

**From The Director's Desk . . .**



A variety of positive events and activities are occurring.

We are proud of the selection of Mr. Tim Green, School Leader of Allen Academy as Michigan Association of Public School Academies Administrator of The Year. We wish to congratulate him on his achievement.

The Charter Schools Office (CSO) conducted a successful 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Shining Star Celebration. Many of the Academies authorized by Ferris State University (FSU) are doing great work in meeting contractual compliance requirements and were rewarded at this gala celebration. Mr. Cameron Hosner, Executive Director of Vista Maria, gave the inspirational keynote address.

The Fall Board Leadership Conference is an important event for the enhancement of board governance. It was held, for the first time, on the FSU campus in Big Rapids, Michigan. The CSO received a tremendous appreciative response from conference participants.

The Charter Schools Office is collaborating with the FSU Department of Humanities to develop our first "Annual Charter School Art Invitational."

All of these events and activities are highlighted in this edition of the Charter Schools newsletter. It is one of several ways the CSO seeks to keep you informed and engaged. We hope you find our efforts helpful in keeping you aware that "good things are happening in charter schools" and we want you to know the good news.

Lawrence V. Wells, Ph.D.

**Tim Green Selected as MAPSA Administrator of The Year**



Tim Green, School Leader, Allen Academy, MAPSA Administrator of the Year, 2008

Congratulations to Mr. Tim Green, School Leader at Allen Academy, for being selected as the Michigan Association of Public School Academies (MAPSA) Administrator of The Year. The announcement was made at the MAPSA State Conference held in Detroit's Cobo Hall on November 4, 2008.

After the announcement, Mr. Jim Blanks, President of the Board at Allen Academy commented: "Tim Green is a special talent that we are fortunate to have working with us at Allen Academy. We have watched him grow as a mentor to his staff, a role model for our children to look up to, and a leader in the community that we serve. The Board of Directors at Allen Academy is constantly preparing the school for the future, and our demands are not always easy, but Tim has always accepted the challenges and made them work."

In typical fashion, Tim played down the significance of his personal accomplishment by saying, "without the children who come to Allen Academy there would be nothing to administrate over." He went on to say "children and their learning and growing as individuals are our focus. If it doesn't benefit kids, I don't want to hear about it."

The Administrator of the Year award from MAPSA comes on the heels of Mr. Green receiving a Community Service Award from the City of Detroit for making a difference in the life of his community.



*Congratulations, Mr. Green!*

## CSO Holds 7th Annual Shining Star Celebration

On October 3, 2008, the CSO held its 7th Annual Shining Star Awards Celebration at the Dearborn Inn. Fourteen academies were honored for their excellence in compliance with those who reached 100% compliance earning a check for

\$5,000. Academies in the 92-99% range received checks according to their percentage. Ninety-two percent was the minimum amount necessary to receive an award for 2007-2008.

### 100% Compliance

- Creative Technologies Academy
- George Crockett Academy
- Huron Academy

### 92-99% Compliance

- Allen Academy
- Bridge Academy
- Clara B. Ford Academy



### 92-99% (Continued)

- Conner Creek Academy East
- Francis Reh Public School Academy
- Hope of Detroit Academy
- Marshall Academy
- New Bedford Academy
- New City Academy
- Pierre Toussaint Academy
- Voyageur Academy



Mindy Britton, Board Liaison and Compliance Coordinator, announces awards



Cameron Hosner (Center), CEO of Vista Maria Academy served as the keynote speaker



Staff and Board members from Joy Preparatory and Allen Academy enjoy some food and conversation



Joe Rush, Board President, and Rod Atkins, School Leader of Voyageur Academy and Consortium High School, receive their award from Mindy Britton



Members of Pierre Toussaint Academy Receive Award. L to R: Mindy Britton, Francine Gresham, Secretary Christine Brantley, Board member, Stephen Turk, School Leader



The 2008 Winner of the Esther Simpson Award for Excellence was Creative Technologies Academy. Pictured L to R: Lawrence Wells, Ronald Rizzo, CTA Board President Craig Vandebos, School Leader Lexie Coxon, FSU President David Eisler, and Mindy Britton

## Michigan Collegiate High School/Middle School Dedicates New Building

On September 28, 2008, Conner Creek Academy East held a Ribbon-Cutting and Open House at their new Michigan Collegiate High School/Middle School. Many parents, students, and staff turned out for the event. Congratulations to Michigan Collegiate for their beautiful new building located in Warren.




