

WISCONSIN CHAPTER

OF

NATIONAL AT-RISK EDUCATION NETWORK

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May 2007

“Beloved Community – A Place Where All Members Belong, Are Affirmed, Empowered and Challenged.” Clifton Taulbert

From the President:

You are providing a “Beloved Community” for your students’. It was wonderful to see so many of you at the March Conference! Thank you for sharing with and supporting each other. I personally look forward to the NARENWICH conference each and every year, because I am energized to understand more and more what others are doing. I am inspired by presenters and participants. I feel affirmed by you-all for what we are doing. Thank you!

One thing you did was fuel my ever burning fire of disgust with the bleak state of educational funding in Wisconsin. I have been spending the past two months picking up my researching of Wisconsin Educational Funding. I have talked to many people and complied various briefs. I have attended meetings that pitted various staff against staff, schools against schools, public infrastructures against public infrastructures. It is an extremely emotionally painful state of our state!

Please indulge me in sharing the information that continues to resonated with me. Please share with me your thoughts.

Institute for Wisconsin’s Futures (IWF) www.wisconsinsfuture.org

As reported by superintendents, the median growth in budgets allowed by revenue limits is 2.5% per year. The median growth in the cost of continuing programs is 4.2% per year. This leaves a typical deficit of 1.7% of each year’s budget. Without referendum approval to exceed the revenue limit, this means the typical school district cuts 1.7% each year from a cost-to-continue budget.

These deficits have been compounding through a dozen years of revenue limits, and will continue building at least through the end of the current state budget, in mid-2007. At the rate of 1.7% cut each year, a high school senior would have almost 20% fewer dollars in resource support than when she/he started kindergarten. As one superintendent put it, there is a “collision” under way between the conflicting demands both for quality education and for reduced funding, a collision that is hurting children in Wisconsin.

American School Board Journal/April 2007 www.cbcse.org

Study regarding High School Graduates

- The average lifetime benefit in terms of additional taxes paid per expected high school graduate is \$139,100
- The average lifetime public health savings per expected high school graduate (achieved through reduction in Medicare and Medicaid cost) \$40,500.
- The average lifetime crime-related cost reduction per expected high school graduate \$26,600
- A high school graduate is associated with 40 percent lower probability of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families; a 1 percent lower probability of receiving housing assistance; and a 19 percent lower probability of receiving food stamps.

Dropouts and the Economy www.all4ed.org

If all students in the class of 2006 had graduated on time, the nation's economy would have added \$309 billion in income over their lifetime, according to The High Cost of High School Dropouts by the Alliance for Excellent Education. According to the US Census Bureau, the average annual income for a high school dropout in 2004, was over \$9,000 less than for a high school graduate.

Meeting with Tom Beebe (Wisconsin Alliance for Excellent Schools) 3/21/07 (WAES) – website www.excellentschools.org

The entire Wisconsin infrastructures are suffering with us –
 \$187 million shortfall in programs serving the poor
 \$250 million cuts in aid to UW, despite low spending
 \$ 70 million cut in aid to Wisconsin cities
 \$ 17 million cut in Department of Natural Resources
 \$ 4.5 million cut in aid for state's rural hospitals
 \$ 4.2 million cut in Dane County programs for the poor
 200% increase in drug co-pays for low-income folks
 \$ 3 million cut for historical society – 15% budget
 Critical cuts to in-home therapy for autistic children
 13 years of crippling cuts to Wisconsin public schools

Investment in these Wisconsin structures	vs.	National Average
29% Property tax		Above
23% Sales tax		Below
21% Individual income tax		Above
20% Fees		Equal
4% Other		
3% Corporate income tax		Below

Who's really paying taxes –

Under the current tax system, lower income married homeowners have the highest burden of state and local taxes.

