

A Special Message From The Director

Have you ever wanted to do something and at the same time not wanted to do it? Well that is my dilemma with retirement. I want to retire so Marlene, my wife, and I will have the flexibility with our time to do things we have dreamed of and talked about doing when we retire. Yet another side of me doesn't want to give up what I am doing now. I so much enjoy working with all of my colleagues involved with charter schools, both in Michigan and across the country. However, as many of you know, I have made the decision to retire June 30, 2006.

My employment at Ferris State University has been a wonderful learning and fulfilling experience. I have been provided with opportunities that I never dreamed would come my way and I have taken the initiative to make the most of those opportunities

while providing a valuable productive service to the University and many of its constituents and partners. It is very rewarding to look back and be able to see a positive imprint of one's efforts to make the institution a better place to live, learn and work. I also take considerable pride in having developed the FSU Charter Schools Office (CSO) to one that is highly regarded and respected in Michigan and across the country.

It is with excited anticipation and yet not without some sadness and trepidation that I write this final article for the FSU CSO Newsletter. However, the time has come for Marlene and me to travel to places we have not been, to spend more time with grandchildren, to look up old friends, and to volunteer in our community. If there is any time left over, I am told there will be less than I expect, we have another Model T Ford to restore, more fish to catch, and friends to swap stories with over a

cup of coffee.

I believe I am leaving the CSO in good capable hands that will carry on the quality practices that have been established. My immediate supervisor, Dr. Roberta Teahen, Dean of the University Center for Extended Learning, is confident that you have not seen the last of me. We are already talking with the CSO staff about special projects that I could develop and implement, which would put me back in contact with you as we work to improve learning opportunities for our country's most valuable resource, its children.

Until our next meeting, I extend wishes to you for happiness and prosperity.



Jimmie Rodgers

Special Points Of Interest

- Conner Creek and Consortium Graduate First Classes
- Consortium High School Accredited by NCA
- Curriculum Corner
- Schools Reach Agreement on Soft Drink ban



Spotlight On Academies



Conner Creek Academy East and Consortium High Schools Celebrate Their First Graduating Class

We are pleased to highlight two FSU academies who are graduating their first classes this year, Conner Creek East High School (Roseville), and Consortium College Preparatory High School (Detroit).

Conner Creek Academy-East

CCA's class of 2006 consists of 29 students. All of the graduates-to-be have post-high plans. Seventeen are planning to attend a university or college, nine are planning on attending a community college, one has enrolled in a technical institute, one will enter the military, and one will be attending the Michigan Rehab Center pursuing a trade endorsement.

CCA Assistant Principal Karen Kliewer stated, "This is a very talented group of kids. They have so much potential and a wide variety of interests." She also stressed that several of the seniors were not exactly "serious" about high school three and four years ago, but have really matured and want to show their families as well as themselves that they can make it. Prior to becoming the Principal at the high school four years ago, Mrs. Kliewer had several of these students in class when she was teaching at the academy. "I'm proud of these young people," said Kliewer, "I'm expecting great things from them in the future."

CCA's commencement exercises will be held on June 1.

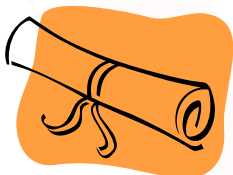


Consortium College Preparatory High School

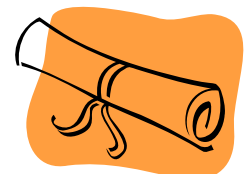
The CCPHS was formed in 2002 when three academies joined in an interlocal agreement to form a high school. The academies of Voyager, Hope of Detroit, and George Crockett comprise the Consortium. The CCPHS class of 2006 includes 82 students, 97% of whom have been accepted at a college or university for post-high school education.

While some consider this percentage outstanding, especially in an area where less than 50% of the high school students graduate from high school, CCPHS Principal Rod Atkins doesn't see it that way. "I don't mean to make light of what our staff has accomplished here," said Atkins, "but this is the way it *should be*." He went on to say that from day one at the school, all staff and administrators have stressed to students that "it was not a question of **IF** you were going to college, it was a question of **WHEN**." Of particular pride to Atkins is the fact that out of this class, there are several students who represent the first post-high school education opportunity in their families. "We had one student who came to the office to call her Mom when she found out she was accepted to college, and her and her Mother were both crying on the phone. She will be the first member of the family to ever attend college," said Atkins.

