

November 19, 2012

Greetings:

Today, I was honored to travel to Goshen Local Schools in Clermont County to help present a 2012 Milken Family Foundation Educator of the Year Award to Crystal Dozier. Crystal is a third-grade teacher at Spaulding Elementary School who promotes a culture in which every student can succeed, regardless of learning styles.

What stood out to me today was that Crystal currently could be considered the prototype for where we intend teaching to be when the transition to our new learning standards are fully implemented.

She uses data to drive instruction, then tracks and analyzes data through formative assessments. She integrates technology into daily lessons, further preparing her students for success in the 21st century. As a result, Spaulding's third-grade students exceeded state averages in reading and math.

Additionally, Crystal is helping to promote vital changes in teaching, serving as a member of Spaulding's Race to the Top Transformation and Technology Evaluation teams. I congratulate Crystal on the honor and look forward to learning more from her over the next year.

Also last week, the State Board of Education unanimously endorsed my recommendation that Tina Thomas-Manning be named the new associate superintendent for the Division of Accountability and Quality Schools. I am pleased to welcome her to the Ohio Department of Education. Her proven instructional leadership will be an asset to our team beginning in January.

Thomas-Manning currently serves as executive director of middle-level education for Reynoldsburg City Schools. She previously served as a middle school principal at Hannah Ashton and Waggoner Road Middle Schools in Reynoldsburg and Blendon Middle School in Westerville and assistant high school principal at Reynoldsburg and Hilliard Davidson High Schools. She began her career as an English teacher at Gahanna Lincoln High School. Thomas-Manning holds a Bachelor of Science in Education and a Master of Arts in Special Education from The Ohio State University.

Thank you for all you do for Ohio's children. I hope you enjoy your Thanksgiving break with family and friends.

Sincerely,

Michael L. Sawyers

**Approaching deadlines or important dates mentioned in previous editions of *EdConnection***

**12/7** Civil Rights Data Collection submissions due ([10/22/2012](#))

**12/31** Early Literacy and Reading Readiness grant application deadline ([11/05/2012](#))

***For School superintendents and treasurers***

***Key Sessions from Statewide Education Conference now available online***

ODE has posted video recordings of five key breakout sessions from the Statewide Education Conference earlier this month on the department's OhioEdDept [channel](#) on YouTube. The full-length

videos include the following sessions:

- *Ohio's Student Learning Objectives Process;*
- *The Third Grade Reading Guarantee;*
- *Ohio's Next Generation of Assessments;*
- *Can Teacher Evaluation Improve Teaching?; and 1:1 and*
- *BYO Technology: What Works and What Doesn't?*

These videos are ideal for updating staff on several key initiatives and topic facing Ohio educators.

### ***RSVP to the Early Childhood Ohio Regional Update Sessions***

The Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC) and the Ohio Departments of Education and Job and Family Services are hosting a series of regional information sessions regarding Ohio's Early Learning Challenge Grant and the ECAC's work plan. The following sessions have been scheduled: 11/20/12 (Columbus), 11/27/12 (Dayton), 11/30/12 (Cleveland), 12/4/12 (Chillicothe) and 12/11/12 (Bowling Green). Click [here](#) to register.

### ***For curriculum directors, teachers and school counselors***

#### ***Powerful Practices regional workshops planned for Ohio Teachers***

Ohio teachers who have received teacher Value-Added reports are invited to learn about how to implement powerful teaching practices that promote high levels of student academic growth at one of three Saturday regional workshops hosted by Battelle for Kids. The workshops will be held in December and January.

Workshop participants will hear highly effective teachers share examples of powerful practices and personal growth, assess strengths and growth opportunities to inform their professional development, learn about Battelle for Kids' research on highly effective teachers, and have the opportunity to receive assistance in interpreting their Value-Added reports. To learn more, click [here](#).

#### ***Nov. 20 webinar focuses on non-traditional options for earning Ohio high school credits***

School counselors and administrators are invited a credit flexibility webinar on Tuesday, Nov. 20 from 10-11 a.m. Tom Rutan, associate director of ODE's Office of Curriculum and Instruction, will discuss the credit flexibility option for students to earn high school credits in non-traditional ways.

He also will review the recommended elements of a quality student credit flexibility plan and explain available resources. Registration is free, but participants must register through [STARS](#) to get instructions to access the webinar. The keyword search is *credit flexibility*.

*ODE is interested in your thoughts about how EdConnection fulfills your information needs. Please send any comments or suggestions to [Superintendent@education.ohio.gov](mailto:Superintendent@education.ohio.gov).*

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