

## ***Thank You Board Of Directors Members!***

January is Board appreciation month, and we would like to take this opportunity to thank ALL of the members of the Boards of Directors who serve the FSU-authorized academies. Without them, the charter movement and the progress that many of the schools are making would not be possible. We appreciate all the time and effort you put forth on behalf of the children who attend your academies! We'd like to take a moment to individually honor each of the following Board members:

### **Allen Academy**

James Blanks, President; Fr. Ronald DeHondt, Gwendynette Jackson, Lawrence Jackson, Lillis James, Ivan Johnson

### **Benton Harbor Charter School**

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

### **Bridge Academy**

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

### **Conner Creek Academy-East**

Carmelita Bambrick, President; Amanda Allen, Caroline Wolfrom, David Chegash, Sarah Stepnitz, Deborah Frontiera, Frank Malcom

### **Creative Technologies Academy**

Craig Vandebos, President; Marcey Allington, Phyllis Knoch, Vivian Sosnowski, Ton Witters, Rebecca Powell

### **Francis Reh Academy**

Stanley Krajkowski, President; Ed Hall Jr., Marsha Wilson; Diane Lichon, Sr. Maria Beckman, Margarette Stephens

### **George Crockett Academy**

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

### **Hope of Detroit Academy**

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

### **Huron Academy**

Jeffrey Duchene, President; Richard LaBaere, Katherine Colombo, Robert Wheeler; James Perna; Ramzi Twal

### **Joy Preparatory Academy**

Francis Brockington, President; Andrea De Shields-Jenkins, John Rivers, George Van Antwerp, Glenn Thurman

### **Marshall Academy**

Erich Heidenreich, President; Christine Brundage, Colleen Gadwood, Patti Cornwell, Susan Twiss, Christopher Busch, John Swett

### **New Bedford Academy**

Janice Swy, President; Wanda Winslow, Zelda Lucas, Paul Stoianowski, Jennifer Cherry, Ivy Jo Smith

### **New City Academy**

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

### **Northridge Academy**

Rose Murphy, President; Leenard Williams, Charles Winfrey, Pauline Pryor, Satis Brooks, Sybil Sharp

### **Pierre Toussaint**

### **Academy**

Daryl Carson, President; Crystine Brantley, Dennis Nordmoe, Earleen McDaniel, Cassandra Hester, Curtis Smith

### **Voyageur Academy**

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

### **Special Points Of Interest**

- Pierre Toussaint Students Publish Poetry Anthology
- Creative Technology Students earn honors
- CSO Launches Achievement Series Pilot
- Curriculum Corner



## Spotlight On Academies



### Student Poets Publish Anthology at Pierre Toussaint Academy

On a recent visit to Pierre Toussaint Academy with FSU President Dr. David Eisler, we were treated to an introduction of some of the poetry of Mrs. Claudette Daniels' class. The students have just published their first anthology of poems, and this one by **Tony Medina** in particular caught our eye. Tony has given us permission to share it with you:

#### In High School

I live in a white neighborhood  
 Go to a white school, but I don't feel  
 Out of place, I feel like I have found a home.  
 My friends are white but outsiders like me  
 'cause their parents are immigrants from  
 Russia,  
 Poland, Italy, and Hungary.  
 I run track, do the high jump, join the relay  
 Team, act in the school play, write poems  
 And stories for the school magazine-  
 I'm a scream!

But I have to grow up fast 'cause Mama  
 Wants me to quit school and work  
 It doesn't make any sense to me  
 How could I get a job without a degree?  
 I have to make a tough decision  
 To work at sixteen would be a prison.  
 I take an attic room in Cleveland  
 Eat hot dogs and sticky rice each night  
 Trying not to freeze while I study  
 Work on my poems and read myself to  
 sleep  
 I have some high times and low times  
 Some fast times and slow times  
 Some real stop-and-go times  
 It's my I'm running out-of-time-  
 To-be-a-kid-gotta grow time!



### Creative Technologies Students Named 2006 Great Lakes Scholars

Five students from Creative Technologies Academy in Cedar Springs were recently named as Great Lakes Scholars. They are:

**Mercedes DeYoung**

**Taylor Ferguson**

**Cassandra Reid Vodry**

**Travis James Johnson**

**Ashli Wright**

These students join nearly 800 3rd-8th



graders from across the Great Lakes Region that received such acclaim. Over 2,000 schools participated in the project to select and honor students who not only excel academically but show that they are well-rounded individuals. To qualify for the nomination, students had to have a "B" average or better. Students were then evaluated on their involvement in extra-curricular activities, athletics and community service.

