

From The Director's Desk . . .



“Pathways to Success”

The Ferris State University Charter Schools Office (FSU/CSO) strives to facilitate the provision of expanding choices and opportunities, through the implementation of quality oversight practices for Public School Academies. These academies provide the opportunity of choice to families from a variety of settings all across our state. From urban and suburban settings to rural communities, academies authorized by Ferris State University provide pathways to success.

The pathways to success created by these academies are further extended through the Charter Schools Office Scholarship and the Jimmie and Marlene Rodgers Family Scholarship. As a reminder; the Charter Schools Office Scholarship was awarded to Brandon Davis, a 2008 graduate of Consortium College Preparatory High School in Detroit, MI and Kristen Johnson, a 2008 graduate of Creative Technologies Academy in Cedar Springs, MI. The CSO is pleased with Brandon's and Kristen's achievement in attaining the scholarship and look forward to their continued success at Ferris State University. The Rodgers Family Scholarship was awarded to Tasheema Jones-Murry, a 2008 graduate of Clara B. Ford Academy in Dearborn Heights, MI. Tasheema is majoring in social work. Tasheema's goal is to attain her degree in social work and embark upon a career helping others. Both scholarships may be awarded to a student who graduates from a FSU/CSO authorized high school with at least a 2.5 GPA, a minimum ACT score of 17 and gains admission to the University.

Academy building leaders and staff are reminded of the many academic and vocational education opportunities offered by Ferris State University. You are also asked to remind your students of these opportunities along with the opportunity to apply for scholarships and other financial aid. The CSO would like Ferris State University to be a continued pathway for success for your students.

Lawrence V. Wells, Ph.D.

FSU Board of Trustees Reauthorizes Six Academies

At their regular meeting on March 20, 2009, the Ferris State University Board of Trustees reauthorized six academies. The academies achieving reauthorization were:

- **Voyageur Academy** (Detroit) Established in 1998, serving grades K-12. *Re-authorized for 5 years* (to 2014).
- **George Crockett Academy** (Detroit) Established in 1998, serving grades K-12. *Re-authorized for 5 years* (to 2014).
- **Hope of Detroit Academy** (Detroit) Established in 1999, serving grades K-12. *Re-authorized for 5 years* (to 2014).
- **Benton Harbor Charter School** (Benton Harbor) Established in 1999, serving grades PK-8. *Re-authorized for 5 years* (to 2014).
- **Bridge Academy** (Hamtramck) Established in 2004, serving grades K-8. *Re-authorized for 5 years* (to 2014).
- **Joy Preparatory Academy** (Detroit) Established in 1999, serving grades K-8. *Re-authorized for 2 years* (to 2011).

Each academy under consideration for reauthorization undergoes an intensive review and reauthorization visitation by the Charter Schools staff. “We not only look at student achievement, but longitudinal growth and the potential for growth”, said Ron Rizzo, Associate Director of the Charter Schools Office. “The longer our academies are in existence, the better we expect to see them perform.”

Our congratulations to the academies who passed this review and have achieved their reauthorizations.



Board of Directors Deadline Reminders

As we head into the end of the school year and begin preparing for next year, listed below are a few items that need the special attention of Boards: (all items must be submitted to the AOIS system)

Annual Board Calendar

Boards must establish their meeting dates and times for the 2009-2010 academic year no later than *May 15*.

Annual Academy Budget

In preparation for approval of the 2009-2010 Annual Budget (*due June 30*), please remember:

- By law (MCL, Sec. 141.412), one appearance of a legal notice for the Board Hearing must appear in your local newspaper at least six days prior to the Board meeting. **NO LEGAL NOTICE-NO BOARD ACTION!**
- Please include information of the Budget Hearing on the posting for that particular

Board meeting. You can use wording such as: “The Board will consider its proposed budget for the 2009-2010 school year at ____ a.m./p.m.” (Can be held before or after the regular meeting).

- The budget hearing can be during the regular meeting, but you must include on the agenda:

Suspension of the Rules for Public Hearing

Review of Proposed Budget

Resumption of Rules for Approval of Proposed Budget

School Calendars

The Revised School Code, Section 380.523, requires that open enrollment dates be published. This requirement is fulfilled by virtue of its inclusion on the school calendar. School calendars missing this information will be returned for resubmission. School calendars are due to AOIS no later than *July 30*.

