

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

SPRING EDITION 2001

YES EXECUTIVE BOARD

WHAT'S UP @... YES IS ON THE WEB?

www.wmich.edu/yes

Lots of new and exciting services and programs—that's what's up and we want you to make sure you stay informed. Just click on the Web site www.wmich.edu/yes and you will receive important information pertinent to your YES program.

For Students and Parents

Exploring Community Colleges. Should your students consider the college next door? This new section details the benefits of attending a community college and offers information about transferring. Students can also check out FAST FACTS, too, interesting data about two-year colleges.

YES Scholarship Program. Both high school and college students need not wait to receive information about the YES Scholarship Program. Applications may be ac-

cessed via the Internet. Look to search for other scholarship programs as well.

For Education Professionals

The YES Executive Board Meetings are conducted monthly at various locations throughout the State of Michigan. Minutes from each meeting can be reviewed and made available via the website. Check out interesting facts regarding policy and procedures, clubs and university activities, and other programs administered by the Executive Board.

In addition, current profiles, features and teacher employment mobility are now made available. Visit our website to read the latest news from newsletter articles and research reports.

MEIJER RETAIL STORE ESTABLISH PARTNERSHIP WITH ROSEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL YES CLUB

Store Manager, Dan Devau presented a check in the amount of two hundred dollars to cover the cost for transportation to RHS YES students to attend a campus visitation program at Michigan State University. Pictured with RHS YES Club Members, from left to right are: Dan Devau, Anisha Mathews, Carla Vitale, and Kimberly Burnett.



WSU TO HOST ANNUAL SPRING CONFERENCE

Wayne State University is preparing to host the Annual YES Spring Conference on Friday, May 4, 2001. The theme for the conference is **"Teaching Rocks! Linking Personal Interest to Teaching."** The conference activities will include a scrapbook competition, college fair, workshops, seminars, speakers, and awards ceremony.

YES students representing more than thirty school districts will attend this annual event. Dr. Janice Green, WSU Administrator will serve as Conference Chairperson.



Dr. Janice Green, (right) YES Conference Chairperson, listens as Linda Stokes, (left) YES Advisor, Sexton High School provide feedback during Articulation Seminar at the Annual Advisors Conference.

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FROM THE CHAIRPERSON



Welcome, to the 2001 Young Educators Society Annual Spring Conference.

I am always encouraged to see so many students and professionals working together for a noble cause. We are very pleased to report that there were a number of significant developments implemented at the executive level during the past year. These successes included: establishing a WEB page; increasing the funding for scholarships

awarded to college and university students: creating a separate category for scholarship opportunities for community college students and creating a separate category for the scrapbook contest entries for middle schools programs.

Yet, against this backdrop of success, YES continues to reach out for students to pursue the teaching profession. We still continue to face major shortages in this area, especially, involving "students of color". According to the American Council on Education, one third of all school children are African American, Hispanic, American Indian, and Asian American. Based on these statistics, it is imperative that we continue to prepare and recruit "students of color" for our colleges and universities. Today, YES serves as one of the few catalyst that address these critical issues that faces our educational system.

Obviously, there are many other issues to consider, but the YES Executive Board in collaboration with school districts, colleges and professional organizations from throughout the State of Michigan offers a conceptual framework for pursuing the teaching profession. Therefore, we welcome your response or feedback for improvement as we concentrate our efforts to support the teachers of tomorrow.

Again, I welcome you to the 2001 Annual Spring Conference and on behalf of the members of the Executive Board, I wish to extend our sincere appreciation to the staff at Wayne State University for the tireless efforts displayed during the organizational planning and success of this event.

Marc Mitchell
Chairperson
YES Executive Board

COLLEGE ORIENTATION AT MSU WHAT TO EXPECT

What can students expect when their YES Club visit the campus at Michigan State University? "Plenty of fun, lots of excitement, loads of useful information, direct exposure to the best Teacher Certification Program in the country, and an Intensive that recognizes teaching as a viable profession as a career choice," states, Jennifer Watson, Academic Advisor at MSU.



Dr. Sonya Gunnings-Moton, YES executive and assistant to the Dean For Special Projects at Michigan State University speaks to the members of Roseville High School YES Club about educational opportunities at MSU.

Upon arrival students are introduced to the program coordinators, and a panel of MSU students who conducts a discussion on college life, survival strategies and techniques. Information pertaining to studying abroad, teacher certification, and financial aid are also presented.

Fine dining in the dormitory and a tour of the campus and residence halls are usually the highlights of the day. Presentations by admission, and financial aid advisors offer students insights for gaining admission and obtaining financial assistance. In addition, new strategies or offered for students interested in Teacher Education Programs.

At the conclusion of the day students are provided a short feedback survey and the opportunity for debriefing. For many students this is the first opportunity to visit a college campus and many have expressed a greater desire to teach after completing the orientation.

SVSU FEATURE DR. JEFFREY HOWARD IN EFFICACY WORKSHOP

More than eighty high school and college students, faculty, and professional educators attended a workshop featuring Dr. Jeffrey Howard on March 29, at Curtiss Hall on the campus of Saginaw Valley State University. "People who learn how to learn are the ones who make it," states Howard, who holds a doctorate degree in social psychology and the founder and President of the Efficacy Institute Consulting Firm. Howard's work has touched more than 20,000 educators from across this nation.

