EDUCATION NEWS

NEWS AND ISSUES IN ALABAMA PUBLIC EDUCATION, K-12

JANUARY 2004

WHAT'S INSIDE ...

- HOUSSE Update
- Section Spotlight School Architect/ Bond Issues/Facilities
- Mars Exploration
- Teacher Prep Report Cards

WHAT IS THE HOUSSE MODEL?

The High Objective Uniform State Standard of
Evaluation (HOUSSE) for Highly Qualified
Teachers (HQT) is one method being
offered to help Alabama teachers
meet the HQT requirements of
the No Child Left Behind
Act of 2001 (NCLB).
Teachers who apply for

the HOUSSE should be those who do not meet the Alabama highly qualified teacher definition through other options described in the *Alabama Model for Identifying Highly Qualified Teachers*, which can be found on the Alabama Department of Education's Web site at www.alsde.edu.

WHO SHOULD USE THE HOUSSE MODEL?

Not new teachers who began teaching in a public school before or on the first day of the 2002-03 school year who have not documented that they are Highly Qualified (HQ)

and will not be going back to school to acquire further credits in the content area(s) of their teaching assignments or exercising the test option can use the HOUSSE option.

WHAT IS REQUIRED OF TEACHERS CHOOSING THE **HOUSSE** MODEL?

State Form HSE 2003, all sections of the HOUSSE Application and Worksheets, and required documentation for each worksheet must be completed and submitted to local school superintendents or administrators designated by the superintendent to handle HOUSSE applications. School systems will review and verify contents of application portfolios before submitting to the Alabama Department of Education.

(Continued on Page 2)

PUTTING ALABAMA'S HOUSSE IN ORDER

HIGH OBJECTIVE UNIFORM STATE STANDARD OF EVALUATION

Several options available for teachers seeking to become highly qualified under No Child Left Behind are listed in the Alabama Model for Identifying Highly Qualified Teachers. We are now glad to have added the HOUSSE model to those options. Holding proper certification for one's teaching assignment is the first criterion that must be met by a teacher to meet the highly qualified definition. The HOUSSE model may be used by 'not new' teachers - those who were on the job by the first day of school during the 2002-2003 school year. The Praxis II content tests provided by the Educational Testing Service may be used by both not new and new teachers — those who began teaching after the first day of the 2002-2003 school year to document they are highly qualified. Some tests

first day of the 2002-2003 school year to document they are highly qualified. Some tests are available this month and other tests will be added as quickly as possible. Additionally, the ACT WorkKeys Assessment will be available this month for paraprofessionals to use to become highly qualified.

Deputy State Superintendent of Education Dr. Joe Morton

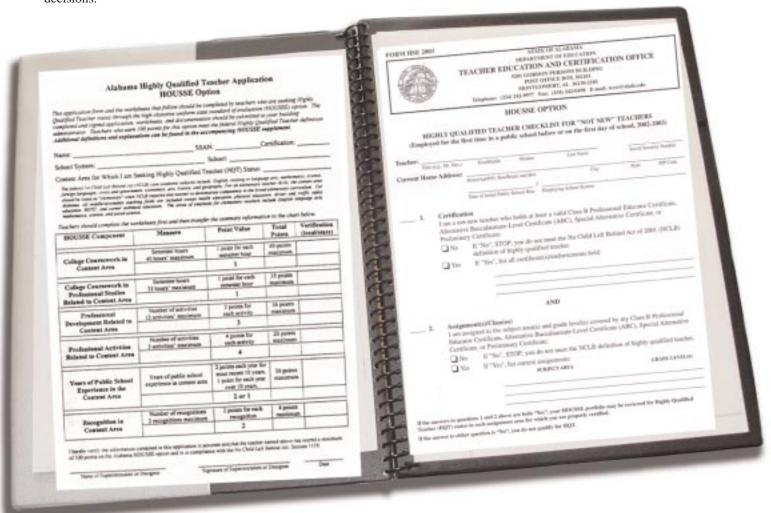
WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT IN REGARD TO THE **HOUSSE** MODEL?