Benton Harbor Charter School Celebrates Reading Month

On March 13, students at Benton Harbor Charter School opened their doors to the community in celebration of **March is Reading Month**. Celebrity readers from the community and the FSU Charter School Office were treated like “stars” as they read to elementary students. It was a very positive day for not only the students, but for the readers as well.



Mindy Britton reads to 1st grade class



Mindy Britton with BHCS Board Member Glenda Bell



Reading day kicked off with an assembly

CSO 7th Annual Spring Briefing

The CSO will be holding its 7th Annual Spring Briefing on April 30 at the DoubleTree Hotel in Dearborn. A number of topics important to Ferris-authorized academies will be on the agenda for presentation and discussion. As a special presentation, **Dr. David Hall**, retired Air Force Brigadier General, will be speaking on the essence of leadership. Each attendee will receive a copy of Dr. Hall's book, *The ABC's of Leadership*.

Invitations for the Spring Briefing will arrive very soon. Please RSVP quickly so we can hold a spot for you!



George Crockett Academy and Bridge Academy "Beating The Odds"

Fifty-two academies in the State have been noted for "Beating the Odds" by achieving over 60% proficiency with student populations of more than half free and reduced price lunch. We are proud to announce that two of those academies were FSU-authorized academies: **George Crockett Academy** in Detroit, and **Bridge Academy** in Hamtramck.

George Crockett Academy was noted for their achievement levels in English Language Arts, while Bridge Academy was noted for their proficiency in Math. Both schools have a free/reduced lunch rate of over 80%.

CONGRATULATIONS!

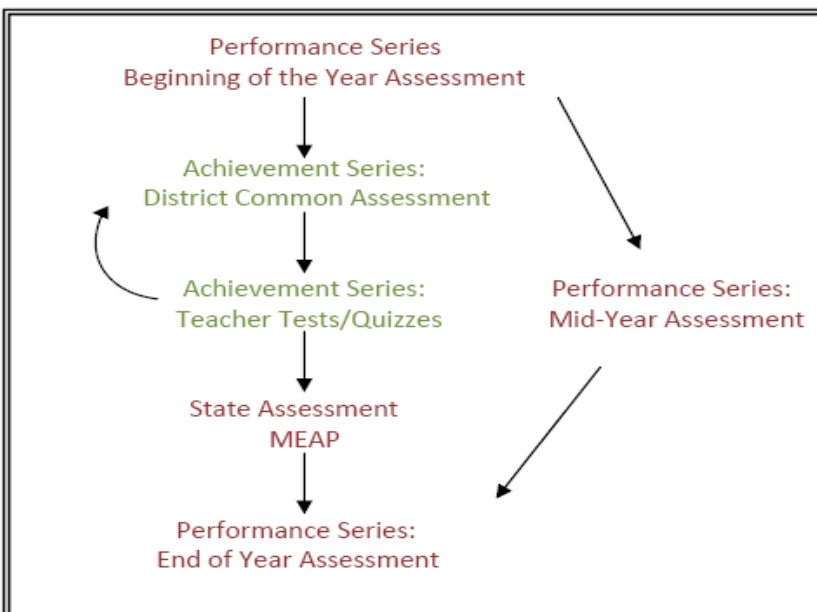


By: Rebecca Shankland
Academic Assessment Specialist

School Improvement Corner



Balanced Assessment: What it Looks Like



A balanced assessment program intertwines **summative** and **formative** assessments throughout the school year. At the beginning, middle and end of the year teachers use **summative** assessments to gain diagnostic information as well as measure growth over time. Summative assessments may also serve as a culminating piece at the end of a unit to help determine if the class has mastered the information taught. **Formative** assessments are given periodically throughout a unit of study to inform instruction, allowing the teacher to make the necessary adjustments to tailor the lessons according to student needs. Used together, **summative** and **formative** assessments provide teachers with a powerful tool necessary to accommodate the individual needs of each student.



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Please Save The Dates!

- The 8th Annual CSO Shining Star Celebration will be held *October 2, 2009* at the Dearborn Inn
- The 4th Annual Fall Board Leadership Conference will be held *October 23-24, 2009* at the DoubleTree Hotel in Dearborn

Do You Have Newsworthy Events At Your School!

Of course you do! The CSO would like to help you give recognition to individuals or publicize events, but we need your help. Please send us pictures, along with text of your event, and we'll be glad to consider them for inclusion in the CSO newsletter. Our newsletter is not just about what's happening at the CSO, it's also about YOU! Pictures and articles can be sent to:

rizzor@ferris.edu The CSO newsletter is published every other month.

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.