
Superintendent's Report To the Baltimore County Board of Education

December 5, 2006

Last week representatives from the National Science Foundation conducted a highly successful site visit of the partnership they fund between our school system and University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC). Their meetings with staff and visits to some of our partnership schools demonstrated the growing strength of this initiative.

The National Science Foundation-funded UMBC-BCPS Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics project supports enhanced teaching and learning through intensive teacher recruitment, professional development, and teacher education. The project, which is based on a BCPS partnership with UMBC that began in 2002, officially started in January 2005 and will continue through December 2008. The \$13 million project involves eight schools including Woodlawn High School and the four elementary schools (Dogwood, Hebbville, Featherbed Lane, and Milbrook) and three middle schools (Southwest Academy, Windsor Mill, and Woodlawn) whose students advance into Woodlawn High.

One of the key elements of the project is placing graduate students as teacher interns in the schools. This year, we have 16 interns in our schools, for a full school year, undergoing an intensive student teaching experience while they complete a Master of Art in Teaching degree.

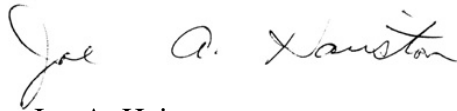
Our goal is to retain these interns as teachers in the schools. We want these highly qualified teachers to promote the concepts of integrated science, technology, engineering, and mathematics instruction throughout their schools. Hebbville Elementary School in Windsor Mill can attest to the effectiveness of this model. Eight teachers on its staff began there as UMBC-BCPS STEM interns.

Last week, immediately following the conclusion of the National Science Foundation site visit, I had the opportunity to speak, along with STEM partner and UMBC President Freeman Hrabowski, to more than 150 teachers and administrators involved in the UMBC-BCPS STEM project. They gathered for the STEM Fall Seminar, a two-day professional development program presented jointly by UMBC and BCPS staff.

Their input, feedback, and overall contribution to our students is the key component of understanding the outcome of this partnership, which, the National Science Foundation tells us, has the potential to serve as a national model.

Although officially in only eight schools, the influence of the UMBC-BCPS STEM project is felt systemwide. Bringing science, technology, engineering, and mathematics together is not just

what we do in the eight STEM academies, it is what we do systemwide. It is integrated into our larger overarching goal to increase academic rigor and expand learning opportunities for all students.



Joe A. Hairston
Superintendent

Review of Superintendent's Calendar

Past

- 11/27 **Visits to Golden Ring Middle School and McCormick Elementary School with Area Assistant Superintendent Bill Lawrence**
- 11/28 **Annual meeting of the Maryland Business Roundtable for Education**
- 11/30 **Visit to Woodlawn High School with Area Assistant Superintendent Dr. Manuel Rodriguez**
- 12/1 **Presentation at Public School Superintendents Association of Maryland (PSSAM) meeting at Anne Arundel County Board of Education**
- 12/1 **Offered greetings at the Fall Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Seminar, Timonium Holiday Inn**

Upcoming

- 12/6 **K-16 Leadership Council Meeting, University of Maryland College Park, American Center for Physics**
- 12/6 **Student Advisory Board Meeting**
- 12/8 **Interview with Gina Davis, *Baltimore Sun***
- 12/8 **Visits to Villa Cresta, Pot Spring, and Jacksonville elementary schools with Area Assistant Superintendent Dr. Kim Whitehead**
- 12/11 **Comcast Luncheon for Baltimore County Leaders, Liberatore's**
- 12/11 **Presentation to Leadership Baltimore County, Community College of Baltimore County – Catonsville**

- 12/11 **Education Industry Initiative Steering Committee, Field House-Minnegan Room, Towson University**
- 12/13 **Visits to Milford Mill Academy, Winand Elementary School, and Glyndon Elementary School with Area Assistant Superintendent Dr. Scott Gehring**
- 12/14 **Meeting of the Governor’s Task Force to Study the Age of Compulsory Attendance in Maryland, Howard County Gateway Business and Technology Center**
- 12/15 **Visit to Windsor Mill Middle School with Area Assistant Superintendent Dr. Manual Rodriguez**
- 12/18 **High School Principals Meeting, Community College of Baltimore County – Catonsville**