

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

SPRING EDITION

YES EXECUTIVE BOARD

YES EXECUTIVE BOARD SET HIGH STANDARDS FOR NEW MILLENNIUM

What began in 1987 by a small group of staff and administrators at Eastern Michigan University known as the "State Steering Committee" designated to discuss growing concerns over the decline in the number of "students of color" pursuing careers in the teaching profession, has mushroomed today into a viable organization known as the Young Educators Society Executive Board. With the support of more than twenty-five educational organizations, including colleges and universities, school districts and professional organizations, the YES Executive Board continues to articulate programs and oversee activities sponsored by local chapters throughout the State of Michigan. It makes available cutting edge educational information to members of the university and college communities as well as local school districts. Many participating board members are recognized authorities on teacher preparation programs and public policy.

The primary goals of the organization are to encourage high school graduates to enter teacher preparation programs and consider teaching as a profession. Diversity also has

been a major focus for YES, which boasts a growing membership of students from all racial and ethnic groups. "It is with awareness that the YES Executive Board moves toward the future," Timberlake says, "A major challenge facing YES is simply surviving and reaching out to all educational organizations and communities throughout the State."

The YES Executive Board meets monthly throughout the academic year from September through May. All meetings are open, and participating school districts and colleges are encouraged to send representatives to the Board meetings. There are twelve rotating seats on the Board for school districts, six rotating seats for universities and two for community colleges. Any school district with an active YES program may apply for an official seat on the Board.

Meetings are scheduled at various locations across the State to facilitate attendance by as many institutions as possible. School districts and colleges interested in affiliating with YES will find attendance at Board meetings very helpful in getting to know more about the organization and how it operates.



Members of the 1999-2000 Young Educators Society Executive Board standing from left to right are; Dr. Barbara Gorenflo, Eastern Michigan University; Dr. LaVerne Thompson, Wayne County Community College; Gene Nuckolls, Saginaw Public Schools; Chris Timberlake, Roseville Community Schools; Minnie Thompson-Powell, Ann-Arbor Public Schools; Dr. Henry O. Meares, University of Michigan; Marc Mitchell, Kentwood Public Schools; Seated from left to right; Dr. Regina Falls Nelson, Western Michigan University; Susan Saraques, Detroit Public Schools; Jennifer Watson, Secretary, Michigan State University; Linda Stokes, Treasurer, Lansing Public Schools; Sallie Smith-Brown, Chairperson-Elect, Wayne State University; Dorothy Jo Butler, Chairperson, Grand Rapids Public Schools.

TAKE PART IN THE TEACHER CADET TRAINING PROGRAM AT SAGINAW VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY

On Monday, July 24, 2000 Saginaw Valley State University will host a three-day conference featuring representatives from the South Carolina Center for Teacher Recruitment. This conference will provide training for high school and vocational education teachers interested in certification for teacher cadet training.

The South Carolina Center is the only model that provide a curriculum for teachers to use in an introductory course for high school students interested in pursuing a career in the teaching profession.

Workshop participants can register by contacting Dr. Barbara Jones at (517) 249-4666.

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FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

Finding Our Voices Following Our Dreams



As my reign as Chairperson of the Young Educators Society (YES) Executive Board comes to a close, it has been an awesome and zestful experience to have served in this capacity. My tenure not only ushered in a new millennium, but new and seasoned members with new and exciting ideas. Therefore, as I relinquish my title to Ms. Sally Smith-Brown, I believe she will continue to blaze new and powerful paths as she continues to lead the Board into the year 2001.

With the advent of 1999 year, we found our voices, followed our dreams, and accomplished many of our goals. We provided scholarships to deserving students who continued to express interest in the teaching profession. We also gained the financial support of the Michigan Education Association (MEA), as well as shared the YES vision at MEA Conferences. Furthermore, our diligence captured and generated interest from several potential districts seeking to join our Board. We also identified an historian who encapsulated the Board's mood and action on film. The film, in scrapbook form, will serve as a reference to future Board members.

The Advisors Conference, hosted by my district, the Grand Rapids Public Schools, was a tremendous success. The suggestions/concerns generated by advisors were compiled and scrutinized. The Board made a concerted effort to address as many issues as possible. However, many of those concerns will continue to be addressed in the YES Newsletter.

Although I am leaving the helm as Chairperson, I will continue to be a member of our electrifying, challenging YES Executive Board. I will work with and support Ms. Brown as she moves us to new heights.

