

Celebrating National Charter Schools Week

Schools, parents, students, teachers, and other primary stakeholders around the county recently celebrated National Charter Schools week, and with roughly 3,400 schools serving over 800,000 students, there was much to celebrate.

On May 3, the Michigan Association of Public School Academies hosted lunch and a short program on the lawn of the Capitol Building in honor of the designation. Over 1000 students attended the event despite the cold weather and occasional snowflakes! Michigan Association of Public School Academies (MAPSA) President Dan Quisenberry cited proclamations by both President

Bush and Governor Granholm. "More than 10 years ago, a different kind of Decla-



ration of Independence was signed at this Capitol, and it was the freedom of education," said Quisenberry. Students from New City Academy in Lansing, authorized by

FSU, had the honor of being one of the schools chosen to present a brief concert on the steps of the Capitol.

Rep. Brian Palmer, chair of the House Education Committee, thanked the students, teachers, and parents for choosing academic freedom, and pledged continued efforts to advance that liberty. There are currently 215 charter schools in the State of Michigan, serving over 82,000 students in grades K-12.

Special Points Of Interest

- Robofest at George Crockett Academy
- FSU TOWERS Program
- Marshall Latin Club Earns Distinction
- Thank You Niels Andersen
- CTA Breaks Ground



Students from New City Academy in Lansing Perform



Spotlight On Academies



Robofest At George Crockett Academy

Students at George Crockett Academy proudly joined a number of schools offering an explorative experience with robotics and computer programming. This event, called Robofest, was created by Dr. C J. Chung from Lawrence Technical University. Dr. Chung's vision was to gather the world's next generation of scientists at an early age, and to present with an opportunity to have fun while learning. Fifth grade students from GCA built a robot and then designed the program that allowed the machine to accomplish a

specific task or mission. Students from around the globe demonstrated their creations on April 23, 2005 at Lawrence Technical University. To prepare students for next year's competition George Crockett will be hosting a robotics camp this summer.



Niels Andersen Honored For

Niels Andersen was recently honored for his service to the Creative Technologies Academy. Mr. Andersen is retiring from the Board after 7 years of service as a founding member of the academy.



L to R: Esther Simpson, Neils Andersen, Jimmie Rodgers, Dr. Roberta Teahen

Northridge Academy Holds



Northridge Academy held its 2nd Annual Academic Fair with many students submitting projects for display. The Fair continues to grow and attract interest from parents and students.



FSU Office Of Minority Affairs Establishes TOWERS Program

TOWERS is a program developed this year by the Office of Minority Affairs at Ferris State University. TOWERS stands for Teaching Others What Establishes Real Success. The program involves students from FSU who have overcome adversity in their personal lives to rise to academic success and leadership positions within the campus community.

Recently, students from the program have spoken to students at Benton Harbor Charter School, and Northridge Academy in Flint. "We're allowing students the opportunity to touch the lives of young people who will be leading our country one day," said Dr. Raymond Gant, Director of the Office of Minority Affairs. "It's difficult to undo opinions and attitudes later on, we try to remind them to be the best they can be right now."

Karyn Benner, Special Program Coordinator in the Office of Minority Affairs, reports that response to the program has been "overwhelming." "We have students from one school the group visited who are e-mailing TOWERS speakers on a daily basis," said Benner. "We have also received a number of phone calls from students looking to get in touch with people who have spoken at their school. So many of our students relate the exact experiences these children are going through."

Gant said that the program has been very successful in its first year but his office will not take any credit for its success. "This is not about us, it's about sending a message for the future." The Office of Minority Affairs is currently in the process of developing a website for the TOWERS program.



Dr. Raymond Gant Addresses Students at Northridge Academy in Flint



FSU Students Talk With Students at Benton Harbor

Marshall Academy Latin Students Qualify for National Latin Honor Society

The National Junior Classical League is an organization of Latin students from middle and high schools across the United States and Canada. Members of the League who meet strict requirements are invited to join the National Latin Honor Society.

Marshall Academy is one of only a small handful of schools in the State to boast a middle school Latin Club. Members of the Marshall club attended a Classical League conference at Western Michigan University last fall, and were the only middle school students at the confer-

ence. Members had the opportunity to interact in events with groups of high school and college students.

To be selected as members of the National Latin Honor Society, students must maintain a 4.0 grade in Latin class throughout the year. Members must also display genuine interest in the ancient culture and language of the Romans. *Felicitationes* (congratulations) to these Marshall Academy students!



Back Row: Martin Mees, Matt Kidder, Devin Mesecar, Max Brundage, Michael Howrey, Latin Teacher Heidi Hanley. Front Row: Katie Cape, Mariah Banghart, Andrew DeBrabander, Brianna Hammontree, and Charlie Hammontree.



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CREATIVE TECHNOLOGIES BREAKS GROUND

Creative Technologies Academy in Cedar Springs held a groundbreaking dedication on April 4, 2005, for additions to its elementary wing. Besides 8 additional classrooms, the academy will be doing extensive renovation to the existing structure. CTA is a K-12 school with 280 students and is self-managed.



Remember To Save These
Dates:

- June 27, 2005
CSO Summer Briefing at
Consortium High School (Info to Follow)
- 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.