- It is the teacher's responsibility to complete Form HSE 2003, the HOUSSE Application and Worksheets, and to provide required documentation.
- The local superintendent (or another person designated by the superintendent) is responsible for reviewing completed application portfolios, verifying contents, signing the application, and submitting it to the Alabama Department of Education no later than March 31, 2004. Portfolios must be submitted to the Department in one batch on the last working day of the month.
- The Alabama Department of Education is responsible for reviewing application portfolios, determining HQ status, and notifying both teachers and superintendents of decisions.

WHAT ARE THE COMPONENTS IN THE **HOUSSE** MODEL?

- 1. College coursework in content area
- College coursework in professional studies related to content area
- 3. Professional development related to content area taken within the last 10 years
- 4. Professional activities related to content area
- 5. Years of public school experience in content area
- 6. Recognition in content area

There are six worksheets – one for each component – which must completed. The worksheets provide detailed information on what and what cannot be included.



ALABAMA EDUCATION NEWS

TEACHER PREP REPORT CARDS RELEASED

labama's public schools continue to show their commitment to accountability with the release of the Teacher Preparation Program Performance Profile. For the fourth consecutive year, the Alabama Board of Education has issued a report card using the familiar Clear, Caution, and Alert status for the state's teacher preparation departments in 29 colleges and universities.

Each program is evaluated using performance reviews of its new graduates. Additionally, surveys of graduates and supervisory staff using the state's Professional Education Personnel Evaluation (PEPE) Program or a local evaluation based on the PEPE model are used. Superintendents, principals, and the teachers being evaluated are also surveyed for their opinion of the teacher preparation curriculum. This information is then compiled to establish

> the status of each program.

Of the 215 college and university teacher preparation programs with official status this year, 204 are rated Clear. Five programs are listed as Caution and six are rated in *Alert*. Programs that do not have three years of PEPE data are given an unofficial status.

A college or university with a program officially on Academic Caution must notify students enrolled in that

Official Results 200 150 III Clear Cautio 100 Alert. 204 5 6 **PROGRAMS OFFICIALLY IN**

PROGRAMS OFFICIALLY IN CAUTION:

- Alabama State University: Early Childhood Education (2nd year)
- Spring Hill College: Elementary Education
- University of Alabama in Huntsville: Elementary Education (2nd year)
- University of North Alabama: Biology
- University of West Alabama: Physical

University: Instrumental Music Vocal/Choral Music (on Caution last year, Athens State

ALERT:

Alabama State

- University: General Science Auburn University:
- History Auburn University
- Montgomery: General Science
- Miles College: General Social Science (2nd year)

program of its status, submit an improvement plan to the state Superintendent of Education, and achieve a Clear status within three years.

A college or university with a program officially on Academic *Alert* must work with a team of experts appointed by the state Superintendent of Education, notify students enrolled in that program of its status, work with the appointed improvement team, submit an improvement plan to the state Superintendent of Education, and achieve a Clear status within three years.

If the program fails to improve its status to *Clear* from Caution or Alert, no additional students will be admitted and the Alabama Board of Education will be asked to

rescind approval of that program.

CLICK HERE to view the Teacher Prep Report Card.



A FEW KEY FINDINGS FROM THE REPORT INCLUDE:

... of all eligible teacher programs received official

96% ... of responding recent graduates said they were satisfied or very satisfied with their preparation for teaching.

... of responding principals were satisfied or very satisfied with the overall preparation of new teachers from an Alabama college or university.

... of superintendents surveyed were satisfied or very satisfied with the overall preparation of new instructional support personnel.

DECEMBER AGENDA ITEMS INCLUDED:

- Authorized Review of Teacher Education Programs, Faulkner University, Montgomery
- Approved a Teacher Education Program, The University of Alabama at Birmingham
- Approved Teacher Education Programs, Troy State University Dothan
- Approved Teacher Education Programs, The University of South Alabama, Mobile
- Approved Science Course of Study Committee
- Approved Substitution of Later Edition Textbooks
- Passed Resolution Commending Cameron B. Coles for Achieving a Perfect ACT Score

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Section Spotlight

SCHOOL ARCHITECT/BOND ISSUES/FACILITIES

Build it and they will come ...

ut before you build it – a school, that is – contact **STATE SCHOOL ARCHITECT PERRY TAYLOR** in the Alabama Department of Education. The Alabama Department of Education and the Alabama Building Commission must approve plans for new buildings, additions, and major renovations, regardless of the funding source. The State School Architect can advise and guide local school systems through all phases of the building process – from approving the site, to hiring an architect, to reviewing plans and specifications, to designing and constructing the facility. If necessary, other Department of Education consultants review specific components of plans related to their areas of expertise. For example, the Child Nutrition staff would review lunchroom and kitchen layouts.

