose with “student helpers” who prepare to help pass out hats, mittens, and scarves

of buying each other gifts. Schools with a free/reduced lunch rate over 75% are recipients of the program and are selected in alphabetical order. Mindy Britton, Compliance Auditor and Board Liaison, has headed the project for the past two years.



BHCS 1st graders “pay” for their winter wear with smiles—the best payment of all!

School Improvement Corner



By: [Rebecca Shankland](#)
Academic Assessment Specialist



Accountability is the name of the game. As the state and federal governments continue to increase accountability measures for schools, teachers are going to become more and more overwhelmed with classroom assessments. So what is the solution? How can teachers administer multiple assessments, teach the benchmarks and standards, make sure every child is learning, *and* manage a room full of children with little or no help? At times this seems to be a daunting and impossible task; however, if teachers are equipped with the proper training and necessary tools, it can be done!

As educators, we need to move in the direction of balanced assessment. All too often teachers administer an assessment, report the results, and begin gearing up for the next assessment without using the data to adjust instruction. A balanced assessment approach suggests that teachers use both formative and summative assessments to inform and adjust instruction. Rick Stiggins refers to using Assessments *of* Learning and Assessments *for*

Learning. If teachers are provided with the resources and training for balanced assessment, students and teachers alike will experience increased success in the classroom.

As administrators and curriculum directors, it is our job to provide classroom teachers with the necessary tools and training. Currently all FSU authorized academies are equipped with Scantron Performance Series, which provides an essential component of the balanced assessment approach, a summative assessment of learning. Some FSU authorized academies are also using Scantron Achievement Series, which provides another essential component, formative assessments. Together, Scantron Performance Series and Achievement Series provide a foundation for a balanced assessment approach. In the next few articles I will continue to discuss a balanced assessment approach to classroom assessment and the implications of assessment *of* learning and assessment *for* learning.



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Save The Date!

The **7th Annual Spring Briefing** will be held on **Thursday, April 30th, 2009**, at the **DoubleTree Hotel in Dearborn**. All school leaders, assistant school leaders, curriculum and assessment directors, and ESP representatives will receive invitations in early March along with much more information.

Annual Report To Be Mailed

The **CSO 2007-2008 Annual Report** is complete and will be mailed in mid February. School Leaders, Board members, and ESP representatives will receive a copy. The Annual Report will also be on the CSO website:

www.ferris.edu/charterschools

Please contact us with any questions or comments in the report.

FSU Mission

Ferris State University prepares students for successful careers, responsible citizenship, and lifelong learning. Through its many partnerships and its career-oriented, broad based education, Ferris serves our rapidly changing global economy and society.

CSO Mission

The Ferris State University Charter Schools Office recommends authorization of Public School Academies and provides oversight focused on continuous quality improvement.