

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

SPRING EDITION 2002

YES EXECUTIVE BOARD

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TO PROVIDE KEYNOTE ADDRESS AT ANNUAL SPRING CONFERENCE

Eastern Michigan University will serve as host to approximately 300 junior high and high school students representing school districts from across the state of Michigan, during the Annual Spring Conference on Friday, April 26, 2002. The theme for the conference is **"Teaching In Living Color."** Dr. Nora Martin, education professor, will provide the keynote address.

Dr. Martin is a Professor of Special Education at Eastern Michigan University. She received her doctoral degree from the University of Michigan in 1973. Dr. Martin is in demand

throughout the country as a speaker and workshop leader for many schools, colleges, businesses and churches. She has particular expertise in methods for motivation reluctant learners, learning styles, early childhood development, stress reduction techniques, multicultural concepts, parent/school involvement and development workshops which foster positive human relations. She is a member of the National Faculty for Yale University's School Development Program (SDP). Dr. Martin also continues to serve as an educational consultant for

numerous school districts. Her most recent position (September, 2001) is the Eastern Michigan University Coordinator for the Comer School and Families Initiative.

Dr. Martin has published several articles in the educational journals and is currently completing a textbook entitled, *Ways to Motivate Children*. She has recently authored a chapter on diversity entitled, "More Alike Than Different" in the book *Teaching and Joy* (ASCD Publishing, April, 1997). She is also the recipient of a grant to produce a manual de-

signed to assist college professors in acquiring more sensitivity toward minority students. She is the co-author of *Parent Imparting Discipline/Heritage*, Robbie Dean Publishers, Ann Arbor, MI. She is a contributing author for the publication entitled "Journey Toward Nationalism" Forbes Publishers, New York, N.Y.

Biographical information re-print with permission from Joan L. Quinlan, Administrative Manager, College of Education Eastern Michigan University

FROM THE CHAIR



Dear Colleagues,

As I extend a special welcome to you, to the campus of Eastern Michigan University and the 2002 Annual Spring Conference, I would be remised without saying thank you for the many things you did for the students and YES during this school year.

Without you, students would not have learned the thousands of things, both large and small, that they did learn because of you.

You touched many young lives that will never be the same. And because of you, many young people will be able to successfully take their next steps to a higher level of learning next year. The many days and nights that you worried about the quality of your lessons and effectiveness of your teaching, searching for the answers and asking whether you were truly reaching certain students will bear fruit in ways that you may never know.

My special appreciations are extended to members of the YES Executive Board, Advisors and the EMU Staff for hosting the Annual Spring Conference.

It's especially important at this time of year that you take stock of all the ways you have made a difference to students, colleagues and parents as well. You also need to take time to ponder the realization that you are in the most noble profession of all and that you are giving back to this world in profound ways.

Please enjoy the conference. Refresh yourself, and leave with the knowledge that we were all enriched by your presence here.

Barbara J. Jones, Ph.D.
Chairperson
YES Executive Board

THE AVERAGE CHILD

*I don't cause teachers trouble,
my grades have been O.K.*

I listen in my classes and I'm in school every day.

*My teachers think I'm average,
my parents think so too.*

*I wish I didn't know that 'cause there's lots
I'd like to do.*

*I'd like to build a rocket;
I have a book that tells you how.*

*Or start a stamp collection-well,
there's no use in trying now.*

'Cause since I found I'm average,

I'm just smart enough you see,

*To know there is nothing special that
I should expect of me.*

I'm part of the majority,

That hump part of the bell,

Who spends their life unnoticed,

In an average kind of hell.

**Poem written by a ninth grade
Native-American student
(name withheld by request)**

NEW WEB SITE HELPS ORGANIZE THE RESOURCE NETWORK FOR STUDENTS AND EDUCATORS

To better serve students, teachers, school districts, educational organizations, colleges and universities, the YES Executive Board has upgraded and redesigned the web site to access new and reliable information to aid in the understanding of the resource network.

"The new YES web site has comprehensive information of participating organizations for students and educational professionals – with features that no other site can offer" says Deb Withee, web page designer at Western Michigan University. Students can download scholarship information or apply online. Job seekers can now review recent vacancies of new teaching and administrative positions and educators may register for future conferences. By having everything in one place www.wmich.edu/yes releases some of the stress students and educators sometimes experience during transitional periods.