In view of the overall economic climate and concerns over the state's education budget, Taylor was asked if he had seen a decline in new school construction and renovation. "Naturally, there will be a decline in school construction due to the tremendous amount of work done since 1998 to eliminate portable classrooms," said Taylor. "Due to local funding efforts for school construction, however, there will always be projects under construction throughout the state,"

Taylor continued. In December, Goshen Elementary School in the Pike County School System opened a new building for Grades K-2 and part of Grade 3. In the Homewood City Schools, Homewood Middle School is under construction and scheduled to open during the 2004-05 school year.

For more information, contact Perry Taylor, Director, School Architect/Bond Issues/Facilities, at *ptaylor@alsde.edu* or (334) 242-9731.

ALABAMA SCHOOL FACILITIES FACTS

- Alabama has 1,547 public schools and over 5,000 separate school buildings.
- 29 school buildings were constructed before 1900.
- 387 school buildings were constructed between 1990 and 2000.
- The average age of an Alabama school building is 32 years.
- New school construction cost is approximately \$92 per square foot.



ACTIVITIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE STATE SCHOOL ARCHITECT INCLUDE:

- Reviewing and approving schematic, preliminary, and final plans and specifications for projects involving alterations, additions, and new construction of schools.
- Advising local boards of education with design, cost estimates, and construction methods for school buildings.
- · Reviewing and approving architectural agreements, construction contracts, and change orders.
- · Advising project architects and engineers with respect to design, bidding, and construction of schools.
- Administering K-12 state bond issues for the Alabama Public School and College Authority.
- Preparing deeds and leases for property sold or exchanged by county school systems.
- Inspecting and approving all new sites for school construction.
- · Generating and maintaining complete inventory of all school facilities.
- Administering yearly Capital Planning and Facilities Assessment Programs as required by the Foundation Program.

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BEYOND THE FINAL FRONTIER

he Mars Exploration Rover Mission is causing quite a bit of excitement all over the world. The images of the red planet taken by NASA's Spirit rover are truly spectacular. The discoveries being made during the mission are providing science teachers a galaxy of information to enhance classroom instruction. The big science question for the Mars Exploration Rover Mission is how past water activity on Mars has influenced the red planet's environment over time. Understanding the history of water on Mars is important to meeting the **four science goals** of NASA's long-term Mars Exploration Program:

Hills City Schools work from school to help study and characterize different aspects of Mars – from the atmosphere to the surface – to

support the landed Mars Exploration Rover Mission.

CLICK HERE to learn more.

- Determine whether life ever arose on Mars
- Characterize the climate of Mars
- Characterize the geology of Mars
- Prepare for human exploration

NASA provides a comprehensive Web site for educators and students focusing on the Mars mission.

CLICK HERE to view the site. It also features information about two student Mars programs involving three

Alabama schools.

The Athena Student Interns Program was piloted by NASA during the FIDO Field Tests in August 2002. (FIDO is a prototype Mars rover scientists and engineers use on Earth to prepare for intense operations during the mission on Mars.) Alabama students from Ramsay High School in the Birmingham City School System had the opportunity to work with the NASA Science Team to analyze data, create and test hypotheses, and develop commands to be sent to the rover. Athena is the name of the main instrument payload on each rover – the toolkit the rovers use to analyze rocks and other features on Mars.

<u>CLICK HERE</u> for additional information.