When Dr. Howard speaks about his work in Efficacy, he disputes the age-old theory that intellectual capabilities are innate. In fact, "smart is not something you just are, smartness is something you can get," he states. "Dr. Howard has compiled a curriculum guide for both middle and high school stu-

dents that is very easy to understand. His lecture engages students with many thought provoking questions and analogies," states Dr. Barbara Jones, Education Professor at SVSU. He asks, "Why do some people make it and others don't. Learning is a process of getting better, stronger and smarter at anything you do".

In addition, Howard is a Harvard-trained psychologist and has provided training and consulting services for firms which work with Fortune 500 Companies addressing issues such as diversity, motivation, team commitment and the psychological dynamics of professional development. The workshop focus represents the interest of Teacher Cadet Programs and YES Clubs.

YES ADVISORS KEEPING PACE WITH TECHNOLOGY

To better serve students and advisors, the YES Executive Board launched the Sixth Annual Advisors Conference last November at Saginaw Valley State University that focused on workshop topics, such as, Developing a WEB Page, Grant Writing, and Advisors Articulation And Sharing.

The in-service training provided insight for WEB site development for advisors. "The new WEB site will eventually allow YES students to log on and input their own information. There are no other sites available that can offer this feature," states Dr. Regena Fails Nelson, Education Professor at Western Michigan University.

In addition, conference presenters provided outlines and systematic approaches for making application for writing grants. Advisors also spent time sharing helpful ideas of successful activities.



The Annual YES Advisors Conference offers assistance in WEB page development to YES Club Sponsors. Conference participants seem to be pleased with recent changes and improvements.

ALBION HIGH SCHOOL YES CLUB RECEIVE \$6,000 GRANT TO EXPLORE TEACHING AS A CAREER

Both staff and students will play an active role in the selecting and recruiting students into the Young Educators Society (YES) at Albion High School as the chapter has recently received monies allocated by the Career Preparation Funding source. Following the initial planning and organization, students will elect officers, participate in an installation service featuring a guest speaker, and receive membership cards and certificates. The goal of the organization is to encourage all students who aspire to pursue teaching as a career option to become involved. Specific emphasis will be placed on the underrepresented, first generation college bound students, and "students of color".

A calendar of activities have been outlined for the year, that include:

- Participation in "Read Across America-Teacher Shadowing Day." Students will be paired with educators throughout the Albion area to gain practical experiences of "A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A TEACHER." Student placement will be identified according to their career assessment profile.
- All participants will attend a youth forum entitled: HEALING OF RACISM TRAINING WORKSHOP, sponsored by Starr Commonwealth, Albion Campus.

The workshop will include:

- (a) Discussions on prejudice, stereotyping and racism
 - (b) Identifying the pathology of racism.
 - (c) Discussing the "Oneness of Humankind."
 - (d) Participating in one-to-one sharing.
 - (e) Journaling of feelings and images.
- Interested YES members will attend peer mentoring and listening training. After which, they will become involved with elementary students for volunteer credit.
 - Graduating seniors will be recognized at the 2001 Honors Convocation with certificates and blue graduation cords to be worn over the graduating gown symbolizing their interest in education.
 - Two field trips will be scheduled to post secondary institutions to visit Teacher Education Programs, talk with faculty and staff, and a tour of the campus.
 - All students will receive a YES T-Shirt to be worn during designated time periods expressing his/her pride of having the desire to teach.

The one time grant will be administered by Vivian Davis and Tonya Arnett, counselor and advisor to the program.

IN MEMORY OF MINNIE THOMPSON-POWELL



Minnie Thompson-Powell passed away on Tuesday, January 23, 2001 in Ann Arbor. The members of the Young Educators Society Executive Board wish to extend condolences to the family and friends. Her legacy will always be a part of us. In addition to the support for YES, Minnie taught at Delta College, the Lansing and Ann Arbor Public Schools. Since 1996 while serving as an administrator, she represented the Ann Arbor School District on the YES Executive Board until retirement in 2000.

YES Executive Board Announce Scholarship Winners for year 2001



THE YOUNG EDUCATORS SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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Society Executive Board*

Publication Schedule

Issue	Deadline
Fall	October 1
Spring	April 15

Send your future articles to:

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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.



KIMBERLY EURE

*J.W. SEXTON HIGH SCHOOL
LANSING, MICHIGAN*

Today is the essence of the moment. You may not realize it but every hour, every minute, and every second of the day is a promise for fulfillment for tomorrow. What you do with today is up to you. Each time you speak, each behavior you display causes a response in the mind of others. Whether its good or bad, you are living out your expectations, and someone's life is impacted by your decision making process.

As a teacher, I have the chance to make a positive difference in someone's life. Life should not be taken for granted, it is truly a precious gift. Although I am young, there are many ways I can make a difference. I enjoy working with children. It gives me joy just seeing their faces light up when they are learning something new, or when they are given something special.