Educators and students can also find helpful historical data and profiles about YES. Information listed under *Newsletter* and other links provide very important facts about YES.





**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
ctimberlake@rcs.misd.net
(586) 445-5580

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.

**2001 - 2002
OFFICERS**

Chairperson

Barbara Jones Ph.D.

Secretary

Connie Mitchell

Treasurer

Linda Stokes

FOUR TO BE RECOGNIZED AS RECIPIENTS OF SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS AT ANNUAL SPRING CONFERENCE

Three high school seniors and one college sophomore will be honored and receive recognition for their participation in the 2002 YES Teacher Education Scholarship Program at Eastern Michigan University on Friday, April 26. This esteem merit based award is granted to exceptional high school seniors and college students who demonstrate high academic achievement, extra curricular involvement and a desire to enter into the teaching profession.

The YES Teacher Education Scholarship Program began in 1992, when a donation was received from Dr. Charles D. Moody Jr. to fund one high school student to attend college. The next year the Michigan Association of School Personnel Administrators (MASPA), and dues paying school districts provided enough funds to support five high school seniors. Dr. Charles D. Moody Jr. the namesake of the YES Teacher Education Scholarship Program, served as a faculty member at the University of Michigan until retirement. The following are categories recognizing the 2002 scholarship award recipients:

Michigan Association of School Personnel Administrators (MASPA)

Recipient is:

Shanteisha Pruitt of Creston High School, Grand Rapids. Shanteisha will attend Michigan State University during the Fall of 2002.

Dr. Charles D. Moody Jr. Teacher Education Scholarship

Recipients are:

Kimberly Burnett of Roseville High School, Roseville. Kimberly will attend Madonna University during the Fall of 2002.

April Watkins of Arthur Hill High School, Saginaw. April will attend Delta College during the Fall of 2002.

Dr. LaVerne E. Thompson, Community College Scholarship

Recipient is:

Dana Butler of Wayne County Community College District, Detroit. Dana is planning to continue her studies at Eastern Michigan University during the Winter of 2003.

Each YES Teacher Education Scholarship recipient is awarded \$1,000. This money may cover the cost of tuition, room and board, school supplies and living expenses.



KIMBERLY MARIE BURNETT
ROSEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL
ROSEVILLE, MICHIGAN

The greatest contribution I can make as a teacher is my strong desire to teach. I have always possessed a strong desire for imparting knowledge with others. I want to provide the nurturing and support for children as they grow emotionally, physically, and intellectually. By becoming a teacher, I too can continue to learn. This will enable me to give back to my community some of the things that enhanced my growth and development.

The two most significant reasons that have given me the desire to teach, are my roles as vice-president of the Roseville Chapter of the Young Educators Society and the service I've rendered as a volunteer teacher-assistant for the Third Grade Class at Alumni Elementary School. My position of leadership with the Young Educators Society has taught me the responsibilities of organizational planning and communicating with children. I have learned to adjust to various stressful situations within the class setting and effectively communicate my ideas and knowledge.

In addition, my experiences as a volunteer have made me aware of what is involved in a teacher's life on a day-to-day basis. There is no question about it, teaching is hard work. Now, I am more appreciative of the role that teachers play in our lives. I have a deeper respect and commitment for the occupation and the issues involved. I am very thankful for having had this opportunity. I know now that I can truly benefit from the experiences that YES have given me.



DANA MICHELLE BUTLER
WAYNE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
DISTRICT DETROIT, MICHIGAN

As a teacher, my greatest contribution to my students will be dedication to my craft and tolerance of all students. There are so many obstacles that children of the twenty-first century encounter. Some include, physical and mental challenges, single-parent homes, abusive homes and peer pressure. This is not to say that the above obstacles did not exist in the past, they have intensified as time has progressed.

For instance, children at an alarming rate are diagnosed with ADD (Attention Deficit Disorder) and BI-Polar. With so many students struggling with these conditions, a teacher must utilize different teaching strategies in order for that child to succeed. The extra time and dedication is well worth it when you see a child succeed at conquering a task that at one time he/she thought was impossible.

