



REGIONAL OFFICE of EDUCATION

## *Bi-County Brief*

*Monroe/Randolph Counties*

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### **ILLINOIS SCHOOLS AND RACE TO THE TOP**

Federal stimulus money for education is prompting Illinois to embrace reforms promoted by the U.S. Department of Education. District superintendents, school board presidents and teachers' union leaders are being asked by ISBE to sign a Memorandum of Understanding to accompany the state's Race to the Top (RT3) application that is due January 19, 2010. Illinois will be applying for \$400 million, of which \$200 million will be distributed to local districts per the Title I formula.

Key components of the state's application include tying student performance to the evaluations of teachers and principals by FY2013, aligning curriculum to the revised Illinois Learning Standards by FY2012, developing science, technology, engineering and math (STEM)-related programs at middle and high schools, implementing a statewide longitudinal data system to ensure data quality, using student data to improve classroom instruction, improving teacher and principal preparation programs, and increasing support for new teachers and principals.

Additionally, districts may choose to agree to a set of reforms that includes establishing a compensation system based on performance and providing autonomy for principals of Illinois priority schools to select and assign teachers to the school to establish an effective teaching staff as quickly as possible.

State Superintendent Christopher Koch is urging Illinois school boards to meet between January 4 and 8 to commit to the RT3 program, which proposes major changes worthy of careful thought and consideration.

### **JUDITH WOLTERS IS 2009 IBEA OUTSTANDING SECONDARY TEACHER**



Congratulations go out to Judith Wolters, 2009 Illinois Business Education Association Outstanding Secondary Teacher of the Year. Currently a business teacher at Chester High School, Ms. Wolters is also a member of IBEA and SWABEA and has previously received the W. C. Simmons Scholarship and the EIU College of Business Dean's Award. CHS Principal Keith Kittell commends Ms. Wolters: "As a teacher she challenges her students to be the best they can be. She has taken over the Accounting Department and has her students energized." A colleague writes, "Judy works diligently to make her classes current, relevant and enjoyable. She brings many years of management experience to real-world examples and assignments," and another agrees: "Judy is a professional business teacher of the highest caliber."

### **IT'S NOT TOO LATE!**

It's not just about reading. It's not just about writing. It's about strategies that will improve your students' learning: "the reading strategies have provided me with extra tools to teach the students how to get important information from text," explains one participant. There are still three chances to attend the *Best Reading Practices in the Content Areas* workshops, You owe it to yourself and your students. Check out "Writing to Enhance Comprehension" on January 12, "Assessments & Planning" on February 23 and "Creating a Reading Enhanced Classroom" on April 20 at SWIC's Red Bud Campus from 8:00 to 3:30. Contact Gertie, geshom@roe45.org, at the ROE for a registration form. Don't miss this opportunity!

### **BI-COUNTY BOASTS SEVEN MASTER TEACHERS**

Monroe and Randolph counties are proud of their Master teachers: Randy Halleran, Jane Huebner, Judith McDermott and Richard McDermott, Waterloo H.S.; Kara Lavoie, Rogers Elementary; Debra McCutcheon, Red Bud H.S.; and Jennifer Ramirez, Red Bud Elementary. For this National Board for Professional Teaching Standards certification, these teachers have undergone an extensive series of performance-based assessments that included teaching portfolios, student work samples, videotapes and thorough analyses of classroom teaching and student learning. These teachers also completed a series of written exercises that probed the depth of their subject-matter knowledge and their understanding of how to teach those subjects to their students. *Congratulations*, once again.

### **BI-COUNTY SCHOOLS RECYCLE OVER 30 TONS**

Schools that have recycled technology on any of the ROE's four Technology Recycling Days since April 2009 should feel good about themselves. Through their cooperation with Vintage Tech Recyclers of Plainfield, Illinois, 60,855 pounds of retired computers, televisions and other electronic equipment have been saved from landfills. Nearly 60% of all

electronics can be reused and another 38% can be fully recycled back to their raw state. By participating in Technology Recycling Days, schools are being responsible and preserving our natural resources.

**NEW ADVISORY BOARD GETS BUSY**

Eleven certificated teachers and administrators joined ROE personnel to form a new Advisory Board that will meet to discuss and develop ideas for professional development workshops and institutes. At its first meeting last month the Board shared best practices used in area schools and presented ideas for trainings. Talented educators in the group include Patti Miles, Beck Area Career Center; Jaime Lodge, Chester Grade School; Beth Horner, Columbia CUSD; Karyn Albers, Coulterville; Carol Root, Perandoe; Laurie Wright, Prairie du Rocher; Sandra Daniels, Red Bud Elementary; Lynda Loesing, Sparta High School; Cheryl Kuhlman, Steeleville Elementary; Mary Niebruegge, Valmeyer CUSD; and Hattie Doyle, Waterloo CUSD, who will work with Marc Kiehna, Kelton Davis, Rosie Gardner, Steve Laur and Mary Ann Quivey from the ROE.