Solution –

- Find more revenue for schools, roads, the environment, and the other valuable local services that we value
- Reform the tax system so everyone pays their share and lighten the load on homeowners and small business people
- Make the tax system more open and transparent as far as who pays, who doesn't pay and why

It's about fairness

Put sales tax on services (advertising, legal fees, haircuts, dog grooming, etc)	\$650 million
Increase sales tax 1%	850 million
Tax capital gains like feds	160 million
Increase top-end tax rate from 6.55 to 7.25%	200 million
<u>Up corporate tax rate to the US average</u>	<u>800 million</u>
Total	2.66 billion

April 19, 2007 there was a gathering at the State Capitol in support of Senate Joint Resolution 27 and Assembly Joint Resolution 35 asking the Legislature to change Wisconsin's school funding system.

Finally My thoughts

In talking to lobbyists, I am being told our legislative representatives don't particularly want to be told "HOW" to get the funding for school, but they need to hear COMPELLINGLY and CONTINUOUSLY that the money is needed to provide our students with, at the very least a proficient level of knowledge and skills, and an advance level of knowledge and skills if we want to compete in the 21st global economy.

We must do this by:

- informing our state legislators of the devastating affects the budget cuts have had on our students, school, services and families
- informing them of what our students truly need to succeed

We are the experts. We are the educators. We are in the "trenches"

We must find out our legislators' office hours and visit them personally.

We must regularly send them letters explaining what our students are no longer receiving and the affect this is having on our workforce.

We must develop and teach curriculum pertaining to the history and affect of educational financing, allowing students to develop research writing, oral presentation and civic advocacy skills around this topic.

Our students and their parents/guardians must join us in informing our legislatures of the perils of the present education funding status.

Who are My Legislators?

Find them on <http://waml.legis.state.wi.us/>

Share your proposal and let's set it into motion Thank you for your indulgence!

Getting to Know Your Board of Directors

**NARENWICH
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MEMBER SERVICES COMMITTEE
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Glenwood City School District
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Glenwood City, WI 54013

Welcome to new member -

Region 2:
(2007) **Michelle Oldham**
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CONFERENCE COMMITTEE
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6585 W. Grove St.
Winter, WI 54896

Region 3:
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920.436-0500
CONFERENCE COMMITTEE
Alternative High School Director
CESA #7 High School
217 N. Madison St
Green Bay, WI 54301

Region 4:
(2007) **Open Position**

Region 5:
(2009) **Meg Zabel**
zabelmeg@aasd.k12.wi.us
920.997-1399 vm9645
MEMBER SERVICES COMMITTEE
At Risk Coordinator
Appleton East High School
2121 Emmers Dr
Appleton, WI 54915

Region 6: Shirley Jensen
(2009) skidge47@hotmail.com
414.383-3172
POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE
Educational Consultant
1510 S. 36th St
Milwaukee, WI 53215

Regional Meetings

Region 1

Jeanne Zimmer and Betsy have sent out an email to all in Region 1. They are getting a few interested people and are working on setting up a meeting in the near future. More information coming and Region 1 members should watch their email.

Region 2

Their next meeting will be on Wednesday, May 2, 2007 at Rhinelander from 9:00 - 11:30 AM. Please invite and share this information with other people who you feel would benefit from this group. Please bring your calendars and ideas to help plan tentative dates and topics for 2007-2008.

DIRECTIONS TO RHINELANDER:

Learning Lab South is found in the Northwoods Community Secondary School building, also known as South Park. Our address is 511 South Pelham, Rhinelander, WI 54501. You can use Map Quest or come into Rhinelander using Business 8 past the Holiday Inn. Cross over the Wisconsin River and turn left at the first stoplight, Arbutus and Kemp Street. NCSS is one block east on the north side of the street as it curves. Park behind the school. Enter door #4, at the end of the hallway to the left is the office for the charter school. Stop to sign-in, then proceed down the hallway to the classroom at the south end of the hall, Room 101 - that's us.

