

Graduation Is Just The Beginning

With spring break on the horizon for schools across the State, the end of the school year and commencements are not far away. For the 165 students graduating from FSU-authorized academies this spring, this will be an exciting time for them and their families. For the academies of George Crockett, Hope of Detroit, and Voyageur, this will be an especially exciting time as they graduate their first senior class from the Consortium College Preparatory High School. Conner Creek Academy East will also be graduating their first seniors this spring.

With the new K-16 focus by the Governor and the State Legislature, graduation itself is no longer a culmination, but is a threshold to a new phase of education. The expected income level of those with a college degree as opposed to those with only a high school education is more than two to one. Advanced degrees continue to widen that earning gap. When multiplied for each year worked, that income difference becomes enormous. Earning potential

aside, our society has become more technical so that a high school diploma alone is no longer adequate to earn a reasonable standard of living.

Of the 165 students graduating this spring, slightly over 65% of those students have already been admitted to a university or college. A number of those students have also signed up to enter the military. Of these "uncommitted" students, research indicates that several will likely enter a community college or trade school later in the year. For some of these graduates, they will be the first generation of their family to not only graduate from high school, but to also go on to attend college. Statistics further indicate that even students who elect to not go to some sort of school right now will

ultimately go back to school at some point in their lives. Our society requires technical skills more and more, even for those jobs that traditionally did not require post high school education. Often times, employees are going back to school to retain certifications, get additional training, learn new technologies, and to prepare for future jobs.

For our academies and schools around the State, simply turning out students for community colleges or universities is not good enough. More and more, there is keen competition among students from around the country and other nations for jobs and slots in colleges and universities. With the expanding global economy, the competition for quality students will only continue to increase.

We congratulate all of the graduates of 2006 and wish them well in their future endeavors. We also congratulate each teacher, administrator, and Board member who helped them achieve their goals and dreams.



Special Points Of Interest

- Emotional Literacy
- Honoring Secretaries/ Administrative Assistants
- CSO Awards 2nd Round of Academic Grants

Beyond The Three R's: Emotional Literacy

The winter/spring Michigan Education Report had an interesting article on 'Emotional Literacy', and the Ann Arbor Firm Quest Education who is working with schools in helping to raise scores and increase student comfort in school. What exactly is Emotional Literacy (EL)? According to William Carpenter, co-founder of Quest Education, "Humans are social beings, and they need to feel comfortable in their surroundings." He went on to say, "It is only at that point that the brain can be conditioned to excel at certain tasks." Based on the concept of Emotional Intelligence, EL aims to help teachers, administrators, and students do the same in an academic setting. "For many years, schools

have been going through a succession of disjointed fads," said Carpenter. "They are very reactive."

The Quest company uses the book "Emotional Literacy in the Middle School," by Dr. Marc Brackett, as the building block for the services it provides. The whole concept of EL is based on the belief that a student's emotional state directly influences what people learn, how they learn it, and how long they will remember it. "A teacher has to be a performer, to some degree," said Carpenter. "They have to know the content they are teaching, so they can command respect academically, but also have to command respect socially and emotionally to run their classroom effectively."



April 24 Is Secretaries/Administrative Assistant Week



It's time for us to once again honor the unsung heroes of our schools and offices: our **Secretaries** and **Administrative Assistants**. We want to take this opportunity to thank you for all of your outstanding work and tireless efforts. We couldn't do it without you!

"Special Mention" 2006 CSO Honorees

Allen Academy: Sherrie McClendon, Cellette Murray
Benton Harbor Charter School: Angela Adams, Donata Tisdal
Bridge Academy: Roohi Rahman, Asmahan Nagi
Conner Creek Academy East-Elementary: Michele Jones
Conner Creek Academy East-Middle School: Sharon Martin
Conner Creek Academy East High School: Cheri Wilson
Consortium College Prep High School: Shavonne Brown, Tracey Cadwell
Creative Technologies Academy: Linda Hardenberg
Fransic Reh Academy: Theresa Slaybaugh, Rose Schliska