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## Charter Schools Office Has Busy Reauthorization and Review Year

This fall has been a busy one for the CSO with six of its eighteen academies up for Reauthorization, and two academies undergoing their 36-Month Review. The reviews consist of a comprehensive analysis of all aspects of the academy including student achievement, school improvement, financial viability, governance, and school culture. Schools undergoing reauthorization review were required to submit an extensive reauthorization application outlining their accomplishments during the contractual period.

A critical part of each review is a site visitation by a review team usually involving 3-4 people. "We're in our schools a lot" said CSO Associate Director Ron Rizzo, "but the visitation is key to giving the CSO a really comprehensive look at the academy." The review also involves interviews with students, staff, parents, Board

members, and administrators. "The entire system is point based" said Rizzo, "we have taken as much subjectivity out of the process as possible." All Board members and school leaders receive a draft of the report and are given a window in which to challenge the information. Once the final report is released, the Team Chair of the visitation team attends a meeting of the academy Board to review the findings with the Board.

The process concludes with the CSO making recommendations to the Ferris State University Board of Trustees based on the results of the reviews. Because of the schedule of the Ferris Board of Trustees, all reviews need to be completed by the Holiday Break in December.

## Charter Schools Office Announces 2009 High School Art Competition

The FSU Charter Schools Office and the Humanities Department are pleased to announce the joint collaboration of the development of an art competition for high school students attending any of the FSU-authorized academies.

### Theme:

The theme for the competition is **Self & Society**. Every human is a participant and product of the society in which they reside. Societies provide the framework in which we are shaped. Understanding the society in which we are a part of is an important element in understanding ourselves.

### Criteria for Art:

- 2 dimensional works on paper
- No larger than 18' x 24"

### Criteria for Participants:

- Art instructors for each academy will be responsible for selecting participating students.
- Each academy can select up to ten students, grades 9-12.
- Each participant will submit one competition piece.
- Each participant will submit a one-page artist statement describing their piece.

### Final Jury Process:

- Jury to be comprised of two artists or faculty selected by Ferris State University.
- Awards will be based on concept, craftsmanship, originality and basic elements of art.

### Awards:

Art receiving merit awards will be framed by the Ferris State University Rankin Art Gallery.

- 5 awards will be given, first, second, third and two honorable mentions.
- 1st Place=\$300 + plaque
- 2nd Place=\$200 + plaque
- 3rd Place=\$100 + plaque
- Honorable mention=\$50.00

### Award Ceremony & Artist Appreciation Day:

- Award winning students will be invited to visit FSU along with up to two adult guests.
- Mileage reimbursement will be provided.
- Tour of Michigan Art Walk with award winning FSU Artist Robert Barnum.
- Tour of Card Wildlife Education Center.
- View Rankin Gallery display.
- Lunch and awards program.
- Opportunity for discussion with FSU-Kendall School of Art recruiters.

**Look for more information prior to Christmas.**



## Board Members Go “Back to School” at FSU

On September 12 and 13, the CSO held the 3rd Annual Board Leadership Conference at FSU with 42 Board members from FSU-authorized academies attending. The conference featured several sessions on various topics related to Board

leadership, with Dr. Brian Carpenter, CEO of The National Charter School Institute, serving as the keynote speaker. Many thanks to the Board members who traveled up to Ferris for the conference and for their work on behalf of Michigan's K-12 students.



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

## School Improvement Corner



### Assessment in the Classroom

The new school year is off to a great start and teachers and students alike have been working hard for the past two months. By now all diagnostic assessments have been completed and teachers are working diligently to use this data to drive daily instruction. Not only have the students been given a multitude of diagnostic assessments, but they have also spent two weeks in October completing the rigorous MEAP test. At times the amount of testing our students endure can be overwhelming for both teachers and students, thus it is extremely important for educators to use a balanced assessment method to promote both student achievement and motivation. Rick Stiggins refers to this balanced approach as assessment for learning. By balancing formative and summative assessment in the classroom, educators are able to set the stage for an optimal learning environment for each individual student. This year I will be working with our academies to form a core assess-

ment team where we will further explore assessment for learning and balanced assessment methods.

### School Improvement

The school year seems to be flying by as we approach the holiday season. This serves as a great reminder that it is time to begin thinking about school improvement plans. School improvement teams should be meeting regularly to review and update school improvement plans. Recall that this process includes working through the 40 indicators to help determine strengths and weaknesses and using identified weaknesses to write goals. Also remember that the MDE has provided a new template and reporting procedure for school improvements plans. There are many resources available to assist the school improvement teams in writing their school improvement plans on the Michigan Department of Education website.

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Happy Holidays!



Please note that the CSO will be closed  
November 27-28 for Thanksgiving and December 24 until  
January 5th for the FSU Holiday Break.

**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.