Through the Mars Exploration Student Data Team, teachers and students at the Jefferson County International Baccalaureate School, Jefferson County School System and Vestavia Hills High School, Vestavia

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND RESOURCES

Legacy's 2004 Environmental Partnership Conference will be held at Marriott's Grand Hotel, Point Clear, Feb. 18-20. For more information, call (334) 270-5921 or **CLICK HERE** to e-mail.

The Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellowships are for distinguished elementary and secondary school mathematics and science teachers. Einstein Fellows usually serve for 10 months in professional staff positions in a congressional office or federal agency.

CLICK HERE to contact Todd Clark or call (202) 586-7174.. Deadline: Feb. 1

AWARD AND GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

The 2004 Do Something Kindness & Justice Challenge is a national leadership and citizenship initiative for K-12 students to perform Acts of Kindness and Justice for two weeks following the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Holiday, Jan. 19-30. CLICK HERE to register your school for the challenge.

The MindOH! Foundation's Third Annual Character's Cool Contest is a national online contest to help middle and high school students reflect on what it means to have good character. The theme for this year's contest is tolerance. CLICK HERE for students to enter. Deadline: Jan. 31

The 2004 High School Literary Arts Awards and Scholarship Competition is sponsored by the Alabama Writers' Forum through a partnership program of the Alabama State Council on the Arts. The competition is open to graduating high school seniors. For information, call (334) 242-4076, ext 233, or CLICK HERE to email. Deadline: Feb. 13

River of Words (ROW), a U.S. Library of Congress – affiliated environmental art and poetry program, is designed to promote watershed awareness, literacy, and the arts among the nation's students. CLICK HERE for guidelines. For more information on the Alabama ROW Program, call (334) 844-4132. Deadline: Feb. 15

The 2004 Labor Essay Contest offers high school seniors planning to attend college in the fall the opportunity to compete for scholarship money. Essay topics address organized labor in Alabama. Supplemental cash awards are also available for teachers and counselors. Contact the Alabama United Auto Workers Community Action Program council at (205) 595-1712. Deadline: Feb. 23

KUDOS KUDOS KUDOS KUDOS

KUDOS VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL ART TEACHER - A RARE AND SPECIAL MASTERPIECE

By Franics King, Chambers County Schools Public Information Officer

Seven years ago, a very creative Alabama teacher began building an art program at Valley High School from the ground up, incorporating art production, appreciation, and art history into her curriculum. There had been no high school art program in the Chambers County School System in the past. Today, Valley High School students pursue their artistic expressions through the use of digital cameras, scanners, publishing, and multimedia computer software in classroom projects in addition to learning traditional art styles from artist and teacher BECKY GUINN.

What makes Guinn so special you ask? She received the Alabama Art Education Association's President's Award of Excellence in November for one and she continues her passion for teaching despite the fact that she is a quadruple amputee. Following complications from surgery in 2002, Guinn's legs and hands had to be amputated. But, even that didn't keep her from earning her master's degree in curriculum and technology from an online university and returning to the classroom this past fall.

Guinn perseveres and touches lives despite her hardships. She continues her art teaching by demonstrating art techniques at the dry-erase board, using prosthetic hands and feet. Becky Guinn is a true inspiration.

LEONARD RILEY is superintendent of Chambers County Schools.

VICKY LYNN is principal of Valley High School.



LOS SALUDOS DE ALABAMA — GREETINGS FROM ALABAMA

That's the message Vincent Middle/High School Principal GARY MINNICK will convey when he travels to Argentina in June as part of the Fulbright Teacher and Administrator Exchange Program.

Minnick is one of 250 teachers and administrators from the United States selected to take the trip to South America during the 2003-04 school year. As part of the program, ELIZABETH HERMANN of Argentina, came to Alabama in November to visit Vincent Middle/High School, Vincent Elementary School, and Chelsea Middle School. Minnick's

part of the exchange will include a three-week visit to Mina Clavero, a small rural town near Cordoba, Argentina, where he will visit Hermann's school.

Participants of the Fulbright program, sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, are selected based on academic or professional achievement and for demonstrating extraordinary leadership potential in their fields.

The superintendent of the Shelby County School System is EVAN MAJOR.



ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF **EDUCATION'S ALAPT3 TEAM** WINS AWARD **Congratulations to Alabama's Preparing Tomorrow's Teacher's** to Use Technology (AlaPT3) **Catalyst Project team for winning** the Bronze Level Team Showcase Award as part of the 2003 Alabama Quality Award (AQA). Receiving the award are AlaPT3 Team members (left to right) Stevie Ash, Team Leader Dr. Shannon Parks, Tracee Synco, Jennifer Fritschi, and John Armstrong.

ALABAMA EDUCATION NEWS

Ho! Ho! Ho! MERRY MILKEN

anta arrived early for MICHAEL FLETCHER. Fletcher was honored Dec. 12 for his exceptional contributions to quality education. STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF **EDUCATION ED RICHARDSON** announced him as the recipient of the prestigious Milken Family Foundation National Educator Award - the Education "Oscar." Richardson and DISTRICT 1 STATE BOARD OF **EDUCATION MEMBER RANDY** McKinney delivered the surprise announcement during a schoolwide assembly at W.P. Davidson High School in Mobile.

Fletcher, Alabama's only 2003 Milken Educator, is a high school math teacher who joins 100 Milken Educators from 47 states and the District of Columbia selected for this honor, which includes an unrestricted \$25,000 cash award.

In addition to the \$25,000 financial awards, Milken Educators receive an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C., to participate in the annual Milken Family Foundation National

Education Conference in May 2004. They also become part of the Milken Educator Network, a nationwide coalition of nearly 2.000 top educators who have access to a variety of professional resources to help cultivate and expand innovative programs in their classrooms, schools, and districts.

Educators are recommended without their knowledge to the Milken Family Foundation by an independent blue-ribbon panel appointed by each state's department of education. Milken Educator Awards recipients are selected according to the following criteria:

- Exceptional educational talent as evidenced by outstanding instructional practices in the classroom, school, and profession;
- · Outstanding accomplishments and strong long-range potential for professional and policy leadership;

Engaging and inspiring presence that motivates and impacts students, colleagues, and the community. **CLICK HERE** for more information on the Milken Family Foundation National Educator Awards or **CLICK HERE** to go to the Alabama Department of Education's Web site.

Michael Fletcher

Twenty-Kire Thorisand dollars

Nat'l Board Certification Takes Commitment

labama ranks 11th on the list of states with the most National Board Certified Teachers (NBCTs) this year. During the 2003 school year, 181 Alabama teachers achieved the teaching profession's highest standards, creating a record number of teachers in the state with National Board Certification. It is the fourth consecutive year Alabama has ranked among the top ten states having the most cumulative NBCTs.

The addition of the 2003 class brings the total number of Alabama teachers, who are certified by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS), to 632. A record number 8,200 teachers from all 50 states and the District of Columbia earned the prestigious credential, surpassing last year's total of 7,800. There are 32,130 National Board Certified Teachers in the United States.

Alabama's financial commitment to the program provides money to pay application fees for 100 applicants and a \$5,000 annual salary increase for teachers achieving National Board Certification.

> "Quality classroom instruction is at the heart of improving student achievement," said ASSISTANT STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION DR. EDDIE JOHNSON. "The level of commitment and knowledge it

takes to receive this honor proves PROFESSIONAL that Alabama teachers are more than qualified to teach in our classrooms."

CLICK HERE to view a listing of Alabama's 2003 National Board of Certified Teachers.

National Board for

STANDARDS™

TEACHING

CLICK HERE for more information on National Board Certification or the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.

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January

		labam leeting		rd of E	ducat	ion
1	9 K	ing/Le	e Birtl	ndays		
4		TATE			9	10
22 Alabama Board of Education Work Session						
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

FEBRUARY



- 2-4 Alabama Direct Assessment of Writing Grades 5-7 Pilot Test
 - 3 State Legislative Session Begins
- 7-13 SkillsUSA-VICA Week
 - 12 Alabama Board of Education Meeting
- 16 Washington/Jefferson Birthdays (STATE HOLIDAY)
- 23-27 Alabama Direct Assessment of Writing Grades 5, 7, and 10
 - 26 State/System/School Report Cards Released
- 26 Alabama Board of Education Work Session



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