

Farmington Public Schools names Wayne State University's College of Engineering as the 2008-2009 outstanding partner in education in the Partnership Wall of Fame

Farmington, Michigan---Farmington Public Schools' Community Partnership Advisory Council recognizes partners in education each year. This year's Selection Committee included Sandy Welling, Terry Klenczar and Annette Gasparotto. From nominations made by staff members, one partnership has been named as Outstanding and will be represented on the Partnership Wall of Fame in the main hall at the Maxfield Training Center. Four other partnerships have been named as Notable. These partners were invited to the June 9 Board Meeting to receive certificates and stars of appreciation where a short reception was held to honor them at 7:15 p.m. prior to the meeting.

Outstanding Partnership

Wayne State University, College of Engineering with Visions Unlimited

Dr. Robert Erlandson from Wayne State University, College of Engineering, has long understood that technology can error proof modern manufacturing for all workers, both able bodied and those with disabilities. The focus of the Visions' Enabling Technologies Laboratory is to apply best practice manufacturing principles (universal design) to improve the work outcome of individuals with disabilities. This partnership, established in 1995, has proven to be mutually beneficial for all involved.

Dr. Erlandson believes in the potential of Visions' students as workers.

Dr. Erlandson and his students have created many systems for the students at Visions which has increased their productivity along with their confidence. The Wayne State University engineering students also benefit by developing an understanding of the potential for properly applied technology.

Notable Partnerships

Mr. Alex Cruden (Retired editor of the Detroit Free Press) with Highmeadow Common Campus

Twice a month, since 2006, Mr. Cruden has been coming to Karen Farber's fifth grade classroom to share his own writing and to help students with their writing. He even has his own private "conference spot" in the classroom where students sign up for individual times to meet with him. He is so popular that students fill up the time slots in no time, often begging him to stay through lunch and recess! A student states, "From the moment you sit down next to him, you feel welcome and you know that he is interested in what you wrote. His eyes are totally focused on you."

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He listens very carefully as if that student's words were all that mattered. Then he always gives positive comments; he notices things in students' writing that even the student didn't notice at first. After that, he offers piece of advice, always making sure that the student knows that his advice is just that, an idea, but it doesn't have to be used.

Providence Hospital with North Farmington High School

Providence Hospital has provided North Farmington High School with the opportunity to offer medical skills field study by allowing students to come to their facility for real-life medical experiences.

Over the past year, students have attended the Hospital for two hours, twice a week, for eight weeks. The students rotate through a variety of clinical area of the Hospital. The staff at Providence sees that sharing their knowledge and experience can impact students who are exploring careers in health occupations. You can't put a value on students working with real patients and real health care workers!

LOC Federal Credit Union with Longacre Elementary School

LOC Federal Credit Union and Longacre Elementary School began their partnership in 2006 with the opening of the Longacre/LOC Student-Run Credit Union. When students "live" the real-life application of their school learning, they quickly see the benefits of using their school knowledge in the real-world environment. Shayna McArthur, the LOC financial education specialist, "held Longacre's hands" every step of the way and continues to do so each Tuesday when the Longacre Credit Union is open for business.

The Greater Detroit Chapter of Hadassah with Longacre Elementary School

Longacre Elementary School has partnered with the Greater Detroit Chapter of Hadassah in order to enhance the reading and writing skills of Longacre students. Now in its third year, dedicated Hadassah volunteers spend one hour per week at Longacre working with students who benefit from the opportunity to receive individual literacy support, at the direction of the classroom teacher. Many trusted relationships have been fostered through the predictable commitment made by the volunteers. The Hadassah volunteers also bring an array of life and professional experiences, as well as, expertise in their one-on-one "weekly tutoring" sessions with the students. This partnership is exceptional in that Hadassah truly provides a service that is a win-win for all involved.