



Xavier University

Center For Catholic Education

A Vision Of Greatness For Catholic Schools

Telephone: 513-745-3477

Spring 2009 Newsletter

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

A New ICS Direction

It has now been over 5 years since the Clement and Ann Buenger Foundation funded our Initiative for Catholic Schools (ICS) program. The program to enhance mathematics instruction, science instruction, and school leadership has served 177 Catholic educators and 59 Catholic schools. The evaluation reports have indicated that the ICS program has been an overwhelming success. In short, student achievement in our schools has been positively improved by the program and nearly all Catholic elementary schools in our region have participated.



Michael Flick
Director

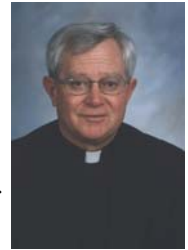
Consequently, the Xavier Center for Catholic Education (XUCCE) held a series of listening sessions to determine a new direction for the ICS program. Overwhelming support was given to the Professional Learning Communities (PLC) concept from grass roots levels through Archdiocesan administration. Professional Learning Communities provide the tools needed to change the culture within schools to ensure higher levels of learning for students. The most promising strategy to help all students learn at high levels is to develop a faculty's capacity to collaborate. When a school functions as a PLC there is a collective commitment to creating results oriented goals and measuring progress. A cornerstone of a PLC is the creation of SMART goals. SMART goals are strategic, measurable, attainable, results-oriented, and time bound. In short, the PLC concept is about changing the culture in the school from one that focuses on teaching to one that centers on student learning and achievement.

We look forward to this new program and our continued relationship with the Buenger Foundation.

ASSOCIATE'S NOTES

An Update

Xavier's partnership with the Archdiocese of Cincinnati continues this semester as a new cohort of Catholic educators began a Master's degree in education. The first 12 semester hours of the 30-semester-hour program are taught at Purcell Marian High School. These courses enable us to put a special emphasis on issues in Catholic education and utilize textual materials from Catholic sources. For example, in the course I am teaching this semester (History and Philosophy of Education in United States), I can include readings from the Catechism of the Catholic Church as well as sections of Canon Law concerning the role and responsibilities of parents and pastors in the education of children and parishioners. In the Educational Administration course, taught by Dr. James Boothe, more emphasis can be placed on the issues facing Catholic administrators. The teachers also receive a 60 percent tuition scholarship – making a Xavier Master's degree available to Catholic school teachers while enhancing Catholic education in our area.



Robert Bueter, S.J.
Associate Director

While the work of the center has been especially focused on Catholic schools in the region, this has not prevented us from reaching out to assist a wider public. I recently visited the Archbishop Dennis J. O'Connell High School in the diocese of Arlington, Virginia, to assist them in evaluating the president-principal model of governance that Jesuit high schools in United States employ, following the university practice. Bishop O'Connell went to that model five years ago and had some questions that I hope I have answered in the report prepared for them.

Boys Hope Girls Hope



Boys Hope Girls Hope's (BHGH) Community Based Program (CBP) has partnered with XUCCE, XCEED, and the Department of Secondary and Special Education. We have helped support the BHGH mission in several important ways. We provided the CBP scholars program with space on campus and assisted with team building and personal development programs. We also provide graduate-level tutors for the CBP program through the Department of Secondary and Special Education. The tutors work on site at St. Francis DeSales School.

Finally, the scholars from both the CBP and the residential programs joined together on Xavier's campus for an annual study skills workshop.

We look forward to continuing this partnership in 2009-2010.

SACRE



The School for Adult Catholic Religious Education (SACRE) is continuing to be popular with our local parish constituents. Dr. Brennan Hill is currently conducting a workshop, *Keys to Reading the Gospels*. Ken Czillinger, a well-known minister to the dying and grieving, will conduct a workshop on March 28, 2009 entitled *Later Life Transitions: A Morning of Reflection and Sharing*. Contact XUCCE for information on these and future workshops.

Leadership Scholars



Members of the Leadership Scholars family were saddened by the loss of James Shepard, one of their scholars. Even though he lived only 13 short years, James had a tremendous impact on numerous people. Tracy Moore, Director of Leadership Scholars, notes that "James was a dynamic, inspirational, and driven leader who was determined to make a difference in the world." All of the leaders and scholars are developing the

leadership skills necessary to conceptualize, execute, and lead projects of their own. The tragedy of James Shepard helped exhibit the true value of the Leadership Scholars family. All of the Leadership Scholars students are looking forward to participating in a Career Day, debate, and interviews with several Greater Cincinnati leaders, as well as concluding and presenting their team projects. The 78 scholars are hosted by XUCCE monthly and for all day sessions in a month during the summer.

Catholic School Master's Degree



There are currently 80 teachers in this special cohort Master of Education Degree program. Teachers began their MED by completing 12 credit hours at Purcell Marian High School and will finish the final 18 credit hours on Xavier's campus. A new cohort will form in January 2010 for this special program that offers Catholic teachers and administrators a tuition that is discounted over 50%. Contact the Center for Catholic Education for details.

Center Hosts Catholic Teacher Recognition Evening



Over 900 Catholic teachers from the Archdiocese of Cincinnati will be honored at a banquet on April 30th. This evening will be a celebration of Catholic education and will be held at Xavier's Cintas Center. Recognizing that the vocation of teaching is a natural fit with the mission of Xavier University and the Center for Catholic Education, we are proud to support this program and our partnerships with the Archdiocese of Cincinnati Catholic Schools Office.

