



February 22, 2011

Good afternoon.

I certainly hope in your area of the state you were able to enjoy the spring-like temperatures this past week. However, today brought a stark difference in our weather. From snow to freezing rain, winter has definitely resurfaced! I hope the groundhog which predicted an early spring is stuck outside today!

Let me draw attention to the news item below from our partners at eTech Ohio regarding two grant opportunities. Teachers at Ohio's public local education agencies may apply for the first program and Ohio public colleges and universities may apply for the second grant. The first program, a mini-grant regarding podcasts for assessment, recognizes that our young people are becoming increasingly tech-savvy. Any opportunity we have to work with them through innovative means is a win-win situation. The second program will allow pre-service teachers, higher education partners and current teachers to work together to ensure that tomorrow's educators are ready to use technology tools in 21<sup>st</sup>-century classrooms.

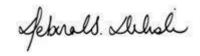
I hope everyone had a great Presidents' Day weekend and that your classrooms were able to incorporate some instructional strategies to celebrate the holiday. As we continue through the month of February, please remember that the celebration of African American History Month continues. Consider localizing studies with Ohio's African-American history makers. There are many to spotlight, but here are just a few:

- George Washington Williams, originally born in Pennsylvania, moved to Cincinnati and became the first African-American elected to the Ohio Legislature in 1879.
- Cleveland Inventor <u>Garrett Morgan</u> After witnessing a crash between an automobile and a buggy, Cleveland entrepreneur Morgan was inspired to develop a traffic signal. The 1923 patent Morgan received for his traffic light was not his first. Earlier, during World War I, Morgan received a patent for his version of a gas mask.
- Jesse Owens, who grew up in Cleveland and attended The Ohio State University, won four gold medals at the 1936 Olympics in Berlin. Prior to the Olympics, Owens set three world records and tied a fourth in the span of 45 minutes during a Big Ten track and field meet on May 25, 1935.
- In 1993, Lorain native <u>Toni Morrison</u> became the first African-American woman to receive the Nobel Prize in Literature. Morrison has earned several honors for her work, including a Pulitzer Prize for her 1987 novel, *Beloved*.
- Cleveland-area native <u>Halle Berry</u> has won Emmy and Golden Globe awards. Also, in 2001 she became the only woman of African-American descent to win the Academy Award for Best Actress.

Find more information about African-American history in Ohio by searching on the Ohio History Central portion of the Ohio Historical Society's website.

Have a great week!

Sincerely,



News items that may be of interest or require follow-up are:

- ARRA 1512 reporting data collection begins
- eTech Ohio offers two new grant opportunities
- Reimbursement available for safety and violence prevention training
- Spotlight on Tippecanoe Middle School

## ARRA 1512 reporting data collection begins

On **March 1**, the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) 1512 Quarterly Survey will launch for activity through the first quarter of calendar year 2011, ending March 31. All local education agencies (LEAs) receiving ARRA funding through various initiatives – including Race to the Top, Education Jobs and the Teacher Incentive Fund – are required to report their quarterly data through this survey. Related guidance is posted on ODE's Stimulus Updates website under the heading *Data and Reporting Guidance*. The survey will remain available through close of business on **March 18**; no submissions can be accepted after this time. In preparing for this quarter's data collection, please be sure to:

- Enter the appropriate available staff person's contact information in the contact section of the survey.
- Ensure that the LEA's DUNS number registration in the Central Contractor Registry
  (CCR) is up-to-date. There is a link within the survey for the CCR registration page. Also
  see the guidance posted on the ODE Stimulus Updates website for more details.
- Be sure to report all activity that has occurred since the start of the grant in the areas of
  infrastructure investments and vendor data. Vendor data is reported for any vendor to
  whom a single payment from a single ARRA grant exceeds \$25,000. If vendor or an
  infrastructure investment is reported in a previous quarter, this information does not
  automatically carry over to the current quarter's data collection.
- Ensure data submitted for jobs created and retained is reported only for activity during the current quarter. Full-time equivalent jobs must be reported for any portion of employee compensation paid with ARRA funds; compensation includes both the salary and benefits.
- Print the confirmation page displayed at the completion of the survey. ODE is not able to reproduce that snapshot of information again once the survey has been closed.

Please direct any questions to <a href="mailto:recovery@ode.state.oh.us">recovery@ode.state.oh.us</a>.