CCPHS will hold its commencement on June 6 at the Detroit Opera House.



**Congratulations To All Of The
Graduates of The Class of 2006!**



National Agreement Reached to Limit Soda Pop Sales In Schools

The Alliance for a Healthier Generation, a joint initiative of the William J. Clinton Foundation and the American Heart Association, has announced an agreement with representatives of Cadbury Schweppes, Coca-Cola, PepsiCo, and the American Beverage Association to end the sale of non-diet soda in the nation's public schools.

The companies have agreed to sell only water, juice, and low-fat milk to elementary and middle schools. High schools would still be able to sell soda, but it must be diet.

The agreement affects all public schools that have contracts with the distributors and will ultimately



impact over 35 million public school students nationwide.

The agreement applies to beverages sold on school grounds during the regular and extended day including after-school activities. The sale of soda will not be affected at events such as plays, concerts, and sporting events.

According to spokesmen from the American Beverage Association, the goal is to implement the changes in 75 percent of the na-

tion's public schools by the 2008-2009 school year, and for the changes to be implemented in all of the nation's public schools by the 2009-2010 school year.

The Michigan Legislature passed a wellness policy earlier this year that widely impacts not only drinks that are served in schools, but a wide range of foods and snacks. This bill takes effect on June 30th and Boards must adopt and pass a school-wide wellness policy.



Consortium HS Receives NCA Accreditation

Consortium College Preparatory High School (CCPHS) in Detroit has recently been notified that it has received accreditation from the North Central Association. CCPHS is a consortium of Voyageur Academy, Hope of Detroit Academy, and George Crockett Academy. The school began operation in fall of 2002.

NCA is the largest accrediting association in the Midwest with over 2,500 schools and universities. Schools accredited by NCA must meet a thorough review of not only documents, but must receive the endorsement of a school visitation team. Congratulations to Consortium College Preparatory High School for this achievement!



School Improvement Corner

By Suzanne Finney

June. . . Field Trips, End of Year Class Parties, Graduation and . . . planning for the 2006-07 School Year and Beyond.

As I listen and read more about the School Improvement Framework, I continue to be impressed. The inter-connectedness of the Strands is reflective of how life in school happens: infrastructure support, staff interactions and collaboration, relationships with parents and community, resource allocations, all interact to impact students learning. As we focus on one strand of the framework it is quickly apparent that "No Strand Is An Island." Thinking along that line takes us to Strand III: Personnel and Professional Learning, Standard 2: Professional Learning, and Benchmark A: Collaboration, which states "Professional learning is conducted with colleagues across the school/district on improving staff practices and student achievement." The Rubric for Self Assessment (see May article), describes this characteristic under Exemplary Practice, **The highest priority of the school is in the maintenance of consistency in both the time and membership of collaborative teams.** Where to begin . . . resources for learning more about Professional Learning Communities are the review of the research by the Southwest Educational Development Laboratory (SEDL), found at: <http://www.sedl.org/pubs/change34/1.html> and *Getting Started: Reculturing Schools to Become Professional Learning Communities*, the book by Richard & Rebecca Dufour.

Until Next Year . .



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Why Do I Need This Class?

The Michigan Department of Education has free posters available for download detailing the classes needed to be successful in certain careers. The posters list the types of occupations that require strong backgrounds in math, science, English, and social studies.

With the recent passing of the new high school graduation requirements, these posters will serve as a valuable tool for school districts to communicate the need for the increased rigor to their students, staff and communities.

To download a free copy of the posters, go to:

[Http://Michigan.gov/mdcd/0,1607,7-122-17068-.00.html](http://Michigan.gov/mdcd/0,1607,7-122-17068-.00.html).

Visit Us At Our Website:

www.ferris.edu/charterschools

Newsletter Summer Break

This issue of the Ferris State University Charter Schools Newsletter will be the last of this school year. The newsletter will not be published in July or August.

We'll see you again in September !



Ferris State University Charter Schools

Committed to Continuous Quality Improvement

For Michigan Public Schools

FSU Mission

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