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UniServ Council**

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*KMUC is affiliated with
WEAC and NEA*

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Representing Teachers and Support Professionals in Chilton, Elkhart Lake, Howards Grove, Kiel, Kohler, Lakeshore Technical College, Manitowoc, New Holstein, Plymouth, Sheboygan, Sheboygan Falls, Two Rivers, and KMUC Retired

KMUC

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Lori Neurohr—Wisconsin Elementary Teacher of the Year

Imagine it is the first week of school, there is an all school assembly, it's the first one of the year and your school hasn't done this in the past. State Superintendent, Elizabeth Burmaster is there as well as the news media. That is what Lori Neurohr walked into at the beginning of this year in the Kohler schools. Her thoughts were that the assembly was probably about the Energy Saving Project Kohler School District implemented last year. But then State Superintendent Burmaster addresses the school saying she has an important award to present—the award for Wisconsin's Elementary Teacher of the Year. Lori looked around, thinking of a few of her colleagues who must be getting an award. When Superintendent Burmaster announced that Lori Neurohr was Wisconsin's Elementary Teacher of the Year, a friend sitting next to her had to tell her to go accept the award. She was astonished!

Lori is a 2nd grade teacher with the Kohler School District. She has been with the district for eight years. She grew up in upper Michigan and moved from Minneapolis to Sheboygan with her family



13 years ago. She started out her career in banking but after some time decided to follow her dream to be a teacher. She graduated from Lakeland College with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Elementary Education and then completed her Master's degree in Reading and Language Arts through Cardinal Stritch. She is married and has a son who is 18 and attends Sheboygan School District.

In October, 2007, a colleague nominated Lori for the Herb Kohl Educational Foundation Award which she received in March. From that nomination she qualified for the Teacher of the Year Award. In later September, she was invited to attend the State Superintendent's State of Education Speech where she was hon-

ored along with three other teachers who received the award in the categories of Middle/Junior High, High School, and Special Services. At this event each of the four recipients were given a 40 minute interview to qualify for the National Teacher of the Year nomination representing Wisconsin. Lori was chosen to move on to the National competition which will take place in April.

Lori's involvement in her local association has included being on the Bargaining Team. In her second or third year of teaching she was assigned to be part of the Bargaining team because of rotation. At that point in her career, she had no idea what her role was and learned so much by going through consensus bargaining. This time she fills a whole different capacity having the experience as a teacher and a past member of the bargaining team. Lori feels at this time, the issues impacting bargains are obviously financial and budgets are tight because of the revenue controls. She feels the impact these issues have in her classroom when she orders workbooks, watches aides be reassigned and has a decreased budget when (continued page 3)

WEAC Board Report, October 10 & 11, 2008

Diane Sixel, Lei Lund and Phil Knier

1. **School Funding (Priority #1):** Results from a recent public opinion poll shows that nearly seven out of 10 voters think changes are needed in school funding, and plans to activate members around this priority are moving forward. The research also identified some basic values that inform voter attitudes around school funding, such as 1) the need to provide all students with an opportunity for a great public education; 2) the need for a more effective funding system; 3) the need to keep our education tradition strong by investing in public schools.

UniSerts and locals through the state will be asked to join in the effort to develop a more effective school funding system as part of

the first phase of the School funding Action Plan. Members are being asked to share their stories of how the current school funding system impacts their daily lives and those of their students—and comment on their hopes for the future public education. A contest featuring Packers tickets will be implemented to motivate members to get involved. Your local president will have the details.

2. **Health Care (Priority #2):** Our health care principles will shape how our union approaches health care reform in the future, and the priority work team is garnering feedback from members as to what those principles will be. A member communication/education plan and draft

principles were outlined by Bob Baxter, director of Affiliate Relations and health care reform work team project manager. The team is working with locals and UniSerts to educate members about the health care crisis—and how they can make a difference to improve health care for all.

3. **Achievement Gaps, Professional Development and Licensure, and Member Engagement (Priorities #3, 4 and 5):** WEAC teams are working on timelines and collecting data in preparation for launching action plans around these priorities.

A special thanks to all activists who helped in the recent elections and for all who voted for pro-education candidates.

KMUC Board Report

Stacy Gloede, Board Vice President

The **KMUC Friend of Education Award** was created to recognize individuals or groups who support public education and its employees. KMUC members or locals can complete an application form and return to the KMUC Board of Directors for consideration any time during the year. Recipients of the award will be invited to appear at the KMUC RA for recognition and listed in the KMUC newsletter (end-of-the-year issue). You can visit the KMUC website at www.weac.org/kmuc to see complete details of the award and download an application.

The KMUC Board voted to support continued WEAC member-

ship in the **School Finance Network Coalition** according to the adopted school funding principles that WEAC has established and shared with UniSerts. These principles include:

- Providing sufficient resources so all children have an equal opportunity for a quality education
- A new system of funding to guarantee a base amount of resources to educate regular students to high standards and also provide enough resources to give the same opportunity to meet high standards to children with special needs,

those who live in poverty, and students with limited English skills while recognizing size, location and demographics of their school districts

- Reforming state tax so that new resources needed for school-funding reform come from the entire state rather than local taxes
- Continued tradition of local control trusting individual communities to decide how additional funding will be utilized and assuring accountability for improved student performance.