As a senior at J.W. Sexton High School, I serve as Vice President of the Young Educators Society, as a member of this organization, I work with elementary students by providing enriching and educational opportunities for them in the classroom. It is an awesome feeling when these students look to me for guidance and instructions. I try to be a positive influence for them each time I visit their classroom. I teach the importance of working and playing together, as well as respecting other classmates.



KENYATTA ELIZABETH HILL

*OTTAWA HILLS HIGH SCHOOL
GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN*

Doctor, fireman, nurse, and police officer, are just a few career choices that students are making. For my entire life I have always wanted to become a teacher. I am not sure if it was my father's influence because he is currently employed as a teacher, however, his love for the professions is quite obvious. Just to see him smile and listen to him speak of his students can offer anyone encouragement. No doubt this has played a vital role in my decision-making.

Throughout my life I have been fortunate to have many positive role models as educators and mentors. They all impressed upon me to seek the career that I have the most desire and passion for, and the one I find most fulfilling is teaching little children. I love the way their faces glow over the simple things such as writing their names and learning how to button up their jackets for the first time.

My parents have instilled in me the value to believe that in order to reach your goals one must strive for it. Nothing is given to you for free and know that success does not come by wearing the latest in fashions or winning popularity contests. In order to become successful—no matter what it is—you must acquire knowledge, fill your heart with love and seek guidance and understanding for those things that we do not know, and be willing to work at it.



MATHEW THOMAS MEANS

*MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
EAST LANSING, MICHIGAN*

I want to become a teacher because I have a deep desire to be a role model for young children. It is my belief that many of today's problems can be traced to a failure to provide strong role models (especially male role models) for America's youth. I believe that a teacher's goals should transcend merely educating students and seek to instill a desire for life-long learning and successful transition into communities of living. It is within my ability to build not only a firm educational foundation for children, but also a strong moral character that will enable me to become successful as a teacher.

I have witnessed enough children "just getting by" and truly realize their potential as students and as human beings. I want to see that children receive the knowledge needed for success as well as the skills to be a better person. My desire to become a teacher stems directly from my career goals. The classroom is an amazing stage in which teachers can produce successful productions – both cognitively and socially. It is my goal that for every child that passes through my classroom will realize that they too can attain success in their careers, families, communities, and relationships.



LANA KAY WILLIAMS
WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN

Each day after kindergarten, I would come home and go straight to my room, but instead of playing with toys, I created my own game. My bedroom became a classroom, and I would place various stuffed animals around the perimeter, making sure that their faces were turned toward me. I would sit where everyone could see me and begin to read a story aloud. I smiled as their glossy and shaggy eyes filled with wonder. You see, I was their teacher, and they were my pupils.

From that moment forward, I knew what I wanted to do with my life. I wanted to be a real teacher with real students in a real classroom. Even at such a young age, I was able to identify with a profession that was challenging and rewarding and still allowed for the creativity that my personality required.

I have the drive, the motivation and enthusiasm to share my love for learning with young minds. I am consistently seeking to better myself in order to be more valuable for my students. I want to become a teacher to pass on what so many wonderful teachers have passed on to me—the passion and desire to get the most out of life.



JENNIFER SHARELL HAYES
ARTHUR HILL HIGH SCHOOL
SAGINAW, MICHIGAN

I personally hold the belief that one should give back by serving the community. I know that I can't do all things but I can do some things. To teach is to serve. I have faith that once I have helped someone, that person will in return help someone else. My commitment to helping others and loyalty to the YES Club are reasons enough for holding the vision to teach.

Since I was a young child the idea of teaching fascinated me. I thought of my teachers as the ideal citizens. Not only were they intelligent, they also presented themselves in a very professional and enthusiastic manner. In addition to my parents influence, it has been my teachers that have influenced me most. It amazes me how a teacher can care so much to teach a child and is able to provide guidance and knowledge. I too enjoy helping others because it gives me a sense of contentment and pride.



BROOK S. RUSHING
ARTHUR HILL HIGH SCHOOL
SAGINAW, MICHIGAN

My foremost reason for having the desire to teach is to help children reach their full potential. I know I can achieve this goal because of my ability to relate and develop rapport with others. With a strong foundation in English and Literature, I am confident that I can become a successful teacher or mentor at the secondary level.

It is with pride and determination that I pursue this profession. I know if I give it my best—I will be admired and respected for my accomplishments and hopefully register a memory in the minds of all the students that I teach.

YES SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

**Giving back
to the community
and giving students
a chance**

The Young Educators Society Scholarship Program is funded through contributions received from various supporting educational organizations and affiliates. The scholarship offers assistance to eligible high school and college students. The award is competitive and presented annually to students that have demonstrated outstanding academic achievement and a desire to pursue a career in teaching. In nearly a decade of support for this initiative the YES Scholarship Program have benefited almost sixty (60) students.

To learn more about the YES Scholarship Program, how to apply for scholarships or where to make a tax-deductible contribution: please call (810) 445-5580 or visit our website at www.wmich.edu/yes.



If you have built castles in the air your work need not be lost; that is where they should be.

Now put the foundations under them.

Henry David Thoreau



Executive Board

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Young Educators Society of Michigan

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