

Adopt-A-District Program Enjoys Successful First Year

Adoption Starts At Home In Allendale

The School of Education's Adopt-A-District is about to complete its first year at Allendale Public Schools.

The goal of the program for the School of Education is to partner with one district for one academic year and provide non-monetary assistance in order to help that district meet its goals.

For this year's program, Allendale Schools requested assistance toward improving differentiation in the classroom. In order to meet that need, GVSU students were asked to volunteer two or more hours a week assisting in the district. The volunteers helped the district increase its ability to meet the learning needs of students through small group settings. In turn, the volunteers gained classroom experience before they applied to the School of Education.

GVSU students volunteered their time assisting teachers and Allendale students. The School of Education's faculty also volunteered services working with Allendale faculty through differentiation workshops.

Professors Jacqueline Meline, Doug Busman and Liz Margulus created differentiation workshops which offered professional development to the Allendale staff. Through the workshops, Allendale faculty members were able to collect management strategies that will help them implement and assess differentiation instruction

in their classrooms.

GVSU students were given the opportunity to choose which grade level (K-12) and subject matter they were most interested in assisting with. They provided hands-on expertise and assistance implementing various educational programs.

"The Adopt-A-District program is another way for the School of Education to be an active participant in the community," said Amy Moore, who coordinates the program through the School of Education's Community Outreach Office. "We are pleasantly surprised to see the large numbers of students and faculty who are willing to volunteer to come out and help."

Teachers in the district were asked to complete a Differentiation Inventory in an effort to evaluate the progress of the program and the benefits to the students.

The School of Education, meanwhile, will conduct its own Differentiation Inventory at the end of the semester and the results from both surveys will be compared for the planning and implementation of future endeavors.

Adopt-A-District is a service provided by the School of Education and is driven by the needs of the school district being assisted. The program provides expertise, volunteerism and service-learning projects by the School of Education fac-



Adopt-A-District volunteer Mary Delger assists Allendale Elementary student Jake Clairmont with his studies.

ulty, staff and students.

Proposals for perspective 2004-2005 Adopt-A-District schools are being mailed out to districts in Kent, Muskegon and Ottawa counties in May. The proposals will be reviewed over the summer and the "adopted" school will be notified in August.

Schools interested in "applying for adoption" may submit a typed proposal outlining the district's specific needs and how the GVSU School of Education could assist them in meeting those needs. A signed letter of administrative support must accompany the proposal, which should not exceed five typed pages in length.

School of Education & Allendale Public Schools Extend Thanks To Adopt-A-District Volunteers

Jessica Beer, Stefania Conigliaro, Karen Duthie, Sarah Freeman, Lauren Green, Sara Irons, Tiffany Johnson, Megan Karney, Jessica Koppelaar, Laura Masters, Tracy McGee, Molly Noakes, Kristi Ostradick, Jenny Parks, Sarah Poll, Jessie Reenders, Jenna Ritsema, Stephanie Rue, Kelly Schroeder, Sara

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