Lori Neurohr—Wisconsin Teacher of the Year (cont.)

supplying her classroom with the necessary supplies. Each year more money comes out of her pocket to meet the needs of the students. According to Lori, the connection between the union and classroom is important. When a bargain is going well, staff is more comfortable and relaxed in the classroom. If a bargain is not going well, it adds stress and impacts individuals at so many different levels. As one becomes more ex-

perienced as a teacher they earn the respect from their colleagues, administration and parents which all play a role in working together to accomplish an acceptable contract.

Lori will have the opportunity to travel to many different activities and conventions through this award. In April she will go to Washington DC where she will meet President Elect Obama. She will also spend a number of days at Space

Camp. She is honored to receive this award and feels there are so many others who are deserving of this award as well. She is fortunate to work with parents who believe in education, are educated themselves and participate in her classroom which makes her job easier. She has fun everyday and loves what she does.

We wish you luck in this endeavor to become the National Teacher of the Year, Lori.

“There are so many others deserving of this award as well.”

Just What is a UniServ?

This is a question frequently asked by new members. The term UniServ stands for Unified Services. A UniServ unit is a group of local associations, in the same geographic region, whose combined membership generally totals 1200 to 1500. Each UniServ unit—in financial partnership with WEAC and NEA—hires its own staff to assist locals in collective bargaining, member rights, public relations, professional development, political action and other areas. Each of the 31 UniServs has its own governance structure and elects officers. Major policy and spending decisions are made at an annual meeting format. UniServs elect one representative for every 1500 members to serve on the WEAC Board of Directors. Five large locals serve as their own UniServ units—Green Bay, Kenosha, Madison, Milwaukee, and Racine.

Confidentiality, Accommodations & Other Legal Issues

This training for ESP members will be held:

January 24, 2009
9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

Presented by: Joanne Huston, WEA Trust
KMUC Office

Lunch will be included

****Class is limited to 35 people.****

We're on the web!
www.weac.org/kmuc

What Lakeshore Technical College Requires from Students

Cindy Ellenbecker,
Communication Skills Instructor

One of the most frequently asked questions technical college instructors get asked by their K-12 counterparts is, "What areas do you see deficits in when students come to Lakeshore Technical College?"

I posed that question to my technical college colleagues. Their answers won't likely be a surprise; it would be my guess that K-12 teachers have a similar wish list that they could request from previous years' instructors as well as the parents. It goes like this:

WANTED: HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES WHO

1. Possess 12th grade reading skills.
2. Possess 12th grade math skills.
3. Have critical reading skills. (A quick once through in a college text won't be enough.)
4. Have work ethic (attend class on time, EACH time the class meets, have completed the assigned readings and participate discussions and projects).
5. Write grammatically correct sentences.
6. Think logically and know principles of reasoning; college is no longer about memorization, but it IS about applying principles, reasoning, and solving problems.

7. Read correspondence that instructors mail to them and register for classes on time.
8. Realize that higher education isn't Burger King: you can't have it your way (individualized tests in individualized time slots at your convenience).
9. Realize that warming a seat each week in college doesn't guarantee even a "D" nor does "trying really hard" (student's definition); the final product is what matters. We can't graduate a nurse, fireperson, or judicial reported who was simply "there" or who didn't pass anything but "tried hard".
10. Realize that 12 hours (12 credits) of technical college classes requires a minimum of 24 hours of reading and homework outside of the class IF you have 12th grade reading, writing, and thinking skills. More time will need to be devoted should your basic skills not be at a collegiate level.
11. Realize that it is the student's responsibility for his or her learning; you get out what you put in.
12. Respect their instructors and classmates, and treat everyone with civility; no employer will put up with an attitude; we won't either. Incivility can get you removed from the classroom, and it doesn't take 3 times; furthermore, your tuition is lost.

13. Are capable of doing real research from databases as well as summarizing and synthesizing what was learned or gleaned without plagiarizing. The college subscribes to turnitin.com, and it is a database so even recycling your own work doesn't cut it.

Lakeshore Technical College's largest programs by enrollment are nursing, pharmacy technician, accounting, criminal justice, farm business and production management, judicial reporting, electromechanical, early childhood education, and supervisory management. LTC faculty "facilitate learning" directly for employment. Can you imagine an employer in any one of these fields settling for less than the 13 points listed above? The technical college faculty spend much time in the actual work world environments teaching (144 companies served last year), so they know what employer demand; the stakes are high?

Getting a well-paying secure job is highly competitive! We're here to assist but responsibility lies with the students. Sadly, the factories are no longer a last resort if students can't or won't "cut it" in school.

Editor's Note: Please consider writing an article for this spot about your local. Contact Sarah for schedule.

KMUC Calendar

<p>November 12, 2008</p> <p>CBC/Presidents Meeting KMUC Office 6:00 p.m.</p>	<p>November 24, 2008</p> <p>Executive Committee Meeting KMUC Office 4:30 p.m.</p>		<p>November 27 & 28</p> <p>Thanksgiving Holiday Office Closed</p>	<p>December 8, 2008</p> <p>KMUC Board Meeting 6:00 p.m.</p>
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