**Congratulations!**

## CSO Prepares to Launch Scantron "Achievement Series" Pilot

On January 11, 2007 the Charter Schools Office will launch *Achievement Series*, a web-based formative assessment system from Scantron. *Achievement Series* is a companion system to *Performance Series*. *Performance Series* assesses students' performance on an entire content area: Reading, Language Arts, Mathematics and/or Science. *Achievement Series* allows teachers the flexibility of creating test items or selecting test items from item banks for assessment of individual objectives or a group of selected objectives. The assessment can be delivered on-line or on paper and scanned into the system for immediate results with multiple reporting

options. This system will provide teachers with immediate results so they will have time to intervene for those students who have not mastered the objective(s) that has/have recently been taught and to provide extended learning opportunities to those who have mastered the content. *Achievement Series* operates off of the same data base as *Performance Series* so there is only one point of student, staff, and class data entry for both systems. Navigation methods in both systems are the same which greatly reduces the learning curve.

As an additional benefit the CSO is currently creating test item

banks of the Fall 2005 MEAP Released Items for Grades 3-8 and attaching the GLCE coding to each. As more released items become available, including those from the new High School MME, they will be added. These item banks as well as the ones provided through Scantron, which are extensive, will be available to all academies that choose to implement the system.



### Important Changes For Substitute Teachers!

On November 20, 2006, State Superintendent Michael Flannigan issued an administrative order for a change in the Michigan Teacher Certification Code. As a result, substitute teachers cannot teach for more than 90 days in the same classroom or assignment, rather than 150 days as in the past.

There are other changes about who may or may not substitute teacher based on certification and Highly Qualified issues. For more information visit:

Labor and Economic Growth Website

[www.state.mich.us/orr/emi/admincode.asp](http://www.state.mich.us/orr/emi/admincode.asp)

Or call Susan Impellizzeri at (231) 591-5802



### School Improvement Corner

January is the traditional month for new beginnings. In 21<sup>st</sup> century schools the "new" is always happening. One new thing facing schools is responding to the 39 Performance Indicators for Education Yes!. The focus of discussion at the next FSU Charter Schools Office Professional Learning Community (PLC) on January 23, 2007 will be what this process looks like and how to find the time to gather, analyze, and publish the information in MI-Plan. For more information contact our office at 231-591-5802. Another "new" on the horizon is the release of the Fall 2006 grades 3-9<sup>th</sup> MEAP results. The focus of the March 5, 2007 PLC will be how to analyze these results with Sam Ewing sharing his extensive experience. Those attending will have their own school's data to analyze. Sam will also be presenting at the April 17, 2007 PLC as we look at using data, including the analysis of MEAP results, to arrive at the goals for School Improvement Plans. He will explain the SMART Goals Process.

The work of school improvement is often not glamorous but it is certainly foundational to improving student achievement. This doesn't mean that we can't have fun as we share the journey with a group of our peers. We could change PLC to mean "Peer Learning and Caring."

Resources: 39 Performance Indicators for Education Yes!, the School Improvement Framework Rubrics, and Education Yes! Updates and Plans Power Point are available at [www.michigan.gov/schoolimprovement](http://www.michigan.gov/schoolimprovement)

The Power of SMART Goals, Using Goals to Improve Student Learning by Jan O'Neill and Anne Conzemius is available from [www.solution-tree.com](http://www.solution-tree.com)

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### **CSO Releases Annual Report**

With the new year, the CSO is pleased to release its 2005-2006 annual report. We have restructured the report in such a way to give a great deal of information in an easy to use format. Look for the "At –A-Glance" section of the report to find a wealth of information on each academy. All Board members, school leaders, and education service providers will receive a copy. The report is also posted on the CSO website along with past years' reports.

### **New Resources on Website**

The CSO staff has recently updated the website. You will find a wealth of information under the resources section, as well as the performance section. We encourage you to visit us soon!



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**Committed to Continuous Quality Improvement**

**For Michigan Public Schools**

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#### **FSU Mission**

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