

It's official: Detroit schools want more FKPs

In March 2002, the Detroit Public Schools (DPS) extended their bond with the Detroit Executive Service Corps, signing a contract for the Financial Knowledge and Skills for Principals project (FKP). The new contract covers a 17-month period until July 2003, and includes an ambitious objective: to involve 100 more DPS educators in the program.

The move follows a successful pilot project during 2001 that resulted in improved financial management skills for principals at 29 schools. At least 100 DPS principals will team up with a financial mentor over the next 17 months. Principals will be able to work one-on-one to improve skills and gain confidence in their financial management roles.

DESC is presently recruiting the next group of volunteer mentors, who will be oriented and assigned to a principal before the end of the current school year. Each mentor functions as a personal financial trainer for the principal and related staff.

Interested volunteers need experience and skills in accounting, financial functions and public accounting. Mentoring requires a commitment of approximately a half-day per month for one year.

Questions about the FKP program can be directed to DESC Volunteer Coordinator Harvey Tull at 248-652-6164.



Representing the elements that have contributed to DESC's 20-year success story – dedication, strong local support and dynamic management – are (from left) Robert F. Magill Leadership Award winner Deb Cobb, former Mayor of Detroit Dennis Archer and DESC President Deanna McGraw.

Celebrating the volunteer spirit

A record crowd turned out to hear the comments of the city's former leading official at the Detroit Executive Service Corps' Fourth Annual Volunteer Recognition Luncheon.

Keynote speaker Dennis Archer told the audience at the May 16 event that his respect for DESC has roots in his years as Mayor of Detroit, and continues in his present role as Chairman of Dickinson Wright, PLLC.

His praise for the organization included not only DESC volunteers, but also the spouses who support their community-enhancing efforts.

Adding to the occasion was the presence of two distinguished DESC alumni: Fred Secrest and pioneer DESC Board Chairman Robert Magill, who presented the first Leadership Award named in his honor.

Among the day's highlights was the naming of the Corps' 2001 Outstanding Service Award recipients. In addition to Deb Cobb (pictured above), Suzanne Dibble earned Consultant honors, while James Conlan took the Education award. Their names will be engraved on a permanent plaque on display at DESC headquarters.

Receiving the Corporate Award for its generous support in 2001 was DTE Energy.

Recruitment for 2002-2003 program already underway

Launched by the Detroit Executive Service Corps in 1999, the Principal Leadership Development Program (PLDP) started with a simple mandate: to nurture the leadership and management skills of school administrators, with an emphasis on business operations.

The Corps' success in fulfilling that mandate is evident as the PLDP completes its third year of operation. In three years, it has gone from a pilot program serving 14 principals from three districts, to two programs for 35 principals and a third for 25 assistant principals from 10 school districts and several charter schools.

A review of the evaluations completed by participants for each of the PLDP's six sessions reveals the reasons:

■ Knowledgeable guides

The quality of the presenters rated high with respondents. Comments like, "Presenters were outstanding," "Facilitators made it very interesting and usable for each person here," and "It was helpful to hear from someone in a successful business," were typical.

■ Practical information

The usefulness of topics covered in the six sessions and how they were presented also drew favorable reviews.

"Pertinent information – very applicable to present job circumstances," wrote one principal. "Information is easy to understand and apply to everyday issues."

"Useful information presented well," another noted.

■ A strong design

Several comments addressed how effectively the seminars were structured. Remarks like, "Well planned, well delivered, excellent collaboration among members of the series," reflected the careful planning that went into this aspect of the program.

■ Networking with peers

From the beginning, a chief DESC goal was to draw principals from several districts, providing the ideal climate to demonstrate and encourage the power of networking. As they progressed through the six

seminars, the educators were grouped in different ways, so that by the end of the program they'd had a chance to interact with everyone.

They have exchanged telephone numbers and email addresses, arranged visits to each other's schools, and want to continue their discussion about leadership with a monthly "virtual" discussion. Most will attend a "reunion" dinner scheduled for January, 2003.

■ New participants sought

Recruiting efforts for the 2002-03 PLDP are underway. A brochure has been developed and sent to the majority of superintendents in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties.