**HAMLET JOINS THE RESOURCE LIBRARY**

Arguably William Shakespeare’s most influential play, *Hamlet* is the tragic story of how Hamlet takes revenge for his father’s murder, as his Uncle Claudius takes the throne as king of Denmark and Hamlet’s mother as his wife. Forty-five copies of the Penguin Classic edition, “an elegant and clear text for either the study or the rehearsal room, notes where you need them and the distinguished scholarship of the general editors...who understand that these are plays for performance as well as great texts for contemplation,” are now on loan from the Resource Library. Just some of the other 35-copy reading kits available by phoning Red Brick at 282-7722 are *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe; Black Like Me; The Canterbury Tales; Night; The Adventures of Tom Sawyer;* and *The Giver*.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO ILLINOIS STATE SCHOLARS**

Bi-county high schools can be proud of their 2009–10 Illinois State Scholars, who have been chosen based on standardized test scores and performance-based academic data reported by the high school. Approximately the top ten percent of Illinois high school graduates are announced as State Scholars each year.

<b>Chester High</b>	Tiffany Maglasang	Eric Meyer	Kristina Miller	Michael Mayer
Amy Araiza	Stephanie Mueller	Alexandra Purcell	Chelsea Nagel	Kirsten Nold
Caleb Courier	Tyler Perjak	Haley Riebeling	<b>Valmeyer High</b>	Madison Pleimann
Aaron Grah	Benjamin Riggins	Lana Rottler	Amy Burns	Jessica
Mollie Laramore	Andrew Roth	<b>Red Bud High</b>	Philip Erzinger	Reifschneider
Ashley Lindsay	Ryan Schlemer	Brianna Barbeau	Sarah Goforth	Kristen
Jamie Long	Zachary Simmons	Jerald Dehne	Clara Lewis	Reifschneider
Patrick Strickler	Jeffrey Stoecker	Michael Letcher	<b>Waterloo High</b>	Bradley Richards
Daysha Westerman	Mallory Stumpf	Maegan Reichling	Stuarrrt Bailey	Cassandra
Rachel Young	Abigail Woltering	Lora Tindall	Jennifer Baldwin	Robinson
<b>Columbia High</b>	<b>Coulterville High</b>	<b>Sparta High</b>	Dana Biffar	Carrie Schremp
Andrew Baugh	Kourtney Gimber	Samantha Bierman	Michael Brooks	Samantha
Connor Brennan	<b>Gibault High</b>	Tyler Bierman	Erin Chapman	Schweigert
Mackenzie	Cole Blechle	Kaleb Kessler	Rosemary Chapple	Tara Seboldt
Burkemper	Brittany Davis	Megan Meyerhoff	Coral Christopher	Christopher
Lydia Cooper	William Gregorich	Luke Nurnberger	Megan Crawford	Shelsky
Alyssa Dewees	Benjamin Kloess	Rachel Peck	Madison Dodd	Amy Smith
Olivia Fahnstock	Rachel Kreher	Clarissa Richno	Emily Ehrenstrom	Zachary Voss
Sara Fohrell	Christopher	Taylor Wilson	William Holmes	Alexandra Wood
Jacob Galeski	Kuester	<b>Steeleville High</b>	Jessica Hulett	
William Haag, IV	Kaila Lavoie	Michelle Byer	Maeve Juenger	
Mindi Haas	Julia Means	Jessie Husband	Kayla Kelley	

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

January 12, 2010	Best Reading Practices, Grades 4-12	SWIC, Red Bud - Room 152	8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
January 14, 2010	English Language Learning	SWIC, Red Bud - Perf. Arts	8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
January 26, 2010	Gifted Education Seminar	SWIC, Red Bud - Room 152	8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
January 28, 2010	Advisory Board	SWIC, Red Bud - Room 152	12:00 noon- 3:00 p.m.
February 8, 9, 10, 2010	Team Quest	Hope Christian Church	8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
February 9, 2010	Gifted Education Seminar	SWIC, Red Bud - Room 152	8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
February 17, 2010	Gifted Education Seminar	SWIC, Red Bud - Room 152	8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
February 18, 2010	Gifted Education Seminar	SWIC, Red Bud - Room 152	8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
February 19, 2010	Art du Jour	SWIC, Red Bud	