

Another Year Comes To A Close



Jimmie Rodgers

Director, Charter Schools Office

Another academic year is at a close. It has been a busy but good year. It is the time when educators reflect and take stock of past accomplishments and challenges. Fortunately for the Charter Schools Office (CSO), there have been more accomplishments than challenges. A major step forward toward assisting constituent academies academically was the addition of an Academic/Assessment Specialist. Suzanne Finney was just what the CSO needed. She brings a wealth of knowledge, experience, and expertise to our operation. She also brings a very positive attitude coupled with a passion for improving student learning. The staff was then rounded out when our part-time clerical per-

son, Susan Impellizzeri, was hired as fulltime Secretary Level 2. This gives the CSO with the personnel to carry out our responsibilities as an authorizer efficiently and effectively.

As I reflect on CSO accomplishments, I look back to February of 1999, when I assumed the position as Director of the FSU CSO. We have come a long way in 6 ½ years. I have worked hard to make the CSO's mission one of collaborative support. In that spirit the following are in place to assist academies: board training support; board policy service; shining star compliance program; AOIS, which makes compliance a process rather than an event; online assessment that is aligned to the MEAP Grade Level Content Expectations; and academic performance grants. Through these programs and services, the CSO gives back to academies a little over 30% of its oversight fee. This is a win-win situation. By providing academies with these services, the CSO is able to

monitor and verify that academies are fulfilling the terms and conditions of their contracts, complying with applicable state and federal law, and monitoring each academies academic progress. At the same time, it provides academies with much needed support, both procedural and financial.

In a recent address to the graduating class of an FSU academy, I urged graduates to **focus** on four points of leadership as they assumed more responsibility for their life's direction. I would like to pass them on for your consideration as you pause, take a deep breath, reflect, and begin to plan for the challenge of the next school year: **Mission**, deciding what results you want to pursue; **Planning**, deciding what information and resources are necessary to succeed; **Strategy**, shaping of priorities and concentration of resources; **Action**, deployment of those resources, guided by your talents, skills, and ethics. This **focus** determines the performance capacity of your ability to succeed. **Have a super summer.**

Jimmie Rodgers

Special Points Of Interest

- FSU Presidential Bus Tour
- Summer Briefing 2005
- FSU and CMU Team Up For MEAP Collaboration
- CSO Updates Website
- CSO Conducts Survey

Presidential Bus Tour Hosts Charter School Luncheon

The Ferris State University Presidential Bus Tour made a stop at Andiamo's restaurant in Detroit on June 8 to celebrate the University's relationship with its Detroit area charter schools. FSU President Dr. David Eisler, along with several Vice Presidents and Deans, embarked on a four-day 16 stop tour of the State on June 6. The purpose of the trip was to forward the

Ferris image and mission across the State, strengthen relationships with several community colleges, and to meet and greet new friends as well as FSU alumni. Dr. Eisler thanked school leaders and Board members for the difference they make in children's lives, and praised them for the importance of their work.



On The Road Again



Ferris State University and Macomb County Community College become educational partners



Dr. Richard Cochran, FSU Dean of FLITE Center, and Chuck Stockwell, CS Associates, deep in discussion



FSU President Dr. David Eisler Addresses School Leaders and Board



Danielle Jackson, Hope of Detroit; Dr. Michael Harris, FSU Vice President; Ron Rizzo, Associate CSO Director; and Jim Blanks, Allen Academy, share a laugh



CSO Director Jimmie Rodgers welcomes guests to the luncheon

CSO TO Hold 3rd Annual Summer Briefing on June 27

The Charter Schools office will be holding its Third Annual Summer Briefing at the Consortium High School on June 27, 2005. This event has become an excellent opportunity for the Charter Schools Office staff to share important information about projects and initiatives the office is undertaking for the coming year; to share vital information; and in general, to celebrate the conclusion of another successful year of school. There are several important topics on this summer's agenda including:

- Review of Teacher Certification Requirements, The Standards of Highly Qualified Teachers, Social Worker Licensure, and Parapro and Administrator Requirements
- FBI Checks and Criminal Background Checks for Employees
- CSO Website Update
- Schools will receive their 2004-2005 Detailed Color MEAP Reports

- Using The Scantron Performance Series to Prepare For Grade Level Content Tests
- Taking Scantron To The Next Level
 - Correlation to MEAP Reports
 - Implementing Cohort Tracking
 - Assessment Practices
 - Scheduling Scantron Training

In addition, there will be several give-aways and a celebration of the end of another successful school year. The briefing begins at 10:00 and concludes with lunch at 12:30. All School Leaders, Assistant Leaders, ESP Representatives, and Curriculum Directors have been asked to attend. Please call Sue at 591-5802 to reserve your place today!

