

The View From "The Road"

Guest Article By Larry Lindquist, CSO Field Representative



So, what do Field Representatives (FRs) actually do? How do they create their "view from the road"? As the eyes and ears of the FSU Charter School Office (CSO), the overall job of the Field Rep is to be alert to what is actually happening in an academy insofar as the classroom, program planning and development, staffing, Board and administrative leadership, and customer satisfaction—both students and parent.

To accomplish this, a Field Rep travels thousands of miles each year to and from his assigned academies. Once on site, one of the most rewarding duties performed by a Field Rep is visiting classrooms. It is not the responsibility of the rep to evaluate teachers, but it is their responsibility to sit in the class to get a feeling

for the general classroom teaching and learning environment. Curriculum is not evaluated by FRs either, observation of the delivery of the curriculum is monitored, and the FR makes reports to the CSO.

Customer satisfaction is a major factor in the role of a Field Representative. Both individual and small groups of students as well as teachers are likely targets for brief FR interactions simply to see how they feel about the operations of the academy. Parents are often asked to relate their experience with the academy as well.

Meetings with the School Leader or Principal are often on the visitation agenda as well. Here the focus of discussion is more likely to be on issues such as staffing, professional development, curriculum and instruction, student achievement, and maintenance and safety concerns. Student performance is often a main topic of discussion along with the learning environment.

Besides the academy visits, FRs attend Board of Director meetings as well.

At these meetings the goal of the FR is to make sure that Board members receive timely and accurate information. Perhaps the most important item for observation is whether or not the Board members limit their actions to matters of policy rather than becoming too directly involved in the day-to-day aspects of academy operations.

To communicate the findings and observations made by the FR, they are required to furnish the CSO with a written report of all school visits and Board meetings. In addition, the CSO holds monthly meetings with all Field Reps to keep abreast of not only FSU academies, but information and discussion about the charter movement in general. Field Reps also attend state meetings, conventions, and workshops.

As one should be readily able to see, the FSU CSO does, indeed, take its oversight responsibilities very seriously. See you on the road!

Larry Lindquist



Special Points Of Interest

- CTA Collects Coins For Cure
- Conner Creek Receives Grant
- Marshall Learns Through History
- MCCSA News



Spotlight On Academies



CTA Collects Over 600,000 Coins For A Cure

Jarod and Richard Bouma are five year old boys who attend Creative Technologies Academy in Cedar Springs. Both Jarod and Richard suffer from hemophilia, a rare genetic blood disorder which has no cure. Classmates of the two boys began a school-wide fund raiser to make a donation to the Hemophilia Foundation in honor of Jarod and Richard. The school's goal was to collect over 300,000 pennies. The academy and community wound up collecting over **600,000** pennies when the fundraiser was over!

"This is a great way for the kids to learn charitable values," shared CTA Principal, Lexie Coxon. "And this year should be great. As word has spread we've gotten thousands and thousands of pennies donated!"

The funds raised for the Hemophilia Foundation will help researchers search for a cure, for people just like Jarod and Richard, who want to live life less vulnerable.



CCAЕ Receives \$79,528 Dissemination Grant



Conner Creek Academy East in Roseville has received word that it has once again been approved for a Dissemination Grant, this time in the amount of \$79,528. CCAE will continue to work with four schools as they train staff in the "Love and Logic" program. The grant supplies the schools with all materials associated with the program such as work books, and a staff "library."

While the grant is extra work for the administration and staff of CCAE, Principal Chuck Meredith sees it as an opportunity. "Working with other schools is a way to give something back to the charter movement," said Meredith. "We want to help all schools get better. Besides, if you really want to learn something-teach it." Meredith feels that there are lots of intangibles his staff benefits from through their involvement with the grant as well.

Dissemination grants are awarded by the Michigan Department of Education each year for promising programs which can be shared with other schools and staff members. This is CCAE's second successful Dissemination Grant.