Follow-up visits and telephone calls are currently taking place to explain the program and to recruit principals and assistant principals for next year's program. Participants from the 2001-2002 programs also recommended their colleagues, and follow-up telephone calls on those suggestions will be made during June.

THE BASICS

WHAT: A program to develop leadership

WHO FOR: Principals and Assistant Principals in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties

WHERE: Southfield Education Center, 16299 Mt. Vernon, Southfield

WHEN: Six seminars on Leadership & Management Skills: October, November 2002; January, March, April, May, 2003; 8:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m. Specific dates to be determined.

COST: \$300

CREDIT: 3.6 CEUs or 3 Graduate Credits

ENROLLMENT DEADLINE: June 28, 2002

CONTACT: Sherry Lafnear, 248-395-2840, email: slafnear@esc-detroit.org

The goal is to continue with two programs for principals and one for assistant principals, attracting participants from several schools districts, charter and private schools.

Consultant Workshops

◆ **TECHNOLOGY NPOWER**
9:30 a.m. June 11

◆ **CASE SHARING**
1:00 p.m. July 17

◆ **FUND-RAISING**
9:30 a.m. August 8

◆ **STRATEGIC PLANNING**
9:30 a.m. September 12

Wanted: A few (dozen) good volunteers

TRADITIONAL

During the first four months of 2002, a total of 23 new consulting clients started projects with the Detroit Executive Service Corps.

The result is clear. "With this level of activity and more clients coming, we are in continual need of more volunteers," Project Coordinator Harvey Tull said. He suggests all DESC members ask their present and/or former business associates and friends to consider the many benefits of joining DESC.

NOT-SO-TRADITIONAL

Like to interact with young people? Is a flair for engineering, technology or the mechanical among your strengths? Consider becoming a DESC volunteer for the Detroit FIRST Lego League.

Volunteers are currently being sought to work with eighth-grade students to design and build robots for this exciting annual competition. The commitment is weekly, from October through mid-December.

For more information on these or other volunteer opportunities, call Deanna McGraw at 248-395-2840



DESC links students with DaimlerChrysler CEO

On February 11, DaimlerChrysler CEO Dieter Zetsche addressed the Economic Club of Detroit.

Thanks to an arrangement between the Detroit Executive Service Corps and DaimlerChrysler (DCX), students from Foch and Southeastern schools were able to take part in this high-level event.

Prior to the luncheon, Zetsche met with the young people for a question-and-answer session relating to his career and

employment opportunities in Detroit.

DESC has provided programs at Foch Middle School and Southeastern High School for years. They are located in the vicinity of DaimlerChrysler near the ChryslerNorth plant. A number of DCX supervisory employees have participated in these programs. The parents of many students work in DCX plants.

Zetsche appears above in the center of the photograph taken on this occasion. In

addition to the students, others present include: W. Frank Fountain, DCX Senior Vice President; William J. Adams, DESC Chairman; Charlie MacGregor, DESC Vice Chairman; Richard Bortfeld, former DESC Chairman; Jameson Teamor, DESC Vice President of Education Programs; Greg Ulferts, DESC Director; Carl Smith, DESC Director; William R. Halling, Economic Club President; and Brenda Gatlin, Southeastern High School Principal.

Area nonprofits gain a pair of helpful partners

The work of nonprofit organizations not only brings a better quality of life to communities, it also reaches out to those most in need. Many of these agencies struggle to achieve their mission with limited resources.

Now, with support and hard work from the whole community, two new organizations have been created to help nonprofits meet that challenge by addressing two critical issues: technology and the need for a strategic alliance in attracting national dollars to the Detroit area.

NPower opened for business early in 2002. The mission is to help non-profits achieve their goals by integrating the appropriate use of technology into their day-to-day work and direct service delivery. This will be done with training, support in technology planning, and the management of technology. NPower can be reached at 313-267-9550.

City Connect was developed by local foundations, the City of Detroit, and nonprofit leaders who recognized that the Detroit metropolitan area lacked a com-

prehensive system to draw federal and national foundation dollars. National dollars are often dependent upon alliances of local city governments and nonprofit organizations. Offering a fast-track system of notification of grant opportunities, support for the building of alliances, and grant writing assistance, City Connect can be reached at 313-963-9722.