FSU Teams Up with CMU to Generate 2004-2005 MEAP Reports

The CSO has contracted with the Central Michigan University Charter Schools Office to generate the 2004-2005 MEAP reports. The collaboration began with discussion in early fall, and several meetings about what CMU could offer the FSU office. "Frankly, CMU has an IT department that we can only dream about right now," said Associate Director Ron Rizzo. "Being the largest authorizer in the county, CMU has developed some major technology to track the progress of their academies. For the price they were asking for the service, and for the product they were delivering, we could not produce the data in our own house for that amount of money," said Rizzo.

Each FSU academy will receive a bound color report containing:

- Full Grade and Subject Reports
- Color Graphs Representing the schools performance in relation to other FSU academies, Local Districts and the State



- Five-Year Trend Reports with comparison to local district and the State
- A CD of the report

CSO Academic Assessment Specialist Suzanne Finney stated, "As any school leader will attest, the time required to generate reports for public dissemination is HUGE! The relationship with CMU to provide these reports to Ferris' academies will benefit all parties."

Reports will be handed out to School Leaders at the Summer Briefing on June 27. Board Presidents will receive a copy in the mail. "We're pleased to have had this opportunity to provide these reports in both printed and electronic versions," said Finney.

CSO Conducts Customer Survey

The CSO is conducting a survey this summer to assess its services and to get feedback on its procedures from the schools and Board members it serves. The survey is being mailed to all School Leaders, Administrative Assistants/Secretaries, and members of the Board of Directors. The survey is not very long, and it provides the opportunity for our customers to tell us about our services, and how we can improve them.

It is important for us to receive genuine feedback, therefore, surveys will not be returned to the Charter Schools Office. We have asked Mrs. Lexie Coxon, Principal of Creative Technologies Academy, to tabulate results of the surveys and compile all comments for us. Mrs. Coxon will then submit a compilation of the results to our office.

Please return the self-addressed, stamped envelope to Mrs. Coxon by July 16, 2005. We will share the results of the survey with you in the early fall.

We're looking forward to hearing from you!



CSO Updates and Expands Website

- New Resources and Links
- Improved Photo Ability
- Improved Calendar of Events Section

In addition, we will be improving the availability of the site in search engine positioning, and web search tools.

"We'd really like to see our academies use this site as a resource for students and their families," said Ron Rizzo, Associate Director. "In addition, there is a great deal of truly out-

standing work going in our academies that we want people to know about."

The CSO has been actively working to provide a site that is helpful to researchers looking for information not only about Ferris State University's charter schools, but for information on the charter movement in general. Updates are scheduled to be completed by the beginning of August. Look for us at:

www.ferris.edu/charterschools

The CSO will once again be updating and expanding its website this summer. Several more sections will be added to the site including:

- School Performance and Enrollment Data





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

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

Ferris State University Charter Schools
Office Committed to Continuous Quality
Improvement For Michigan Public
Schools

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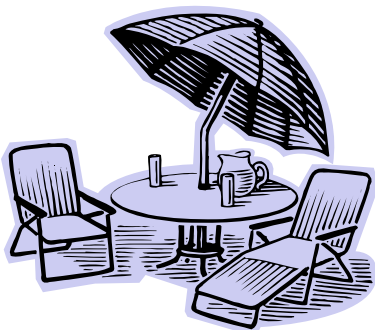
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HAVE

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GREAT

SUMMER!



Remember To Save The
Date:

- October 7, 2005
CSO Shining Star Awards
Celebration at Dearborn
Inn (Info to Follow)

FSU Mission

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