

Welcome back and we're glad you're here! All of us in the Education Department wish you a successful academic year, and encourage you to make the most of the opportunities that will come your way. Remember that your classes are just part of your preparation. Whether it is a chance to tutor at an urban school, volunteer in an after-school program, or attend one of our monthly seminars on timely educational topics, these additional experiences will help you to become a well-rounded, sought-after candidate when you submit your application for a teaching position. GRCC is a great place to start!

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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Summer of Success for our Education Department

Early Reading Grant Received

The U.S. Department of Education has awarded Grand Rapids Community College a \$4.5 million grant under its Early Reading First Grant Program for the establishment of centers in the Grand Rapids area to serve low-income children in learning to read. GRCC will develop Centers of Early Childhood Educational Excellence at five sites in Grand Rapids, serving 144 at-risk children in nine early childhood classrooms each year. The grant will be awarded for a three-year period beginning in September.

GRCC is partnering with Grand Rapids Public Schools and the YMCA of Greater Grand Rapids to implement the project.

"Reading is the foundation of a good education," said Congressman Vern Ehlers. "Children who fall behind in early education often struggle to keep up with their peers. Reading skills also open the door for other subjects such as math and science, which are critical skills in today's world."

"By providing preschool children with the necessary language, cognitive and early reading skills, we will be laying the foundation for lifelong learning and success in life," said Judith Larsen, grant writer from GRCC.

Becky Brinks, Program Director in the GRCC Education Department, added that "Preschool educators are in a key position to influence the development of early literacy skills by providing literacy-rich classroom environments and using intentional instructional strategies. Through this Early Reading First grant, preschool teachers will receive professional development experiences and coaching in their own classrooms to enable them to immerse four-year-old children, who may be 'at risk' of school failure, in research-based early literacy activities."

Associate Degree Accreditation Achieved

The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) has awarded accreditation to the A.A. Child Development and the A.A.S. Child Development degrees at Grand Rapids Community College. The accreditation decision is based on the Commission review of the self-study report, the Peer Review Team site visit report, and any written response to that report. Special attention is given to the use of student assessments and performance data to increase program effectiveness, capacity and innovation.



Congratulations on these recognitions!

Teachers of Tomorrow Scholarships Presented

The annual awards luncheon for the Teachers of Tomorrow Scholarship was held at the ATC on Wednesday, August 27. Dr. Joseph Hesse, Scholarship coordinator, and Dr. Becky Brinks, Education Department Director, made the presentations to the recipients. We are pleased to applaud the following winners for 2008-2009:

Theresa Barnard – Albertus Elve Scholarship
 Danielle Highfill – John D. Hanink Memorial Scholarship
 Megan Taylor – John D. Hanink Memorial Scholarship
 Miranda McAllister – John D. Hanink Memorial Scholarship
 Demetrice Jordan – Dr. Linda Peters Scholarship
 Angela Mixen – Dr. Linda Peters Scholarship
 Aletha VanValkenburg – Dr. Linda Peters Scholarship
 Kelly Wegenka – Lotte Rachel Peters Scholarship
 Jolyn Graham – Phillip Runkel Family Scholarship
 Patrick Campbell – Wege Scholarship
 David Nicholson – Wege Scholarship
 Jeffrey Post – Wege Scholarship
 Kenneth Russell – Wege Scholarship



Dr. Brinks and Dr. Hesse present awards to students.



Dr. Brinks and Dr. Hesse stand with some of this year's scholarship winners.



Luncheon guests listen to Dr. Hesse's welcome.

Who Is the “True” Teacher?

True teachers are those who recognize that to teach is to live a life they are *called* to live; for them, teaching is more than just a job. Because the demands of teaching become such a central part of a person’s life, and because the essence of teaching is giving, the “true” teacher is someone who must really **want** to be a teacher.

The essence of this giving goes beyond merely providing information. Of course, the academic aspect of teaching is crucial. A teacher must know subject content. Yet teachers give of themselves in many other ways on a daily basis. They share ideas and insights. They are role models and confidants. They instill values and build self-esteem. They listen, advise, support, discipline, and inspire. While they help students learn how to think for themselves, they find that they also learn from their students.

Teaching is all this and more, but mostly it is molding lives—one school day at a time. Done correctly, it is one of the hardest jobs you’ll ever do, but the results are worth the effort. You realize that when a student comes back, years after you had them in class to say, “Thanks for what you taught me back then. I didn’t see the importance of it at the time, but I’m glad you kept me on track.”

To all of you who feel that you are “true” teachers, thank you for preparing for the future. We need you!

Mrs. Redwine
English Teacher



Quotes for “True” Teachers (Part I)

(Posted on the office wall of a local college Professor of Education)



“Get kids to succeed by getting kids to read.”



“The scandal of education is that every time you tell or lecture, you deprive a child of the pleasure and benefit of discovery.”



“‘Hands-on’ for students means ‘hands-off’ for teachers.”



“We need to value thinking more than answers.”

teacher EDUCATION

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MICHIGAN TEST FOR TEACHER CERTIFICATION 2008–2009 Registration Information

Visit www.mttc.nesinc.com

With just a click of your mouse you can:



- Find all the information you need to register
- Register online quickly and easily
- Check your registration status
- Make changes to your registration
- Find materials to help you prepare for the test
- Get your test scores as soon as they are released

REGISTRATION SCHEDULE FOR 2008–2009

Test Date	Regular Registration Deadline  	Late Registration Deadline (additional fee required)  	Emergency Registration Deadline (additional fee required)  	Score Report Date (unofficial scores available by 5:00 p.m.)
October 18, 2008	September 12, 2008	September 26, 2008	October 10, 2008	November 14, 2008
January 10, 2009	November 28, 2008	December 19, 2008	January 2, 2009	February 6, 2009
April 18, 2009	March 6, 2009	March 27, 2009	April 10, 2009	May 15, 2009
July 18, 2009	June 5, 2009	June 26, 2009	July 10, 2009	August 14, 2009



To register on the Internet, your registration must be completed by 5:00 p.m. eastern time on the registration deadline for the period.



To register by mail during the regular registration period, your registration materials must be postmarked by the regular registration deadline. During the late registration period, your registration materials must be received by the late registration deadline.



To register by telephone, you must call by 5:00 p.m. eastern time on the emergency registration deadline.

CONTACT FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If you have questions regarding **test registration, administration procedures, admission tickets, or score reports**, contact:

**Michigan Test for Teacher Certification
Evaluation Systems
Pearson
P.O. Box 660
Amherst, MA 01004-9001
Telephone: (413) 256-2876 or (800) 823-9225
Teletypewriter (TTY): (413) 256-8032**

If you have questions regarding **which test(s)** you must take, contact your advisor or the certification officer at your institution.

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**Complete
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Information
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National Evaluation Systems is now the Evaluation Systems group of Pearson.

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