DESC is working with both organizations to develop partnerships, furthering our common missions of improving the effectiveness of area nonprofits.

The secret of DESC's success? It's all about staffing

Commitment and dedication are the hallmarks of Detroit Executive Service Corps volunteers. Their efforts have been the basis for 20 years of expanding service to the non-profit community.

However, that success is also dependent upon the seldom-seen support work of the DESC staff. The job of each staff member is to direct, organize, focus and coordinate all of the work done by volunteers. DESC is indeed fortunate to have this skilled and motivated team to ensure volunteer jobs run smoothly:



DEMONSTRATING THE TEAM SPIRIT that has just helped them orchestrate yet another successful function (the Fourth Annual DESC Volunteer Recognition Luncheon) are Corps staffers (from left) Jackie Redmond, Jameson Teamor, Sherry Lafnear and Harriett Rivers.

Joining the DESC Team

... as Consultants

- ❖ Jerry Beebe, Executive VP, Knusaga Corporation
- ❖ David Boerger, Assist.to the President, Kettering University
- ❖ Paul Geiger, Senior VP & CFO, Kelly Services Inc.
- ❖ Tony Tam, Chief Financial Officer, National TechTeam

... as Dialoguers

- ❖ Cheryl Ajamw
Vanguard Media
- ❖ Janice Blackman
Standard Federal Bank
- ❖ Reggie Boerger
College Student
- ❖ Bill Counts, LOGICAL
- ❖ Raggeria Goodard
Comerica Bank
- ❖ Simon Gonzalez
Ford Motor Company
- ❖ Eric Huffman, Agent
State Farm Insurance
- ❖ Antoinette Johnson
State Farm Insurance
- ❖ Melissa Keller, AmeriCorps
- ❖ Darrell Kirby, Oakland County
- ❖ Larry Leib, Detroit Rotary
- ❖ Tamarsha Marzette
U of M Dearborn
- ❖ Dequanie McNeal
State Farm Insurance
- ❖ Vivian Palmer
Crockett Career Center
- ❖ Ramon Patrick, Entrepreneur
- ❖ Tasha Pernell
State Farm Insurance
- ❖ Karae Powers, U of M
- ❖ Chevis Spratt, DTE Energy
- ❖ Floyd Washington
Ford Motor Company Fund
- ❖ Rhonda Williams, Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Michigan
- ❖ Vernell Wilson, Target Stores
- ❖ Kimberly Young, Partners Plus, U of M Dearborn

Jameson Teamor joined the staff almost a year ago as Vice President of Education following 10 years as a volunteer, and shortly after his retirement from ANR Pipeline. Jameson's commitment to children has played well with the DESC mission to support students in obtaining their education. His background includes a BA in Psychology and experience in human resources.

Jackie Redmond is DESC's longest-tenured employee, with eight years of service to her credit. As the Consultant and Administrative Manager, Jackie manages the work of the Board, consultant training, and traditional clients. Her prior experience with United Way Community Services and Compact has strengthened the Corps' volunteer systems.

Harriett Rivers' people skills have helped DESC's expansion of education programs and development. As Manager of these areas, she has persisted in moving the programs forward. Harriett's former work with the Bishop of AME Church in South Carolina and Henry Ford Health Systems prepared her for her current work with schools, corporations, foundations and volunteers.

Sherry Lafnear, the Corps' most recent hire, brought 10 years of business experience to

her new post. Her computer and organizational skills helped her take on the challenge of managing DESC's new consulting programs (Leaders Circle, Financial Knowledge and Skills, and Principal Leadership Development).

The following outstanding consultants direct special activities and programs: Development Director Bill Grier; Leaders Circle Director Linda Campbell; and Principal Leadership Development Director Karen Roth, PhD.

June Communicator Contributors



Dr. Karen Roth, DESC Board



Harvey Tull, DESC Project Coordinator



Bill Grier, DESC Development Director

DESC COMMUNICATOR

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DESC is a not-for-profit organization of both retired and active executives who give management counsel to non-profit agencies, governmental units and public schools on a voluntary basis.

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