

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Outreach Scholarship Community Partnership Award honors work to mentor new teachers

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EAST LANSING, Mich. - Most college students studying to be teachers think the hard part is over when they graduate and land their first teaching assignment.

Then they discover the “sink-or-swim” mentality that affects all aspects of their initial years as an education professional. In many cases it results in significant losses of high-quality teachers for urban school districts.

A researcher at MSU’s College of Education working to mentor and retain new teachers is the co-recipient of this year’s **Outreach Scholarship Community Partnership Award**.

Randi Nevins Stanulis, an associate professor in the Department of Teacher Education, is the award co-recipient for her work with the Lansing School District and the Lansing Schools Education Association. The partners collaboratively designed the Launch Into Teaching project, an intensive preparation program for mentors and principals to support teacher development. Stanulis also directed the development of a comprehensive Web-based resource, *Advocating Strong Standards-based Induction Support for Teachers (ASSIST Beginning Teachers)*, <http://assist.educ.msu.edu/ASSIST/>. Together these components create a cutting edge model that provides strong induction support for beginning teachers in Michigan, as well as support for veteran teachers and administrators.



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“Nearly half of urban teachers leave the profession within the first three to five years of teaching. Teacher turnover impacts schools and ultimately student performance. Research indicates that where effective induction assistance is provided, there is a 92 percent retention rate for beginning teachers. Our work focuses on developing and implementing methods and tools that foster growth and development for beginning teachers,” said Stanulis.

The Lansing School District is the community partner named as co-recipient of the award with Stanulis.

“Dr. Stanulis continues to provide creativity, vision, and leadership as a significant catalyst in our efforts to increase student achievement by supporting and retaining the best and the brightest new generation of classroom teachers,” said Sharon Banks, superintendent of Lansing schools. “The Lansing School District is honored to share this award.”

Funding for the project was made possible by the Carnegie Corporation’s Teachers for a New Era, the Michigan Department of Education, and the U.S. Department of Education.

The Outreach Scholarship Community Partnership Award is bestowed annually and provides University-wide recognition of highly engaged community-based research collaborations that positively impact both the community and the scholarship of MSU faculty work.

Dr. Stanulis and Dr. Banks will be recognized at the University’s annual Awards Convocation on Thursday, February 8, 2007 in the Pasant Theatre of the Wharton Center.

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