

*Happy
Holidays!*

*The purpose of the
Teacher Education program
is to promote the teaching
profession by providing
opportunities, resources
and support for students
exploring a career
in education.*

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Be Prepared

According to the new document "Professional Standards for Michigan Teachers" (formerly "Entry-Level Standards for Michigan Teachers"), all of you should be aware that "upon entry into an approved teacher preparation program in Michigan, teacher candidates experience ongoing professional development as reflected in the standards listed below. These research-based standards provide a framework of rigorous subject matter knowledge from general and liberal education, relevant pedagogical knowledge for optimal student learning achievement and participation in a global society."

As teacher education students here at GRCC, it is not too early for you to familiarize yourself with these seven headline standards. Later, you will explore the additional goals and objectives within them. They were all developed "to assure that Michigan teachers are prepared to teach all students, including those with special needs in an inclusive classroom."

A certified teacher within the State of Michigan must initially possess and be able to demonstrate continued growth in:

1. **Subject matter knowledge-base in general and liberal education** (An understanding and appreciation of general and liberal arts including English, literature, humanities, social sciences, mathematics, natural or physical sciences, and the arts...)
2. **Instructional design and assessment** (facilitation of learning and achievement of all students...)
3. **Curricular and pedagogical content knowledge aligned with state resources** (knowledge of subject matter and pedagogy with reference to the Michigan Curricular Framework and other state sponsored resources...)
4. **Effective learning environments** (management and monitoring of time, relationships, students, and classrooms to enhance learning...)
5. **Responsibilities and relationships to the school, classroom and student** (systematic reflection to organize and improve teaching and develop effective relationships...)
6. **Responsibilities and relationships to the greater community** (participation in professional, local, state, national, and global learning communities...)
7. **Technology operations and concepts** (use of technological tools, operation, and concepts to enhance learning, personal/professional productivity and communication...)

*"The first step was getting all teachers highly qualified.
The next step is getting them all highly effective."*

(quote from the wall of a local Professor of Education)

Volunteer Opportunities

Martin Luther King Leadership Academy invites you to consider tutoring in their middle school classrooms. This is an excellent opportunity to work with a diverse population of students because several of you have inquired about how you might improve your cultural competency. Keep in mind that when you are applying for a teaching position, the more experience you have with diversity, the more strength you give your candidacy.

"Schools of Hope" reading volunteers are needed!! These reading programs, offered through Heart of West Michigan United Way and Grand Rapids Public Schools, would give you an opportunity to "HLEP KDIS RAED!" in grades 1-3. Qualifications include being interested in this age group, passing a background check, and completing required training. Many schools throughout the Grand Rapids area are involved so that no matter where you live, there is probably participating school near you.

Please see Carole Redwine in 301 Main for further information on either of these opportunities, or call her at (616) 234-4664.

TOTS Applications Now Available

It's that time again to think about applying for the Teachers of Tomorrow Scholarship. If you are a new applicant, here are the criteria:

1. Minimum 2.8 GPA
2. Course code for education (check with your counselor)
3. Plan to be enrolled at GRCC for Fall 2007 for a minimum of 6 credits.

Remember that the scholarship is only for GRCC; it is not transferable.

Once you decide that you meet the above criteria, you should:

1. Pick up a GRCC Foundation Scholarship application from Financial Aid (Main Building, 1st Floor).
2. Complete and submit this application, with an unofficial copy of your transcript **by March 15, 2009**.
3. Submit the following to Staci Dever, 308 Main, also **by March 15, 2009**:
 - a) A 500-word essay on the following topic: "Identify three characteristics of an effective teacher and explain why these characteristics are so important for students."
 - b) Two letters of recommendation, one of which must be from a GRCC faculty member. The other letter may come from a work supervisor, pastor, or other individual who can speak to your character and your investment in your education. Do not use a family member.
 - c) A personal resume. You can receive assistance in preparing it from Job Placement.
 - d) An unofficial copy of your transcript, separate from the one you submit to financial aid.
 - e) **NEW THIS YEAR:** A copy of the new Teachers of Tomorrow checklist. Pick this up from Staci.

In the February newsletter, there will be reminders for returning TOTS recipients who wish to reapply for another year.



teacher EDUCATION

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Did You Miss Something?

The fall semester's seminars have been going well. In October, there was a seminar on working with gifted and talented children, as well as our annual transfer fair. Several colleges and universities from Michigan were represented. November's offerings included dealing with diversity in the classroom and career options for those interested in teaching special needs students.

It is important to try to attend these seminars, especially if you are a TOTS recipient and want to reapply for the next academic year. For those of you who simply want to know more about important topics in education, these seminars are designed to give you that information.

Watch the hall bulletin boards for posters announcing the next Teacher Education seminar. In the meantime, here are some pictures from some of this fall's seminars.



Carole Redwine introduces the video "Dealing with Diversity in the Classroom."



Students discuss a plan for incorporating diversity in a lesson.



Students engage in discussion of focus questions from the video.



Teachers Have Great Gifts to Give

As we approach the Christmas season, we need to remember that teachers give gifts to their students every day. These are not items that they will play with or watch or even read. Instead these are life-long lessons and values that they will carry with them into adulthood. In fact, these are the very best gifts because they keep on giving.



Here are a few for you to keep on your list to give to all your students all year:

Empowerment

"I am able!"

Self-Esteem

"I am somebody!"

Critical Thinking

"I can figure this out."

Positive Thinking

"I must always do my best."

Love of Learning

"I want to know!"

Happy Holidays, Everyone!