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**Talent and Achievement are as Diverse as Detroit Students Themselves**



**Importance of Education Highlighted at Mackinac Policy Conference**



Education was at the center of many platform presentations and small group sessions at the 2013 Mackinac Policy Conference, hosted by the Detroit Regional Chamber of Commerce. National speakers, including Jeb Bush and Michelle Rhee, shared their thoughts on the importance of education to our nation. Local presenters focused their remarks on the relationship of education and the economy. There was universal agreement that we are losing our competitive edge in a global marketplace because too many of our students are not performing at the level of their peers from other nations. Recommendations for improving our educational outcomes included:

- More internships provided by the corporate community
- Enhanced professional development for teachers
- Child-focused policies rather than adult-oriented decision-making
- Greater attention to preparing students for high tech careers
- Stronger engagement of business personnel in helping educational institutions in understanding the needs of the workplace
- A wide array of options for students to broaden their horizons
- Universal pre-K early childhood education
- Agreeing that education is a bipartisan issue

The list above is not comprehensive but represents those items most frequently mentioned by multiple speakers. It is reassuring to note that a number of those actions considered most important are consistent with the funding priorities of the DPS Foundation.

View Dr. Glenda Price and Carla Thompson, Vice President Program Strategy - W.K. Kellogg Foundation, on the Detroit Public Television stage as they discuss education on-set at the Conference below.



**And on This Farm, Spain Elementary Learned About the Country, E...I...E...I...O**



Sponsored by the Detroit Public Schools Foundation, the pre-K students of Spain Elementary School, and their parents, learned first-hand what it takes to be a farmer at the Real Life Farm in Canton, Mich.

The field trip culminated the children's three-week lessons for "City and Country," which focused on the differences between city life and country life, including the many animals, products and jobs available on the farm. The trip gave the children the opportunity to ride horses, take a hayride, eat a picnic lunch, milk cows, feed and hold baby animals and complete the chores of the farm.

These types of hands-on learning experiences helped the children further develop their critical thinking skills to communicate how the world around them works and recognize the various roles and functions people play within the community.

**"Moving Forward" with Fine Arts**



From the entrance stairway to the theater stages, more than 550 students from Detroit Public Schools' elementary, middle and high school grade levels filled the historic Fox Theater with music, dance and art. The performances comprised the Detroit Public Schools Office of Fine Arts Education's [44th Annual Evening of Fine Arts](#), themed "Moving Forward."

Among those in an enthusiastic audience, attendee Robert Groves said of the performances, "Those students really are gifted, and the show was first class."

Student performances on four stages within the theater spanned instrumental, vocal, visual and performing arts exhibitions, including concert choir performances, a violin solo, jazz ensembles, mariachi performances, symphonic bands, a wind symphony, a percussion ensemble, a string quintet and contemporary dance.



**Honoring Academic Excellence at Detroit Public Schools**



Suits and ties, dresses and high heels were everywhere in sight as 255 graduating seniors and their guests attended the Excellence Awards Banquet at Cobo Hall on May 14, 2013, where the brightest and best of our young people were encouraged by their peers to continue to reach for the stars. The evening honored students who have held a 3.5 GPA or higher throughout their high school career, and proud teachers and counselors were recognized for academic excellence. Sixteen students with a perfect 4.0 GPA were honored with a special plaque presentation.

Karen Ridgeway, Superintendent of Academics, and Roy Roberts, Emergency Manager, challenged the graduates to work hard, do their best, help each other, look to the future and make us all proud they are alumni of the Detroit Public Schools. Erica Sanders, Detroit Public Schools Foundation Alumni Specialist, urged the students to stay connected and give back.

**Welcome New Board Member Joyce Giles-Hayes**



The Detroit Public Schools Foundation Board of Directors is pleased to welcome Joyce Hayes-Giles - DTE Energy assistant to the chairman and senior vice president, public affairs - as the [newest member of the board](#).

Joyce comes to the Foundation with many years of experience in the Detroit community and a prior relationship with DPS as a member of the School Board.

Her distinguished career, strong ties within the community, dedication to public service and ability to mentor others are a powerful inspiration for Detroit students and an asset to our Board of Directors.

