DIRECTOR’S MESSAGE
A Mission of Excellence

Our 2009-2010 academic year marks the twelfth year for the Xavier Center for Excellence in Education (XCEED). Our center was initially funded by a grant from the Proctor and Gamble Company to provide professional development in the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) areas. Since those early days, XCEED has developed into a comprehensive professional development provider. We also provide education related community outreach and other services related to educational excellence. This newsletter is intended to highlight some of the programs of our Center.

Our staff is proud of the many initiatives and partnerships that have been established. XCEED serves as an educational resource for Cincinnati, the surrounding communities, and our region. XCEED activities are mission driven and supplement Xavier’s educational programs as well as the community outreach mission of the University. They include coordinating the Conversations, Connections, Collaboration annual teacher recognition event that is co-sponsored by Xavier University, Northern Kentucky University, and the University of Cincinnati, assisting with programs for the Hamilton County Developmental Disability Services, providing leadership for the Great Oakes Project Search program, and the many programs and initiatives that are detailed on page two of this newsletter.

I want to thank everyone who has helped make XCEED successful. It has been through the efforts of Xavier’s dedicated faculty and staff that we have built the capacity to serve our community. Please contact me if you are interested in finding out more about working with us or supporting our programs.

ASSOCIATE’S NOTES
Our Work

The XCEED Center continues to expand our role in many areas of support, relationship, collaboration, and communication with a growing number of schools, districts, and the many stakeholders that are integrated within their operations. Grants, standards, new laws, best practices, strategic planning, innovations, opportunities, and knowledge are key words to describe the many activities of XCEED this year. Public, private, charter, and independent schools have all become part of our customer base. We are promoting through our success that we can be a vital link for these many schools who have requested our support.

We have created the collaboration for active learning model as a basic framework we offer to our schools (see below). The model creates a strong visual plan that can be used to customize our work with individual schools. We believe the model reflects the current theme in our country as well as based on sound proven practices.

XCEED has also been involved with future opportunities for grants that will be supported by the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education act, Race for the Top grants and the pursuit of new standards for our country. We hope to be a clearinghouse to provide accurate and up-to-date information to area schools seeking our services.
Norwood City Schools and Xavier

We are completing our first full year of a new relationship between the Norwood City Schools and Xavier University under the guidance of a recently signed memorandum of understanding. A few initiatives include planning for the repurposing of the Allison Elementary School, professional development for Norwood staff, enhancing field experiences for Xavier students in teacher education, providing opportunities on Xavier’s campus for Norwood students, after school tutoring programs at Norwood, and mentoring relationships. A special tuition rate for graduate coursework was also initiated by XCEED.

A steering committee of both Norwood and Xavier faculty was also established to best utilize our resources and capacity. The committee is actively guiding this new partnership.

The Hillcrest Connection

XCEED is in its second year of a collaborative relationship to professional development and support to the Hillcrest Training School. Hillcrest is an independent, non-public, charter school that is sponsored by the Hamilton County Juvenile Court. The school has approximately 120 boys who have placed by the Court with Hillcrest.

XCEED is providing multiple staff development activities throughout the year including several in-service programs on Xavier’s campus. Xavier faculty provide support on a daily basis at Hillcrest’s site. We also have performed two comprehensive evaluations of the academic program at Hillcrest.

Xavier’s relationship with Hillcrest is a visible sign of our commitment to the community and deepens our passion to support the mission of the University.

Cincinnati Observatory Partnership

The Cincinnati Observatory Center (COC) and XCEED partner on a number of educational programs for both community outreach and professional development. Credit and non-credit courses are offered for science educators at the COC. XCEED also provides consulting services for the branding and marketing of the many STEM outreach programs offered at the COC.

Center Supports The State Tournament of Mathematics

The State Tournament of Mathematics which is sponsored by the Ohio Council of Teachers of Mathematics took place on February 27 at 25 test centers located throughout Ohio. This year 1945 students from 106 schools participated in the contest. Xavier is one of the test centers and is home-base for coordinating state-wide contest results. The 2010 contest results can be found on the web at:


Case Western Reserve Project

XCEED has entered into an agreement to perform an external evaluation of a National Science Foundation grant that was awarded to Case Western Reserve University to prepare highly qualified science teachers. This project is a three year commitment by XCEED to provide assessment of this Robert Noyce Scholarship Grant that will ultimately increase the number of highly qualified science teachers.

DISCO

The spring 2010 program is continuing to assist schools and school systems in developing long-term comprehensive inclusion plans that will allow all stakeholders to become culturally proficient. The current cohort consists of 110 educators representing 10 local schools and districts.