Dorothy Jo Butler
YES Chairperson
1999-00

AHAANA "HOMEGROWN" TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAM

The National Educational Association conducted a survey during the early 90's to ascertain the current state of our teaching force. The survey data revealed that by the year 2000, the enrollment for "students of color" would increase to approximately 30% while "teachers of color" would nose dive to 5%. This news was not only alarming to our nation, but to the Grand Rapids Public Schools as well. To reverse the trend disclosed by this data, GRPS developed partnership with Grand Rapids Community College and Grand Valley State University and established the Asian, Hispanic, African American, and Native American Teacher Education Program (AHAANA-ATEP).

AHAANA-ATEP focuses on students in grades 7-12 who have expressed interest in the teaching profession. To qualify for this program, students must meet the following criteria:

- Maintain a 2.5 grade point average.
- Participate in the Young Educators Society.
- Maintain excellent school attendance and behavior.
- Enroll fulltime at Grand Valley State University or Grand Rapids Community College
- Demonstrate an interest in teaching as a career.

Eligible students will be awarded scholarships by participating colleges and universities. This program is designed not only to help the Grand Rapids Public Schools to "homegrow" teachers, but it also allows the District to expand upon their own potentials in providing positive role models for all students especially, "students of color."

Ollie Browley
ATEP Coordinator
Grand Rapids Public Schools

ANOTHER GREAT YEAR FOR OTTAWA HILLS HIGH SCHOOL YES CLUB

In addition to celebrating our first scholarship winner in Gabrielle Davis, the Ottawa High School YES Club has undertaken many other initiatives, some of them include: providing donations for homeless children of Grand Rapids; campus visitations to Grand Valley State University, Michigan State University, Calvin College, Grand Rapids Community College, and Aquinas College; participation in a tutorial program and providing academic support for students needing assistance at the elementary level.

During a recent parent teacher conference, at OHS teachers and staff received an educational "treat bag" from YES students. The contents included pencils, pens, and a variety of goodies such as chocolate candies and other teacher favorites. This year's program activities will culminate during May, by attending the Annual Spring Conference at Michigan State University.

Dorothy Jo Butler
Advisor

A NOTE OF THANKS

Special thanks and appreciation is extended to

Dr. Cassandra Book
Ms. Kay Wood
Ms. Jennifer Watson

for "Creating Excitement for Teaching" during The Young Educators Society Annual Spring Conference on May 11, 2000 at Michigan State University.

YES CLUB SPONSORS RECEIVE INSIGHT AT ADVISORS CONFERENCE

More than sixty enthusiastic advisors and educators from across the State received a healthy dose of inspirational messages and tips for involving student participation in YES programs at the Annual YES Advisors Conference hosted by Grand Rapids Public Schools and Western Michigan University at Grand Rapids. **"Empowering and Mentoring Future Young Educators"** was the theme for the day that featured a keynote speaker, luncheon and breakout sessions addressing topics ranging from "Preparing Students for College" "Teacher Cadet Training Programs" "Issues Confronting Middle and High School Programs" and "Guidelines for the YES Scrapbook Competition."



The YES Executive Board established the conference in order to promote articulation among YES Advisors. The next YES Advisors Conference will be hosted by Saginaw Valley State University on October 19, 2000. Registration information will be mailed to advisors during early September. All club advisors, administrators, community leaders are encouraged to attend.



For additional information contact Dr. Barbara Jones, Advisors Conference Chairperson, at (517) 249-4666.



WAYNE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

PROVIDE CAREER PATHWAYS FOR TEACHING OPPORTUNITIES

At a recent YES Executive Board meeting Dr. LaVerne Thompson, Director of the Urban Teacher Program at Wayne County Community College discussed her work at WCCC with intensity. Dr. Thompson's depth of commitment to the community college is evident by the many educational opportunities available for students. Her report included several self-initiated and evidence of student involvement in various scholarship programs, such as the Gates Millennium, Wayne County Michigan RESA Scholarship and the new Community College and University Scholarship program offered by the Young Educators Society.

The Board encourages more community colleges to become involved. The role of the community college will be more important in preparing future teachers for the twenty-first century since more and more career seekers are returning to the community colleges to retrain for new occupations. Teacher training programs such as the Urban Teacher Program at WCCC will become more in demand. Fortunately, for the YES Executive Board, Dr. Thompson serves as a pioneer and an excellent role model for aspiring educators to follow.

Dr. Thompson states that the members recently served as host and hostess for the Annual Open House at the Eastern Campus WCCC District and provided a Potluck Recognition Dinner honoring graduating seniors. In addition, to serving as co-sponsor to the University of Detroit, Phi Delta Kappa Urban Teacher Program, members also participate in the YES Mentorship Program. The YES Executive Board is one of few organizations that concerns itself with Teacher Education Programs through higher education," said Thompson, "and that's a good reason for our involvement- the Board can help link us to four-year institutions and secondary schools."

