



Illinois State Board of Education

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Weekly Message

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October 24, 2005

Message from State Superintendent Randy J. Dunn

Good afternoon.

I have just returned from a whirlwind day of school visits where I joined Lowell Milken of the Milken Family Foundation in presenting three Illinois teachers with the Milken National Educator of the Year Award. This annual award honors teachers demonstrating exemplary teaching skills and personal commitment to education.

The award presentations are exciting for the entire school community, as they are a surprise to almost everyone in attendance. Each presentation is set up as a “visit from the State Superintendent” as a ruse to get the students and faculty gathered for an assembly. Then, as the assembly progresses, it becomes clear that this is more than just a visit. Just as we did earlier today, at the school events in Darien, Chicago and Bloomington, I salute the Illinois recipients of the 2005 Milken National Educator of the Year Award:

- Paul Kelly teaches Social Studies at Hinsdale South High School in Darien. A natural leader, Paul’s passion for teaching doesn’t end with his students. His colleagues describe him as the consummate professional with a genuine warmth and concern for his students and the school community. One of Paul’s greatest strengths is his ability to reach out and connect with his students. He is willing to do whatever it takes to help students learn and he never stops trying to improve his teaching so he can best help students.
- At Chicago’s Corliss High School Delora Taylor Washington teaches Math and serves as the Math Department chair. Her students say she has an innate ability to recognize exactly what her students need whether it’s more challenging work or extra help. Delora’s teaching talents are so well known throughout the school that students who don’t have her as a teacher frequently choose to sit in on one of her tutoring sessions because of her skill at explaining things. She holds these tutoring sessions before school, after school or on her lunch break. Delora’s colleagues also look to her for ideas and teaching strategies. As math department chair she believes that collaboration is the key to a successful department. She reinforces the belief that helping students is the number one priority.
- Andrew (Drew) Moore teaches Math at Bloomington High School. In five short years, Andrew has made a huge impact on students, parents and his colleagues at Bloomington High School. Described as an innovative, energetic and enthusiastic teacher, his talents as a teacher seem limitless. When working with at-risk students, Moore seeks out the parents and incorporates them into programs that will help their children learn. He understands the crucial role that parents play in students becoming successful learners and he emphasizes that role by encouraging their participation. According to Moore’s colleagues, he is never satisfied with his teaching abilities. “He’s always reinventing and recreating, doing whatever he believes will help students.”

I want to thank Lowell Milken and the Milken Family Foundation for their work to honor excellence in education—and the local educators who joined us at each school location today. With this year’s awards the Foundation has now honored a total of 99 Illinois educators with the Milken National Educator Award. Each winner receives \$25,000 from the Milken Family Foundation which they can use for any purpose. This year, 100

Table of Contents

| | |
|---|---|
| Katrina Relief for Schools | 2 |
| Illinois School Hurricane Relief Efforts. 2 | |
| Accountability | 3 |
| Recognition Opportunities | 3 |
| Federal Grants and Programs | 4 |
| Funding and Disbursements | 4 |
| Professional Development | 4 |
| Kudos | 5 |
| External Vacancy List | 5 |
| In the News | 5 |

teachers in 48 states and the District of Columbia will receive Milken Awards. To date, the Foundation has honored a total of more than 2100 educators and distributed more than \$54 million in awards.

This is one of the greatest days of the year I spend as state superintendent. While the details of their teaching experiences vary, Paul, Delora and Andrew share a dedication to their students and a commitment to teaching and learning excellence. Congratulations to all three on their well-deserved honor!

Have a great week.

Randy Dunn

Katrina Relief for schools

Best Buy unveils te@ch: Emergency Response for K-12 schools

To help schools that enroll students displaced by hurricanes, **Best Buy** has inaugurated **te@ch: Emergency Response**. This program will provide assistance to schools around the United States that have enrolled children displaced by these disasters. Through a simple online application, Best Buy will award up to \$3 million in gift cards through this special program.

Applications for **te@ch: Emergency Response** will be accepted online from through November 4, 2005. Applying for or receiving a **te@ch: Emergency Response** award will not impact applications to the Best Buy **te@ch** program, which rewards schools that make learning fun by using interactive technology in the classroom.

For more information, go to:
<http://www.bestbuy.com/teach>.

United States Department of Education offers resources to help

In order to address the emotional impact of recent hurricanes on children, ED recently released the publication *Tips for Helping Students Recovering from Traumatic Events*, which provides practical information and assistance for students, parents, teachers, counselors, coaches and school administrators who are helping affected students. Please [click here](#) to access the booklet.