## eTech Ohio offers two new grant opportunities

Through the eTech Ohio Commission, the state of Ohio is offering two upcoming grant opportunities to help increase the use of technology for teaching and learning. Teachers at Ohio's public local education agencies may apply for the first program and Ohio public colleges and universities may apply for the second grant.

 Podcasts for Assessment Mini-Grant – This program will provide teachers with professional development for using podcasts in standards-based instruction in many content areas and for related assessments. It also will allow K-12 students to learn effective uses for technology and demonstrate 21<sup>st</sup>-century skills such as creativity, innovation, communication, collaboration, critical thinking, problem-solving and decision-making. Approximately 50 Ohio teachers are expected to receive mini-grants of \$2,000 each. A maximum of two teachers per Ohio public LEA will be selected.

To apply for the grant, a letter of intent (Appendix B of the application) must be received by **Feb. 28** and final applications must be submitted by **March 14**. Send both items to podcasts@etech.ohio.gov. For the application and more information, please visit the eTech Ohio website.

Teacher Planning Grant Opportunity – This program was designed to assist public colleges and universities, in collaboration with public LEAs, in preparing pre-service teachers for 21<sup>st</sup>-century elementary and secondary classrooms. Grant funds may used for such activities as: developing strategies for using information and communication technologies; developing or strengthening existing educational technology courses; and establishing communities of practice involving pre-service teachers, higher education faculty and teachers at local LEAs. Approximately 10 Ohio public colleges are expected to receive grants of \$100,000 each.

A Virtual Bidder's Conference about the grant will be held from 2-3 p.m. **today** (Feb. 22) and will be recorded and posted on the eTech Ohio website. To apply for the grant, a letter of intent (Appendix B of the application) must be received by **March 14** and final applications must be submitted by **March 28**. For the application and more information, click <a href="mailto:here">here</a>. Send both items to <a href="mailto:teacherplanning@etech.ohio.gov">teacherplanning@etech.ohio.gov</a>.

## Reimbursement available for safety and violence prevention training

A new reimbursement application form is available on the ODE website for districts that have provided or will provide ODE's Safety and Violence Prevention Curriculum training to district and school staff between July 1, 2010, and June 30, 2011. District personnel may download the reimbursement form by clicking <a href="here">here</a> or visiting the ODE website at <a href="here">education.ohio.gov</a>, keyword search: safety and violence prevention.

Ohio House Bill 276, enacted in 2007, required ODE to develop the safety and violence prevention curriculum to help elementary schools meet the bill's training requirements for elementary school professionals. The legislation expanded the existing requirement for child-abuse detection training by adding the topics of positive youth development, violence prevention and substance abuse prevention. In 2009, state lawmakers extended this requirement to include public middle school and high school personnel. Those to be trained are nurses, teachers, counselors, school psychologists and administrators.

Also on the training Web page, users will find an Anti-Harassment, Anti-Intimidation and Anti-Bullying Model Policy that any district can use in developing its own policy, as required by House Bill 276.

## Spotlight on Tippecanoe Middle School

Sixth grade students at Tippecanoe Middle School, of the Tipp City Exempted Village Schools,



have worked with the local Veterans of Foreign War organization to make an annual bus trip to the nation's capital memorable for local veterans. A highlight of the trip to tour war monuments and other sites is a "Mail Call" activity, when trip leaders distribute letters, poems and pictures created by students. For the past three years, Tippecanoe teachers Linda Ares and Andrea McKinney have worked with their sixth-grade students to create "goodie bags" for the Mail Call. The students decorate the bags and fill each one with candy, small games, pencils, letters,

notes, poems and a compact disc with WW II-era music. Greg Southers, Tippecanoe principal, said, "This is a great learning opportunity for our kids to see first-hand the people who have served their country during a time that they can only read about." Southers said the veterans have sent the school photographs and thank-you letters expressing how much the simple gifts meant to them. The students are pictured above filling goodie bags. *Congratulations*, *Tippecanoe!* 

**Note:** If your students are engaged in helping their communities and you would like to share what they are doing, send an e-mail to <a href="mailto:superintendent@ode.state.oh.us">superintendent@ode.state.oh.us</a> and include "Spotlight" and your school or district in the subject line. We also are pleased to receive digital images of these activities.

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