

## Ferris State University Names CSO Director



Dr. Lawrence Wells

Upon the retirement of CSO Director Jimmie Rodgers last June, Ronald Rizzo, the CSO Associate Director was named as Interim Director. Interviews for the permanent Director have recently been concluded and Dr. Lawrence Wells has been named the new CSO Director. Dr. Wells brings a wealth of educational leadership experience with him to the CSO.

Dr. Wells served as elementary School Principal

at several Saginaw Public Schools for 26 years. He spent his last four years with the Saginaw Schools as Director of Human Resources. Most recently, Lawrence has been working in the Educational Leadership Department of the College of Education at Saginaw Valley State University. Mr. Wells holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Central State University in Ohio, a Master of Arts from Ohio State University, and a PH.D from Michigan State University.

"I am looking forward to coming to Ferris State University," said Wells. "The Charter Schools Office at FSU has done great things in providing support to their schools and the communities in which they are located. I look forward to continuing the initiatives that have been launched in the past, and to continue to

look for more ways to extend that support in the future."

"The CSO welcomes and looks forward to working with Dr. Wells," said Interim Director Ron Rizzo. "He brings with him a passion for educational excellence, and has extensive leadership experience in an urban school setting. Dr. Wells and I are working hard to make the transition of leadership of the CSO as seamless as possible."

"I'm interested in a smooth transition at the CSO also," Wells said. "I am profoundly interested in keeping the support and service of the CSO at its currently high quality."

Dr. Wells is interested in and looks forward to meeting members of the schools' Boards of Directors soon.

### Special Points Of Interest

- Bridge Academy Honored at Capitol
- Allen Academy takes Medal at Academic Games
- CSO Spring Briefing
- Curriculum Corner
- Changes in Shining Star Program
- Calendar of Events

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## Esther Simpson To Retire



After 33 years of service to Ferris State University, the last eight of which have been with the Charter Schools Office, Esther Simpson will be retiring at the end of the academic year, on June 29. I know all of you join us at the CSO in wishing Esther well as she transitions into this new phase of her life with her husband Dale.

### Bridge Academy Wins State Recognition For "Closing The Gap"

Bridge Academy in Hamtramck was recently honored at the State Capital during Charter School Week for their success at "closing the gap." Bridge Academy achieved over 80% of their students passing both sections of this year's MEAP, while having over 90% of their students on free or reduced lunch. What is particularly impressive is that Bridge Academy is in only their third year of operation!

Our congratulations to the faculty and staff of Bridge academy, and to their Educational Service Provider Global Educational Excellence.



### Allen Academy Takes Medal In Academic Games



Allen Academy in Detroit recently took three bronze medals in this year's Academic Games. The Academic Games is a series of games designed to test students' knowledge in several different subject areas such as math, English social studies, and logic.

At the State Super Tournament, Allen students competed against 800 students. Two teams came away with hardware for their efforts, the 3rd & 4th grade Allen "Cubs", and the 5th & 6th Grade Allen "Wildcats".

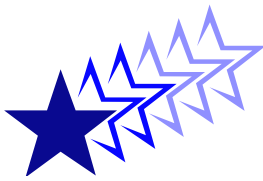
Congratulations to the students and staff from Allen Academy for this success in only their 3rd year of competition.

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### CSO Holds Annual Spring Briefing

On May 3 the CSO held its 5th Annual Spring Briefing at the Doubletree Hotel in Dearborn. Over seventy school leaders, assistant School Leaders, curriculum directors, and representatives from Education Service Providers were in attendance. Members of the CSO had the opportunity to discuss new initiatives for the coming school year, and unveiled the new Reauthorization and 36-Month Review Document. Pat Kreger, Superintendent of the Union City Schools, also gave a presentation on the Scantron Achievement Series which will be made available to all FSU Academies this coming fall. Our thanks to all those who participated in this year's event!





## Shining Star Changes

For the past five years, the CSO has been pleased to offer the Shining Star Compliance Incentive Program. During this time, the CSO has awarded **\$340,660** to its academies. We want to let you know that it is our intention to continue the program, and also that we are raising the compliance requirements necessary to receive a monetary award.

For the '06-07 year which ends on June 30, 2007, the minimum level of compliance necessary to receive a cash award is 90%. The CSO will still prorate the award, meaning that those achieving 100% compliance will receive the full amount of \$5,000. Those with percentages from 99-90% will receive less based on their percentage of compliance.

The CSO wants to inform all Boards that,

beginning July 1, 2007, the acceptable compliance percentage will change. We have set out a five year chart showing the percentage necessary to receive an award. Please understand that it is the CSO's desire to continue this program, and that we feel that with the use of the AOIS system and with e-mail reminders each of our schools receive should be able to regularly achieve 100% compliance. The chart shown below indicates the compliance level increase. Please note that in the 2011-2012 school year, there will be awards only for those academies who achieve 100%

Year	Compliance Percent
2007-2008	92%
2008-2009	94%
2009-2010	96%
2010-2011	98%
2011-2012	100%

### Teacher Appreciation Week

The week of May 7 is National Teacher Appreciation Week. While we appreciate teachers all year long, we take special pride to be able to extend our deep appreciation and heartfelt thanks to all teachers at all levels of education. Most of us in the field would not be where we are if it had not been for a teacher who took particular interest in us, instilled a love for learning, or perhaps was just patient with us. Thanks for all of your work and efforts-you are very appreciated.



### School Improvement Corner

By Suzanne Finney  
Academic Assessment Specialist

#### The Ever Changing World of School Improvement

The newest acronym in the education world is CNA which stands for "Comprehensive Needs Assessment." Before expanding on what is involved, let's step back and see the big picture of what we are trying to accomplish by all this school improvement activity? Hopefully we answer that our goal is to find how to help all students be academically successful in our schools.

The *School Improvement Framework* was developed by a group of educators researching the best way to accomplish that goal. The process used is illustrated in Linda Kent's presentation at the School Improvement Conference held on April 23<sup>rd</sup>. (You can access it using the website address below)

The Comprehensive Needs Assessment is the tool we use for the **Gather Data** and **Study** steps for the 90 Key Characteristics of the *School Improvement Framework*. We can then use the information to plan and carry out goals based on the needs revealed. Beginning to use it now in its paper and pencil format will prepare us for the web-based format coming in November.

Soooo, we can look at this as just another bunch of paperwork, **OR** we can see this as a valuable process to focus us on the work we need to do for **STUDENTS** by making it the center of our endeavors.

Resources located at [www.mi.gov/schoolimprovement](http://www.mi.gov/schoolimprovement)

Until next time. . .



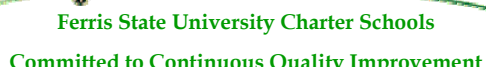
CHARTER SCHOOLS OFFICE

CPD 1020 E. Maple Street  
Big Rapids, MI 49307-1676

Phone: (231) 591-5802  
Fax: (231) 796-1448  
Email: rizzor@ferris.edu

## CSO To Offer Scantron Performance and Achievement Series Workshops This Summer

The Charter Schools Office will be offering intensive training and in-service this summer on both the Scantron Performance Series and the Achievement Series. School personnel who desire a refresher course in the Performance Series or who have new personnel who need training should sign up for the workshop on August 6. Those interested in the Achievement Pilot must attend the workshops on August 7th and 8th. The Spring Briefing packets contained all the necessary forms for enrolling in the workshops. If you have any questions please call Suzanne Finney, CSO Academic Assessment Specialist, at 231/591-5808 or e-mail her at: [finneys@ferris.edu](mailto:finneys@ferris.edu).



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