FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Find the complete information on this initiative and the full text of the featured report at:
www.greatlakescenter.org

Expanding Access To Existing Research:

Great Lakes Center Adds New Research Initiative To Enhance The Dissemination Of Credible And Relevant Research To The Center’s Extensive Network

Lansing, MI— After the successful publication of the research on “The Intended and Unintended Impact of High Stakes Testing” (published in December 2002), the Great Lakes Center launches a new research component that will enhance how the Center disseminates good, clean, research to constituencies throughout the region and the nation. The Great Lakes Center for Education Research and Practice is a Michigan-based think tank focused on the qualitative improvement of public schools.

This new initiative distributes research from key research universities and think tanks through the Center’s network of regional education affiliates, state legislatures, and collegial groups.

The overall goal is simple: put more relevant research from credible sources into the hands of parents, teachers and education decision makers.

There are two primary objectives for this initiative. The first is to increase the visibility and credibility of the Center. This will be accomplished by publishing more articles and papers on pertinent education issues and distributing them to our nearly 600,000 members, as well as, additional interested parties.

The second is to create relationships with highly regarded research institutions, both university-based and nonprofit. These institutions spend time and resources writing on topics that are significant to the issues facing public schools today. The Center has developed a mechanism to disseminate their findings to a broad audience.
The Center is honored to launch this new initiative with an award winning dissertation authored by Dr. Nelson Maylone of Eastern Michigan University. The research is entitled “The Relationship of Socioeconomic Factors and District Scores on the Michigan Education Assessment Program Tests: An Analysis” and was awarded the Phi Delta Kappa International Outstanding Doctoral Dissertations Award in December 2002.

The research analyzes the correlation between district socioeconomic factors and student achievement and asks direct questions about how Michigan Education Assessment Program (MEAP) scores relate to the socioeconomic conditions of students.

According to Dr. Maylone, “The chief implication of the findings is that public policies that decrease child poverty may hold more potential toward increasing student academic achievement than do high stakes testing and accountability plans.”

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The Great Lakes Center for Education Research and Practice (the Center) is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization dedicated to the qualitative improvement and healthy growth of all public schools in the great lakes region. The Center is comprised of National Education Association State Education Affiliate Associations from Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin. These state affiliates represent nearly 600,000 members. Please visit the Center website at www.greatlakescenter.org.

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