Michelle recently attended a conference called "Motivating the Helpless, Uninterested, and Uninvolved Learner". The speaker was Dr. Richard Curwin author of many books including Discipline with Dignity. Dr. Curwin spoke about ways to get lessons to work, challenges to motivate students, that achievement can't be measured but that effort can be encouraged, and that each one of us must try to reach at least one student. Discipline with Dignity is a wonderful book full of all kinds of information not just about at-risk students, but about every student. Michelle's favorite quote from Dr. Curwin is "schools are not for good children, they are for all children." For more information from Dr. Curwin go to [www. disciplineassociates.com](http://www.disciplineassociates.com)

Region 5

There was a request for our region 5 to meet in the Wautoma area in May, but no date has been set, yet.

Region 6

A Region 6 meeting is scheduled for May 11 at Brookfield East High School in the morning...probably 8:30 - 11:00, then lunch for those who have the time.

2007 Region Advocate for all Children Award Winners

Region 1

Jeanne Zimmer is the At-Risk Coordinator for Rice Lake High School. She is described by her principal as "providing an invaluable service for all students in our school and specifically the at-risk students. Jeanne's ability to "connect" with these students and be the caring adult in their lives is remarkable to watch and she is very effective."

Region 5

Beth Lewis from Wisconsin's Department of Instruction has worked with the Division of Academic Excellence and Career and Technical Education in a manner that has supported many of us for a number of years. We honor her collaboration with us as we work with at-risk students.

Region 6

Mike Grady of Generac Power Systems has been key in establishing the Second Chance program, which offers at-risk students the opportunity to complete their high school education and develop job skills and experience as well. Mike's ability to relate to the students in this program and help them gain self-esteem and self-confidence has helped these students truly have a second chance.

2006 Scholarship Award Winner: Megan Ford is NARENWICH's first scholarship winner. She has won \$500.00 to go towards her secondary education plans. Megan attended Middleton Alternative Senior High in Middleton, Wisconsin. She was nominated by her principal, Jill Gurtner. Megan is attending Madison Area Technical College. Megan was chosen from several fine applications. Please encourage your seniors to take advantage of this fine scholarship offer. An application for this year's scholarship can be found below.

2008 Conference Information

The dates are March 6 & 7 and it will be at the Paper Valley Hotel (Radisson) 333 W. College Avenue, Appleton, WI 54911 (920) 733-8000 or (888) 201-1718 info@radissonpapervalley.com. People who choose to stay there will be able to get rooms for \$89 per night

Online Masters in At-Risk A Keystroke Away!

Marian College, main campus in Fond du Lac and with branch campuses in Milwaukee, Wausau, and Appleton, is one step away from offering an online Master's Degree in 'Differentiated Learning for At-Risk Learners' (DIAL). If approved, the 21 month program will begin this Fall, structured into three cohort groups of 20 students.

The goal of the program according to Dr. Dallmann-Jones, one of the designers of the program: "DIAL is not just for teachers of at-risk. It is for any teacher desiring to learn how to treat students as unique individuals - to painlessly and excitedly plan for learner differences and match curriculum accordingly. It will decidedly lower the number of motivation problems, discipline issues and, at the same time, will get those achievement scores up, too! It is what all teachers have been waiting for - a humane and dynamic way of teaching so that students (and teachers) dread going home and cannot wait to get to school in the morning. We at Marian are taking a bold step to set education right: Back on the track of what it was always supposed to be - a long string of honorable, respectable AND enjoyable learning experiences, enabling students (and teachers) to find the joy in learning while enhancing their chances for success in school and in life. That is our goal at Marian with the DIAL Program, and it will mostly be online with a lot of cohort and faculty interaction. There will be one week on campus in the only Summer of the 21 month program. This is what we hope will be approved by the Marian Board of Trustees very soon...in time for Fall 2007 start up."

If interested in being placed on the contact list, email your name, and contact information to Dr. Anthony Dallmann-Jones at asdjones@gmail.com. He will contact you as soon as approval has been gained and forms are ready for filing.