In addition, I am very tolerant of all students. It is so easy to label a student as “bad” or “troublemaker”. I think that instead of degrading a child, one should take a closer look and see what is causing that child to act in a negative manner. Instead of being mean to a child that causes disruption, I would find out what the problem is and do my best to get that child professional help. I think it is so important to become tolerant of all children, not just the ones who are model students. This is not to say that I would not enforce consequences for wrongful actions made by the student. As a teacher, I would do my best to help the child and never give up on him or her. Simply because, I have a firm belief that all children have the ability to learn.



APRIL ELAINE WATKINS
ARTHUR HILL HIGH SCHOOL
SAGINAW, MICHIGAN

The greatest contribution that I can make as a teacher will be to have a student come back to me and say that I helped them to change their life. I would like to have an impact on my student’s life. I would want them to think of me as their role model because I know what it is like not to have someone to look up to. I would influence my students to be the best at everything that they do.

Not only would I help them academically, I would help the students to gain a positive outlook on life and of themselves. I would encourage them to think independently and to react positively in life’s situations. I would teach them that negativity would hold them back from their dreams and prevent them from reaching their goals. My students would also learn to become more of a contributor to others and society, rather than someone who is always receiving.

Perhaps the one experience with children that instilled into me the desire to become a teacher was during the summer following my junior year in high school. I tutored a group of students and was able to help them learn how to read and write properly and communicate effectively with others. I really enjoyed working with them. I also teach children during Sunday school at my church. I love working with children and helping them succeed in life.

Another experience was with my fourth grade teacher, Mrs. Sentell, at Salina Elementary School. She always told me that I could become a great teacher because I loved to take charge. She said that I would have a big impact on the lives of those I came in contact with. It is my goal to live up to that expectation.



SHANTEISHA DENORA PRUITT
CRESTON HIGH SCHOOL
GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

Students of today need encouragement, compassion, and advice. Encouragement in order that one can endure the challenges that one must face to succeed. Compassion so that they will believe and feel good about themselves, and advice or guidance to assure direction and purpose.

A teacher should be able to address these needs. Teachers can show students how to be encouraged by showing faith in the student. The teacher can devote his or her time to the student to show how commitment to a task would assure successful outcomes. Unlike other professionals, teachers can give students advice that will benefit them for a lifetime. This is so desperately needed because there are so many students that do not have parents or guardians that are capable of offering proper guidance and advice.

I have entertained many thoughts of becoming a teacher. One person that really inspired me to want to become a teacher was my fifth grade teacher, Mr. Jerry Mc Comb. All of my other teachers before him did not care if I learned or not. He would not take no for an answer. My past teachers just let me give up and fail. But he made me the person that I am and every time I see him, I tell him “thank you.” I feel that I owe it to him to make a difference in someone else’s life. I want to give back what he taught me. I feel that if most students had a teacher like Mr. Mc Comb, then we will have more students graduating from high school.

Another experience that gave me the desire to become a teacher was the tutoring that I’ve done. I’ve helped two high school students, a freshman in algebra and a sophomore with geometry. I also helped out at a local elementary school with a third grader in reading. I have a passion for what I do and I believe my future is to become a teacher.

SUSAN SARAQUSE BID FAREWELL TO COLLEAGUES AND BOARD EXECES



It was during the 1994 School Year when I received my new assignment at Cooley High School. I was directed to do things that I had never done before. At first, the experience seemed overwhelming. Somehow I found the time and energy to make notable gains, and acquired measurable outcomes. In addition to my regular guidance duties, my new tasks included the following:

- Organized a drug awareness and dropout prevention program for at-risk students.
- Organized a YES Chapter.
- Served as coordinator and representative for the Westside Advisors.
- Represented the Detroit Public Schools on the YES Executive Board.

After successfully facilitating and promoting programs locally, I began my tenure with the YES Executive Board. I thought I would just sit and listen and nod and vote, however, this was such a dynamic, devoted group of professionals, it was hard not to become involved. I eventually served on the Budget Committee, Scholarship Committee, and ultimately became the Chairman of the Board. Over the years the membership of the board changed but the vision and commitment has remained the same.