Marshall Students Learn About Ancient Rome From Roman Soldier

Ancient Roman history was recently brought alive for the Latin students at Marshall Academy.

Quintus Fabricius Varus, a Roman soldier from the region of Trajan in the year 105 AD came to speak to the 3rd through 8th graders. As an assistant to a centurion, he was responsible for training new recruits. The "soldier" told students about the aspects of his life and times. The students also learned that when a soldier joined the legion they incurred a twenty-five year commitment! Students were surprised to learn that Roman soldiers received salt as

part of their pay. In an attempt to recreate the daily life of a legionary of Rome, Quintus helped the students understand and appreciate the achievements of the Roman Empire.

David Smith, the presenter, has taught English, Humanities, Latin History, and World History in the Detroit and Grosse Pointe public schools. For the last several years he has been involved in historical reenacting and presentations as various personae ranging from Quintus the ancient Roman, Magister Faber, the medieval scholar; David Smythe, a British soldier in the Revolution-

ary War, and a British WWII "Tommy."



"Quintus" as portrayed by David Smith at Marshall Academy

MCCSA Holds Legislative Brunch In Lansing

The Michigan Council of Charter School Authorizers (MCCSA) recently held a breakfast in Lansing for Legislators and other guests from within the charter school movement. Guests were treated to breakfast, and a brief presentation by members of MCCSA that highlighted what the University Authorizers are doing to strengthen the schools they oversee, and what MCCSA is doing for the charter movement in general.



FSU Chosen to Oversee Michigan Freedom To Learn Grant

Ferris State University has assumed responsibility for Michigan's Freedom To Learn (FTL) program and will work with the Michigan Department of Education to administer \$3.7 million in state funds and \$2.7 million in federal funds related to the program.

The transfer of this program places Ferris in a leadership position critical to the continued transformation of education in Michigan, according to President David L. Eisler. "The Freedom to Learn model is key to enhancing the ability of our Michigan students to compete for the future economic development of Michigan and the nation," said Dr. Eisler.

The statewide education aims to improve student achievement in core academic subjects by providing students with access to 21st Century learning tools. FTL focuses on bringing a one-to-one environment in which students

learn with computers, not simply about them. The program is also designed to bridge the digital divide, expanding technology opportunities to middle school students, especially students in rural and high priority schools.

Ferris will work closely with MDE to coordinate and provide professional development to school personnel, administering grants for acquiring technology, developing the curricula and adopting best practices for classroom learning. Already this program serves more than 20,000 Michigan sixth-grade students who are connected to learning through educational technology, enhanced curricula and teachers with advanced training.



Save These Dates!

Looking ahead on the calendar, we wanted you to know about some dates to reserve:

- June 27, **3rd Annual CSO Summer Briefing and Workshop**

The briefing will be held once again at Consortium High School, Detroit.

- October 7, **4th Annual CSO Shining Star Celebration**

The Shining Star Awards Celebration will be held at the Dearborn Inn.

More information on both events will follow this spring and summer





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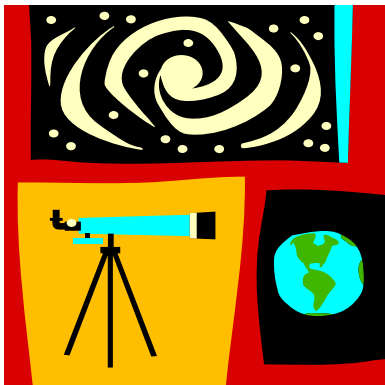
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Simulated Space Exploration Available!

A new educational program, e-mission: Moon, Mars, and Beyond, uses simulated space exploration and enables students to use math and science skills in creative ways. The distance learning program is geared for third to fifth grade students and commemorates the Space Shuttle Challenger Mission that ended tragically on January 28, 1986.

For more info, visit: [www. Computer Associates.](http://www.ComputerAssociates.com)



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