Illinois School Hurricane Relief Efforts

Students, teachers, principals, parents and school staff around the state have organized fundraisers, bake sales, walk-a-thons and many other events to raise funds to help the areas damaged by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.



We have had an overwhelming response to our request for information on local efforts. We will highlight a few schools each week until all submissions have appeared. To submit more great news of relief efforts, email **Becky Watts** at rwatts@isbe.net.

We begin our recognition with the schools below and applaud the spirit of giving and compassion that all Illinois schools have demonstrated!

- The **Waukegan Public Schools** are partnering with the City of Waukegan and many local businesses to present The Genesee Gala for Katrina Relief on March 15. The Gala will include an art show, Dixieland band, Gospel Choir, dance troupes, blues band and mariachi band. All contributions will go to Habitat for Humanity, which is pre-fabricating homes here to be trucked to affected areas in the South.
- The **Ball-Chatham School District** has raised over \$28,000 for Hurricane Katrina relief efforts thus far. The efforts were quite varied, from our youngest students manning lemonade stands and holding a coin drive, to our high school students collecting donations at football games. Additionally, our middle school students collected enough supplies to fill a semi-truck and van that were sent to nursing homes in Louisiana.

- **Hanover Park's Spring Wood Middle School** bands, choir, students and teachers, raised over \$2000 by presenting a concert to aid the victims of Hurricane Katrina. It included performances by the Symphonic and Concert Bands, school chorus and conga ensemble. Teachers presented a series of skits, dances and vocal solos.
- **The Pathways Program in Rantoul**, an alternative school for children with emotional and behavioral disabilities, completed a project to benefit hurricane victims. Students in the fifth through eighth grades began by taking monetary donations for the Red Cross. The students offered a free glass of lemonade in exchange for a donation. They raised \$220 in just over one hour. Based on that success, they organized a larger drive and raised a large amount of clothes, toys, household items and personal items. The students collected box donations to distribute to victims in the Paxton area and the Salt and Light Foundation in Champaign. The students also presented a check for \$309 to the Red Cross.
- Classes at **Washington Elementary in Marion** challenged each other in a Coin Challenge. Over 14 school days the students brought in loose change, collecting \$6500! **Longfellow Elementary in Marion** provided another \$500 donation to bring the grand total to \$7000! The funds will go to East Baton Rouge Parrish School System in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. While this area did not have direct damage from the hurricanes, the school system received over 8000 students displaced by the hurricanes, putting a strain on their district. Working with a school supply vendor, the Marion schools purchased a merchandise certificate for the East Baton Rouge school district. The vendor is giving the Baton Rouge a 25 to 45 percent discount on items purchased with the gift certificate.
- **East Peoria Community High School** students and staff collected funds at a home football game as well as in classrooms, raising \$3,500 for American Red Cross hurricane relief efforts.

Accountability

Teacher evaluation plans

School districts that have recently made any substantive change to their teacher evaluation plan must submit revised plans to the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) for review and comment. At the same time, school districts should submit a copy of

the revised plan to the district's exclusive bargaining unit representatives (Section 50.20 of the 23 Illinois Administrative Code). Send revisions to:

Lynne Robinson, Accountability Division
Illinois State Board of Education
100 North First Street, Springfield, Illinois 62777
Phone 217-782-2948

Recognition Opportunities

Thomas Lay Burroughs Award

The State Board of Education invites nominations for the 2006 Thomas Lay Burroughs Award for the State's Outstanding School Board President. This award will be presented at the Illinois Association of School Boards/Illinois Association of School Administrators/Illinois Association of School Business Officials (IASB/IASA/IASBO) Conference on Sunday, November 20.

Nomination information is available online at:

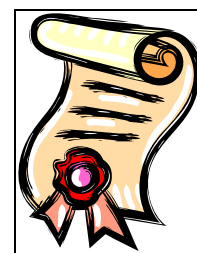
http://www.isbe.net/pdf/burroughs_award.pdf.

Nominations should be submitted by the close of business on Friday, October 28, 2005 to Jean Ladage, FAX 217-785-3972 or email

jladage@isbe.net. For more information, call **Jean Ladage** or **Marsha Moffett** at 217-557-6626.

State Board Recognition Program

The State Board of Education has begun the process of becoming more proactive in its efforts to recognize the exemplary achievements of students, teachers, school administrators and local board members in Illinois. These achievements would be such that they truly stand out from the ordinary.