Perhaps my most notable accomplishments with students has been my work in promoting peer mediation and conflict resolution skills and providing guidance services for many high school graduates, college candidates, and aspiring teacher candidates through YES. In addition, I am also proud of my implementation of vocational programs and career pathways.

I have appreciated all of your support and contributions to the successes I've had. You are a very special group of people. I am lucky to have been associated with such a team. Thank you for contributing to my professional growth. And thank you for your friendship.

**Editorial by Susan Saraquese, Cooley High School
Detroit Public Schools**

COMMUNITY COLLEGE A GREAT PLACE TO START

Research shows that education pays. Students who complete associate degrees and certificates are more likely to move into higher-status management and professional positions with higher earnings. An investment of a few thousand dollars now will likely pay lifelong dividends, as students who earn associate degrees average lifetime earnings of \$250,000 more than people without degrees.

A community college may be the door to opportunity for you. Community colleges are centers of educational opportunity – an American invention that put publicly funded higher education at close-to-home facilities, beginning nearly 100 years ago. They are inclusive institutions that welcome all whom desire to learn, regardless of wealth, heritage or previous academic experience.

More than half of all first-time college freshmen attend community colleges. The colleges' accessibility is facilitated by open admissions policies and low tuitions. Consequently, community college enrollments reflect the rich diversity of the nation, and campuses are populated with people of all ages, ethnic and cultural heritages, and socioeconomic backgrounds.

The community college is an excellent place to start your post-secondary education. You may choose to earn an associate degree or a certificate at a community college, then enter the workplace, or you might go on to a bachelor's degree by transferring to a four year institution.

In addition, community colleges have become colleges of choice for workers desiring skills for a promotion or raise, or to enter a new field.

Reasons for choosing to attend a community college are as varied as individuals. Low tuition, convenient locations, open admissions and comprehensive course offerings are highly persuasive factors in students' personal calculations.

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COMMUNITY COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP NAMED IN HONOR OF DR. LAVERNE E. THOMPSON



As part of an exciting new direction for the YES Executive Board, a separate category has been adopted to select teaching candidates from participating community colleges. Dr. LaVerne Thompson, distinguished educator at Wayne County Community College District, spearheaded this initiative.

"She has done more than anyone else, Dr. Thompson has prevailed and served as an advocate for community colleges at the "board level" says Marc Mitchell, YES Executive Board Member. "Because of her work, the criteria for selecting eligible candidates attending community colleges will become more equitable and less competitive." In the past, community college scholarship candidates competed with applicants from major colleges and universities.

Dr. LaVerne Thompson currently serves as the Program Director, Pre-Service Education/Urban Teacher Program at Wayne County Community College District, Detroit, Michigan. Community College students complete the first two years of teacher education in the Wayne County Community College District, receive an associate degree in pre-elementary, pre-secondary, pre-special education early childhood education or pre-child care and later transfer to a four year college or university.

The Wayne County Community College District Chapter became the first community college to organize a chapter of the Young Educators Society of Michigan.

Editorial by Dr. LaVerne E. Thompson, Wayne County Community College District, Detroit Urban Teacher Program



PLAN TO ATTEND
**THE YOUNG EDUCATORS SOCIETY OF MICHIGAN
 ADVISORS CONFERENCE**

Fall 2002

“Stress Management: Each One Assist One”

For a Free Gift
 RSVP by:
 Friday, June 7, 2002

Dr. LaVerne Thompson,
 Director, Pre-Service
 Education/Urban
 Teacher Program,
 Wayne County
 Community College
 District, Northwest
 Campus, 8551
 Greenfield Road,
 Detroit, Michigan
 48228
 (313) 943-4484 or
 (313) 943-4000
 Fax: (313) 943-4025

- **Thursday, October 17, 2002**
- **8:00 a.m. (Registration)**
- **8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.**
- **Held at the Downriver Campus**
 Wayne County Community College
 District, 2100 Northline Road
 Taylor, Michigan (I - 75 South)
 (734) 374-2700

REGISTER ONLINE www.wmich.edu/yes



Young Educators
 Society of Michigan

DR. BARBARA JONES

Saginaw Valley State University
 College of Education
 7400 Bay Road
 University Center, Michigan 48710

