

FACES IN EDUCATION

FACULTY PROFILE

Name: Phil O'Connell

Age: 66

Current Position:

Associate Professor

Achievements: Past president of Kent County Superintendent's Association; President of G.R. Child Guidance Clinic

Reason(s) Involved In Education: Helping professions give sustained rewards
Favorite Saying/Words to Live By: What is perceived, Is

Hobbies, Interests, Family: Wife, Pat, three daughters, one son, seven grandchildren



O'Connell



Alston

FACULTY PROFILE

Name: B. Lorraine Alston

Age: 49

Current Position: Asst. Professor of Education

What Experience Has Taught Me: There are very few absolute rights or wrongs in life. Everything is situational.

Reason(s) Involved in Education: It is the most promising environment for bringing about positive change in our society.



Matthews

STAFF PROFILE

Name: Thelma Matthews

Age: 62

Current Position:

Administrative Assistant

Special Affiliations:

Former member of Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp
Board of Directors and local chapter president of Zonta, an international women's service organization.

Research/Special Interests: Charter member of Grand Rapids Symphony Chorus



O'Neill

ALUMNI PROFILE

Name: Kevin O'Neill

Age: 48

Current Position:

Superintendent
Coopersville Public Schools

Biggest Problem Facing Education: Our community does not speak with

one voice as to what schools should accomplish and how it should be done. Educators are prime targets for criticism from politicians, and public confidence is at an all-time low.

Favorite Saying: "A wise old owl sat upon an oak; the more he heard, the less he spoke; the less he spoke, the more he heard — why can't we all be like that wise old bird?"

First T.C. Teacher Cohort Graduates

Fourteen future teachers are being graduated from Grand Valley State University's Traverse City campus this spring. They are part of the initial cohort that completed the bulk of their required coursework and student teaching entirely in the Traverse City area.

"They have been together through thick and thin, literally," said Traverse City outreach coordinator Marty Litherland. "One student got married, another had a baby. They have not been just classmates but a support group as well."

GVSU's Traverse City campus is part of a consortium of 11 Michigan colleges and universities servicing the Northern Michigan area. The members of the consortium do not compete with

overlapping programs but share interactive classrooms, office space and resources.

The numbers of students enrolled in education courses in Traverse City continue to grow with each additional cohort. Currently, 85 students are in the program and will complete their student teaching in the Traverse City area. Two other language arts cohorts are in place, with a fourth to include a social studies major to begin in the fall of 1999.

"It has allowed people with other levels of responsibilities in this area to get their degree right here in Traverse City," Litherland said. "We're finding quite a need in this area for certified teachers."



Dr. Charles Achilles, center, is surrounded by principals and administrators who comprise the inaugural cohort of the Ed.D. partnership in Educational Leadership between Grand Valley State University and Eastern Michigan University.

Ed.D. Partnership With EMU Grows

Grand Valley State University's first offering of a doctoral program has met a need in West Michigan with enthusiastic response. Based on the success of the Ed.D. in Educational Leadership partnership with Eastern Michigan University, additional cohorts will be added.

GVSU and EMU signed an agreement March 23 to continue the relationship for the partnership doctorate with three additional cohorts. Another cohort is scheduled to begin in 2000, followed by additional cohorts in 2002 and 2006.

"The GVSU doctoral students are an exceptionally talented group of educational leaders," said Dr. Beverly Geltner of EMU's Department of Leadership and Counseling. "They are intensely committed to developing their abilities as effective change agents. By their own example, they are modeling continuous professional growth for their colleagues, for their students and for their community."

A total of 25 professional K-12 educators — including superintendents, principals and other professionals shaping education in Michigan — have filled the initial cohort of students seeking their Doctorate in Education.

Among the members of the cohort are district superintendents Catherine Ceglarek (Allendale) and Kevin O'Neill (Coopersville),

principals Daniel Jonker (Allendale Middle), Patricia Koeze (Godfrey-Lee Middle), Randall Morris (Grandville High), Richard Perry (Portage Central High), Karl Pilar (Cedar Springs Middle), Dale Ranson (Jenison), Bernard Stanko (West Catholic), district administrators Teresa Arpin (Grand Rapids), Ricki Chowning (Ottawa Area ISD), George Griffin (Spring Arbor College), Thomas Reeder (Wyoming), Richard Ulmer (Ottawa Area ISD) and Lori Zahrt (Newaygo ISD) and education specialists Karen Flanigan (Grand Haven), Karon Krueger (Grand Blanc) and Maureen Ryan (GVSU).

"It has been a wonderful experience for our students and faculty who have been involved with the program," said Robert Hagerty, Dean of GVSU's School of Education. "Eastern Michigan is very pleased, and our students in the program are very pleased. Eastern has told us that these students are of the highest quality they work with."

One of the additional cohorts will involve those seeking a degree in higher education administration.

"The relationship with Eastern Michigan has been outstanding, and I'm just amazed things have gone as smoothly as they have," Hagerty said. "We're serving a need for West Michigan."