THE GOVERNOR'S CAREER PREPARATION GRANTS PROVIDE FUNDING FOR YES PROGRAMS

The Career Preparation System is a system of programs and strategies designed to provide students with greater choices to prepare for success. The system is designed to provide all students completing the Michigan education system with the necessary academic, technical and work behavior knowledge and skills for success in a career of their choice and lifelong learn-

ing. YES is unique in that many of its goals and objectives are covered within the guidelines of the grants. Many local chapters are receiving funds for the cost of transportation, supplies and resource personnel. Contact your local Career Preparation or Tech Prep representative for possible funding assistance.

YES Executive Board Announces Scholarship Winner for year 2000



THE YOUNG EDUCATORS SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

*A publication of
The Young Educators
Society Executive Board*

Publication Schedule

| Issue | Deadline |
|--------|-----------|
| Fall | October 1 |
| Spring | April 15 |

Send your future articles to:

Chris Timberlake

YES Newsletter Editor
Roseville High School
17855 Common Road
Roseville, Michigan 48066

We welcome articles by YES Advisors and members. Articles are published as layout space allows. Submission of an article does not guarantee its publication. YES reserve the right to condense, edit articles for publication. We encourage you to provide articles from local news media or publications.



JIBA BEGUM

*Murray Wright High School
Detroit, Michigan*

When I was a little girl one of my favorite occupations was playing with my younger brothers and sisters. I was always the teacher. I like to help children to be disciplined and show them that learning is fun. I've enjoyed the feelings of being needed and appreciated. I was always happy to help my younger brothers and sisters with the work that they have trouble with.

I've always had an interest in teaching because I wanted to help others expand their minds as well as expand my mind. I believe that to teach is to learn twice. That is an advantage for me. As I teach others, I will absorb more knowledge for myself. My parents have always told me that there's nothing more rewarding than the feeling of knowing that you've helped someone. I have always believed that is why I want to become a teacher. I might change someone's life forever without knowing and that is one of the most powerful aspects about being a teacher. Many students look up to their teachers, admire them and ask them for advice, and they are there for them. At times students ask teachers for help. For the teachers, it makes them feel proud that they are able to help someone not just academically, but emotionally as well. These are some of the many reasons why I want to become a teacher.

When I graduate from high school, I am going to attend a university and study and pursue a career in teaching. I want to finish my education so that when I get my Masters in teaching I will be able to educate others. I would like to teach math because math is my strong point and I like numbers. There are so few certified teachers in our communities to teach the mandatory subjects especially mathematics and science.

Teachers are one of the most important role models we need in our society. Without them learning would be chaotic and no one would be there to teach and discipline the students.



GABRIELLE LATRICE DAVIS

*Ottawa Hills High School
Grand Rapids, Michigan*

It is evident that an education is vital to one's success and mere existence. Furthermore, the aspiration to acquire a career in teaching is a goal with unlimited rewards and benefits. It is my desire to carry the torch in the spirit of education, not only as a tribute to the educators who have carried the torch for me, but to ensure that the children of tomorrow have the same opportunities for success as those have today. As an active member of the Young Educators Society, I have learned that the ability to motivate and inspire is a special gift that is required to provide light to a world of darkness.

In a few months from now, I will be at a place where I will live, learn, and experience what is considered to be the best years of my life. For the past four years, my family and I have worked in preparation and anticipation of that day. I owe a great deal to my family. They have been very supportive of my career goals and future aspirations. As the eldest of four children, I have learned the importance of responsibility while displaying a positive self image for others to follow. It is my goal to continue to maintain the same character and to become more involved with the children of my community by pursuing a career in teaching.



COURTNEY A. CLARK

*Michigan State University
East Lansing, Michigan*

My passion to teach stems from my love of learning acquired from wonderful mentors, and teachers from my past, and the many rewards received through teaching opportunities. Seeing the light in a child's eyes when they discover something new, or their excitement and enjoyment during their learning is a heart-warming feeling. I cannot think of a more fulfilling way to spend my career. I have come to realize that enthusiasm for my subject, organization, hard work, and caring for the learning of students will be essential for success in my teaching career.

Thomas Jefferson once said, "Every generation needs a new revolution." My part in this revolution will be to work hard in all facets of my career to improve and ensure a quality education to our succeeding generations. My goal is to positively impact education through teaching, eventually working as an administrator in a K-12 setting, and eventually taking my experiences to the educational policy arena. After dedicating my energies to quality education, I hope to reflect back upon my life knowing that I helped win a very important battle in my generation's revolution.