Upon review and acceptance, the State Board of Education will pass a resolution describing the particulars of the achievement. The signed resolution would be presented in one of the following three ways:

- mailed to the recipient(s);
- personally awarded to the individual(s) at their respective school(s); or
- presented to recipient(s) during the State Board meeting at which their resolution is approved

If you would like to nominate an individual a group for this recognition, please use the **Recognizing Achievement** form available online in the Resources box at <http://www.isbe.net/board/Default.htm>.

Federal Grants and Programs

District Performance Reports due December 1

District Performance Reports for the 2004-2005 school year are due December 1, 2005. The reports can be accessed through IWAS at <https://sec1.isbe.net/iwas/asp/login.asp?js=true>. Reports must be completed by all districts which utilizes Title I funds.

Funding and Disbursements

FY 2006 state and federal expenditure reports and claims due

Please go to http://www.isbe.net/funding/pdf/pend_reports_due.pdf to access information on all FY 2006 State and Federal Expenditure Reports and Claims that are required to be transmitted to the Illinois State Board of Education, Division of Funding and Disbursement Services.

Professional Development

T.E.A.M. Approach to ADHD

A Together Everyone Achieves Management (T.E.A.M.) Approach to Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) Conference is being offered to educators, physicians, parents of children with ADHD and anyone involved in the life of a child with ADHD. The conference goal is to educate and enlighten people involved with ADHD on the different management solutions available and work as a team to achieve. Participants are able to enroll in workshops that meet their specific needs. In addition, at the end of the conference, they are given a 121 page manual on ADHD.

Workshops offered are: Reaching and Teaching Students with ADHD (What Every Educator Should Know); Effective ADHD Management (Tools for Parents and Caregivers); Medication Update (What's In Our Armamentarium); ADHD and Coexisting Conditions (What Should You Look For); Girls and ADHD (Are There Differences?); and Teens and ADHD.

The program features discussions led by recognized experts in the fields of medicine, education and mental health:

- **Kathleen G. Nadeau, PhD**, Clinical Psychologist and Director of Chesapeake Psychological Services of Maryland
- **Michelle Novotni, PhD**, Psychologist, past president and former CEO of the National Attention Deficit Disorder Association
- **Patricia Quinn, MD**, Pediatrician and Cofounder/Director of the National Center for Gender Issues and ADHD
- **Sandra F. Rief, MA**, Speaker, author and educational consultant for awareness of ADHD

Conference date, location and times:

- Saturday, October 29, 2005
- Hyatt Regency McCormick Place, 2233 South Martin Luther King Drive, Chicago, IL 60616
- Registration 8 a.m.
- General Session 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Register online at <http://www.phoenixprograms.com/adhd> or call (866) 748-9201.

Save the date: Attracting and Retaining Quality Teachers

The Illinois Principals Association and other partners in the Illinois New Teacher Collaborative invite you to *Attracting and Retaining Quality Teachers – Local and State-Wide Solutions*, a working conference February 28 and March 1, 2006 at the Hilton Springfield.

Under the Federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act, both experienced teachers and new teachers must be highly qualified. Beyond NCLB all schools need to attract and retain teachers who are dedicated to excellence in education.

The conference sponsors invite district or building teams for a working conference to design plans for recruiting and keeping teachers who are dedicated to promoting learning for all students. Presenters will include **Richard Ingersoll, Jim Burgett** and **Mary Clement**. Save the dates:
<http://intc.ed.uiuc.edu/conference>

For more information, email intc@ed.uiuc.edu.

Kudos

21st Century Grant program awarded Ford Foundation Grant

The parent leaders of the Logan Square Neighborhood Association—**Maria Alviso, Ada Ayala, Leticia Barrera, Joanna Brown** and **Lisette Moreno-Kuri**—have received a prestigious Ford Foundation 2005 Leaders for a Changing World award. The \$100,000 award recognizes people who have made a difference on a grass-roots level. The five women won the award for years of work in the parent-mentor program and community learning centers in the public schools. Funded through a 21st Century Grant, administered by the Illinois State Board of Education, the community learning centers in five schools that provide after-hours instruction in English and high school equivalency along with child care, tutoring, arts, culture and recreation. Both programs are considered national models for parent involvement.

External Vacancy List

Please visit <http://www.isbe.net/hr/pdf/positions.pdf> to view a list of vacancies at the Illinois State Board of Education. Please note that at the end of this list there is also a link to our ongoing vacancy list.

In the News

Weekly news clips

Last week's education news clips are posted at <http://www.isbe.net/news/2005/newsclips/051021.htm>.