George Crockett Academy: Darketa Thompkins, Margaret Thigpen

Hope of Detroit Academy: Linda Gross, Ali Abdel, Manuel Rosales

Huron Academy: Sandy Edgar

Joy Preparatory Academy (K-2): Markisha Dixon Sallie

Joy Preparatory Academy (3-8): Nicole Lloyd

Marshall Academy: Jill McCombs

New Bedford Academy: Diane Gittus

New City Academy: Ann McDowell

Northridge Academy: Linda Hopkins, Mabel Luncy

Pierre Toussaint Academy: Francine Gresham, Natasha Brown

Voyageur Academy: Jean Stuwra

CSO Charter Schools Office: Susan Impellizzeri, Julia Quillian, Elizabeth Tanner

Thank You All For Your Work and Dedication!



Spotlight On Academies



CSO Awards 2nd Round of Academic Performance Grants

The Ferris State University Charter Schools Office is pleased to announce the 2nd round winners of Academic Performance Grants offered by the office. Those academies receiving awards in the second round are:

Huron Academy **\$8,681.25**

Joy Preparatory Academy

\$11,125

Voyageur Academy **\$17,600**

Pierre Toussaint Academy **\$4,475**

Each FSU-authorized academy was given an opportunity to apply for the grant based on an academic need that is supported by performance data. Other parameters for the grant were that the money was to be used as supplemental only, it could not supplant funds that would normally come out of the general fund, and all proposals had to be tied to the academies' school improvement plan. The proposal had to be developed

by the building school improvement team and endorsed by the Board of Directors.

Schools were offered \$25.00 for each student present at the Fall Count day, 2005.



Still Time To Register For SIM Conference

The Charter Schools Office and UCEL, a division of Academic Affairs, at Ferris State University will be hosting a conference this summer on the **Strategic Instructional Model (SIM)**. The conference will be held June 21-22. The two-day conference will feature keynote addresses by Dr. Donald Deshler from the University of Kansas, and Dr. Jeremy Hughes from the Michigan Department of Education.

The SIM conference will focus on connecting secondary standards and student achievement in universities, high schools, and middle schools. Many presenters from the Mid-West region will be presenting at the conference. To register online visit: <https://ucelcpd.ferris.edu> or call 1-800-562-9130 for more info.



School Improvement Corner

By Suzanne Finney

April has arrived and there is more light each day; this is very important here in the north country. The hope of seeing **green**, energizes us. While thinking of the journey into school improvement country, there's something research points out again and again as bringing hope for increased student achievement: curriculum, instruction, and assessment alignment. A process for bringing these three key areas into alignment is **curriculum mapping**. Please don't throw your hands up in despair because you are thinking of piles upon piles of accumulated curriculum guides that sit on shelves in some office in the school. The key words when thinking of curriculum mapping are "*process*" and "*tools*." We first have to come to accept that curriculum mapping needs to be an on-going, fluid process and then seek the best tools to support it. Must reads in this area are Heidi Hayes Jacobs' books available through the Association For Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD): *Mapping the Big Picture* and *Getting Results with Curriculum Mapping*. Both of these are listed in the *Michigan School Improvement Framework*. Technology using either purchased or locally developed mapping software provides the means to help us on our journey to alignment by getting the curriculum together in an electronic format so communication and revisions can be immediate. Curriculum mapping is the logical hub for the work of school improvement in developing a strong curriculum that is the foundation for strong teaching and learning.

Until next time. . .



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CSO To Hold Spring Briefing April 27

The CSO will be holding its 4th Annual Spring Briefing and Conference on April 27, 2006, at the DoubleTree Hotel in Dearborn. Formerly called the Summer Briefing, the event is a opportunity to brief academy leaders and management personnel on topics of mutual interest, and to share news of some new initiatives the CSO will be implementing in the '06-07 school year. The CSO will also be unveiling a MAJOR grant opportunity at this meeting.

Please RSVP to Susan Impellizzeri at:

impells@ferris.edu or call (231) 591-5802 for more information.

Visit Us At Our Website:
www.ferris.edu/charterschools

Save The Date!

The CSO will hold the fall Shining Star Celebration on October 6, 2006. The event will once again be held at the Dearborn Inn. Mark your calendars now.



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.