PENNY DALIN

*Michigan State University
East Lansing, Michigan*

When I was younger I would use the child size chalkboard easel in my basement along with one of my mom’s teachers manual and pretend to teach lessons to an imaginary class. Since I was a young child I have wanted to become a teacher. My love for kids grew as I started to baby-sit at age 12, and I have had many experiences since then that affirmed my decision-making. No matter what other job possibilities I have considered, teaching has been foremost on my mind. I know that I am destined to become a teacher.

Making a difference in children lives has always been very important to me. One of the most important experiences in my decision to become a teacher has always been working with my brother, Andrew, who has mild cerebral palsy and a learning disability. My involvement in his growth and development provided me with the insight to help me understand his learning style and pursue this career.



MELVYN JASON BRANCH

*Thomas M. Cooley High School
Detroit, Michigan*

I am currently employed at an elementary school and it is obvious that there is a shortage of teachers, especially male teachers. This is very difficult for me to understand. I would like to become a teacher so I can help children gain certain advantages that I did not have. Education is one thing that I value because it opens many doors to opportunities.

In my opinion, male students need male teachers as role models, especially at the elementary level. I would like to share my knowledge with the students that I work with. I believe that to teach would not only enhance my personal growth but would also bring joy and excitement to those that learn. Putting a smile on a youngster’s face by teaching them something has a tremendous impact on one’s life— and this is more than I could ever ask for.

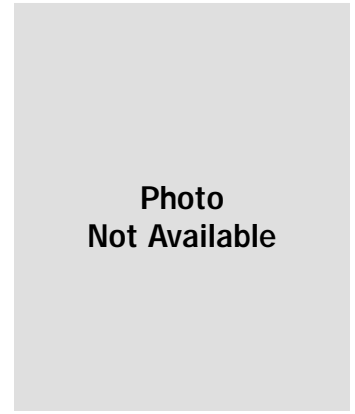


DERRICK MARTIN

*Grand Rapids Central High School
Grand Rapids, Michigan*

My number one reason for wanting to become a teacher is my grandmother. My grandmother was a non-certified teacher in McComb, Mississippi while my grandfather served in World War II. She had plans to attend Liberty College to earn a degree, but when the war ended, she was unable to do so. When my grandfather returned from Italy and the family moved to Chicago, she gave up all hope of going to college, but her dreams to teach lived on.

I want to fulfill her dreams by becoming a teacher. Now that I realize the importance of teaching, I have become more inspired because I now know that a great deal goes into preparing and educating children. My position as Student Representative to the Grand Rapids Board of Education has given me many insights as to the workings of school districts. In addition, My Principal, Mr. Joe Grandy has assisted me with his leadership, character and compassion for his job and the students at Central.



**Photo
Not Available**

MICHELLE WILLIAMS

*Northern High School
Detroit, Michigan*

Among all careers considered, I chose teaching because of my love for children, and because of the love, warmth, and joy children bring to me. By pursuing a career in teaching, I will be able to offer students the academic support and assist them with their personal growth and development while giving back to my community.

As I dedicate myself to this career, my involvement will become a beacon of hope to all students, particularly urban students. I plan to create an atmosphere that will hopefully eradicate the common myths of prejudice that all inner-city students live in poverty and cannot succeed academically. By teaching others, I believe I can impart the knowledge that will create hope, courage and strength, therefore, enabling students to overcome these barriers and false assumptions that exist about the urban learner. With this approach, students will become more motivated to move forward and meet the challenges that will enhance a successful adult life.

ETIQUETTE AT CONFERENCES A MUST FOR YES STUDENTS

The YES Executive Board has spent a great deal of time discussing the importance of common courtesies when it comes to attending conferences. Thanks to Gwen Trotter, former YES Board member representing Central Michigan University, the first edition "*Becoming a Professional: Attending a Conference*" was published under the auspices of the YES Executive Board and adopted during Spring, 1999.

"Etiquette stems from basic mindfulness and kindness," explains Sue Fox, President of Etiquette Survival, Inc. and author of *Etiquette for Dummies*. "The bottom line is respect."

"People forget they don't own the world, that they operate with others," adds Marjorie Brody, a professional speaker and author of numerous books on etiquette.

"Becoming a Professional: Attending a Conference" provides a basic insight for students when attending conferences and for everyday social situations. Copies of this document can be obtained at no cost by contacting the YES Executive Board.

Please use this form to order YES CLUB supplies and paraphernalia, custom embroidery, sweatshirts, sweaters, jackets, pins and more. **Please mail to: B J Productions, Barbara J. Jones, Owner 58 Woodward Dr. Saqinaw, Michigan 48601 Or call (517) 777-3482. Thank You!**

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