

# Y O U N G E D U C A T O R S S O C I E T Y NEWSLETTER

FALL 2004



## Executive Board Gear Up for YES Advisors Conference

The Young Educators Society Executive Board will collaborate with Michigan State University, Lansing Public Schools and the Michigan Education Association, to present **"Educators Leading in a Cultural of Change"** at the 2004 YES Advisors Conference. The conference will

take place at Michigan Education Association, in East Lansing, on Thursday October 21. Dr. Theresa Saunders, Superintendent, Highland Park Community Schools will provide the keynote address.

The YES Executive Board organized the conference to promote articulation and aware-

ness among YES Advisors and affiliates. Workshops such as: *"Preparing YES Students for College Admission and Scholarships:"* *"2+2 Programs Transition Students From K-12 to Community Colleges to Four Year Degree and Teacher Certifications:"* *"The Lone Warrior—Building YES Advisors and*

*Retaining Personnel:"*-

Dr. Sonya Gunnings-Moton, assistant to the dean for student support services at Michigan State University and Linda Stokes, teacher and advisors at Lansing Sexton High School will serve as conference co-chair.

### This edition contains:

Gear Up for YES Advisors Conference. . . . Page 1

From The Chair:  
Yes it's that time of year again . . . . Page 1

Talent at Annual Spring Conference. . . . Page 2

Awareness Among Factors . . . . . Page 3

Teacher Salaries . . Page 3

2004-2005 Executive Board Meeting Schedule . . . . . Page 4

2004-2005 Executive Board. . . . . Page 4

## FROM THE CHAIR: YES it's that time of year again.

Welcome back to another school year and to the 2004 YES Advisors Conference. This year the Executive Board has established a goal to expand our membership by developing new chapters and partnerships. We have come to the realization that we cannot communicate the vision alone. We need others to spread the word about the teaching profession.



**Janice W. Green Ph.D.**  
**Chairperson**

We wish to extend our appreciation to Dr. Sonya Gunnings-Moton and Ms Linda Stokes for their leadership and expertise in planning the 2004 Advisors Conference. In addition, we wish to thank Dr. Theresa Saunders, Superintendent, of Highland Park Community Schools for her participation.

We as members of the YES family must continue to take on the challenges incurred by public education and increase our efforts to attract the brightest and the best.

Please call or write if I can be of any assistance to you or to your programs. I look forward to working with you throughout this school year.

*Janice W. Green Ph.D.*  
*Chairperson*



Members representing Webber Middle School YES club take time out for interview by local television during Annual Spring Conference.

## Saginaw High School Musicians Showcase Talent at Annual Spring Conference



The students and staff representing Saginaw High School are to be commended for their outstanding musical performances during the 2004 Annual Spring Conference held last March at Saginaw Valley State University. As an added feature, members of the Soul Choir and the marching band displayed an array of talent through vocal and drum ensemble presentations.

As in previous years, the Annual Spring Conference has highlighted a variety of workshops, competitions, displays and awards for YES participants. Western Michigan University will serve as host to the 2005 Annual Spring Conference. Please visit our Web site at [www.wmich.edu/yes](http://www.wmich.edu/yes) for details.

# AWARENESS AMONG FACTORS

## Behind Scarcity of Under-Represent Minority Males in Teaching

A recent survey was conducted by the YES Executive Board among under-represented males aspiring to enter into higher education revealed that few had aspirations of becoming a classroom teacher.

School districts throughout the country are searching far and wide for under-represented minority male candidates, but district's personnel administrators say the numbers are not keeping up with the huge demand, due in part to awareness and a lack of positive role models in the teaching profession.

When adolescent males were asked to list their career choices, one third indicated strong desires for careers with the National Basketball Association (NBA) and the National Football League (NFL). The fact remain that one of twenty thousand athletes are selected into the NBA and one of ten thousands are selected into the NFL.

The lack of visible role models has become paramount. The



greatest disparity is at the elementary levels. According to a report released by Macomb Intermediate School District (MISD), among elementary school educator in Macomb County Michigan, under-represented minority males or less than .05 %

## TEACHER SALARIES SECOND IN NATION: According to the Detroit News

Michigan teachers are among the best paid in the nation, according to a new report by the American Federation of Teachers.

The average Michigan teacher earned \$54,020 for the 2003 school year, making Michigan's pay scale the second-highest in the nation. But a comfortable salary doesn't always mean an easy job.

In Southfield, where teachers have been working without a contract since last year, the district has laid off more than 100 employees- including 26 teachers- in the face of state budget cuts and a scaled back local school mileage rate.

"You're employing people you may not have the resources to employ," said district spokesman Kenson Siver. The state cut support to the district by \$74 per pupil this year, at the same time voters pushed for a

lower tax rate, cutting millions from the school budget.

"In my opinion, they should be paid a lot more," said Liz Fellows, a Bloomfield Hills mother of four and organizer of Advocates for Bloomfield Children.

The Average teacher salary in Bloomfield Hills was \$57,469 in 2002, according to the latest Standard and Poor evaluation of Michigan schools. While higher than the state average, and far above the national average, the salaries in the upscale school district weren't the highest in the state. Detroit, Dearborn and Warren all boasted average salaries above \$60,000 a year.

At the conservative Mackinaw Center, Brian Carpenter, who studies school reform, questioned whether higher teacher salaries translate into

better student test scores. Michigan students scored on the most recent achievement tests.

"If there is a relationship between teacher salary and

student performance, then we're certainly not seeing it," he said.

Nationwide, only California ranked higher than Michigan, with an average salary of \$55,693.

### AVERAGE TEACHER PAY

#### Highest

Calif.	\$55,693
<b>Mich.</b>	<b>\$54,020</b>
Conn.	\$53,962

#### Lowest

N.D.	\$33,869
Okla.	\$33,277
S.D.	\$32,414

**National average: \$45,771**

# Young Educators Society of Michigan

## EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS 2004 - 2005

September 16, 2004	Macomb Community College
October 21, 2004	MEA Lansing- Advisors Conference
November 18, 2004	Highland Park Community Schools
January 20, 2005	Wayne State University
February 17, 2005	Ann Arbor/University of Michigan
March 17, 2005	Eastern Michigan University
April 21, 2005	Pontiac Schools
May 19, 2005	Wayne County Community College District

### EXECUTIVE BOARD 2004-2005



#### THE YOUNG EDUCATORS SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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Fall	October 1
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