



# WestWinds

The Newsletter of West 40 Intermediate Service Center No. 2

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Kay Poyner Brown, Executive Director

## West 40 Staff: Working For You

Educators in West 40's districts are probably aware of the many services that West 40 offers. Professional development courses, school improvement activities, certification, and targeted assistance to districts are but a few of the many ways West 40 provides education and support.

What educators may not know are the myriad extra activities that West 40 staff members engage in that help them provide high quality leadership to schools. Furthering their own professional development, participating in state and federal initiatives, joining committees to research and learn the newest practices in education, even providing translation services for schools/families; through these efforts, and others, the staff assures that West Cook schools receive knowledgeable, professional assistance and leadership of the highest quality.

Here are a few examples of the staff's recent "pro bono" development activities:

### **Kay Poyner Brown, Executive Director**

Served on the ISBE Task Force on *Eliminating Racial Bias in Suspensions and Expulsions*; and on the ISBE task force *Streamlining Intermediate Delivery of Educational Services*; member of the *Illinois Association of Regional School Superintendents Standing Committee on Professional Development* and *IARSS Professional Development Committee* project teams on proposal development for statewide delivery of *Response to Intervention Services*; planning for statewide delivery of *Common Core Standards Institute* for summer 2011.

### **Jennifer Aldred Berry, Teacher Development Consultant**

Developed a matrix for PTA National Standards, Social Emotional Learning Standards' core competency components, Forty Developmental Assets, and the Resiliency Factors, to determine the degree to which parents can be engaged and involved in more complex ways; collaborated with the *Parent Educator Partnership* (a division of ISBE/Illinois Statewide Technical Assistance Center) to develop a cohort of district-sponsored parent mentors across the state, training parents, community members and district personnel in developing partnerships with each other to support student learning and achievement; beginning relations with, and primary contact for, the *Harvard Family Research Project*; guest lecturer Triton College, Elmhurst College, and Benedictine University; presenter *Golden Apple Scholarship Program*. *Continues on page three*

## **SUMMER CERTIFICATION**

Have certification questions? West 40 continues to offer informative Certification Help Sessions throughout the summer. Scheduled dates are June 13, July 6, and July 20 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Please register online.

Summer certification hours are Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to noon, and 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Certification will be closed July fourth and fifth.

For further certification information call West 40: (708) 544-4890.

**WEST40**

**Collaborative  
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## Celebrating Milestones

West 40 is celebrating a host of milestones this year. The agency is observing its twenty-fifth year of service to the students and educators of west Cook County. In March, the **School Citizen of the Year (SCOTY)** awards marked 15 years with a record-breaking number of SCOTY recipients (see related article below). The popular **Speech and Drama Festival**, held annually in February, turned 25 this year. And for 22 years, thousands of children throughout the region have experienced and marveled at the emergence of the **Painted Lady Butterflies**, made possible by kits sold by West 40.

West 40 continues its traditions, while expanding its services. This year also marks the first year of the implementation of comprehensive services such as teacher/administrator certification, background checks, health/life safety inspections, issuance of building permits, Project TAPESTRY, and McKenney-Vento support.

On this anniversary, West 40 looks forward to its second quarter-century of service through leadership and advocacy to the region's students, parents and educators.

For the past 25 years, **Pat Braun**, language arts teacher, Roosevelt Middle School, River Forest District 90, has overseen the West 40 Speech and Drama Festival. Pat begins with a workshop each fall, then organizes the entire event. Students have given over 10,000 performances since the Festival began. This year, about 400 students participated in the competition that showcases students' dramatic presentation skills. "Her leadership has contributed to the event's longevity and success," stated Kay Poyner Brown, West 40 executive director. Two teachers have coached for 25 years: **Kathy Stone**, LaGrange District 105, and **Diane Pingle**, Oak Park District 97. The West 40 family extends its appreciation to the three, and to everyone whose efforts have contributed to the Speech and Drama Festival's success.

### *Culture of West 40*

*West 40 is a unique educational agency that emphasizes shared leadership among its staff, who function as a team. Each team member is accountable for the organization's success. Through its family approach, West 40 staff members share responsibilities, helping wherever there is a need, throughout all aspects of West 40's operation.*

## NEWS & NOTES

### **Education Never Ends: Summer at West 40**

West 40 is open all summer! Take a class, get certification assistance, and/or explore the materials in the West 40 Literacy Lending Library. Go to [www.west40.org](http://www.west40.org) to view the summer Professional Development Programs, or see the Summer Professional Development brochure that was mailed to schools.

West 40 summer hours are 8:00 a.m.– 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Certification hours are 10:00 a.m. to noon, and 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. West 40 is closed holidays.

### **Project TAPESTRY**

Students at West Leyden and the Proviso high schools are benefiting from West 40's Project TAPESTRY, funded by a \$1.5 million federal grant. Through 2015, each school will have about six West 40 employees whose sole work is to keep students in school. Whether it's an early morning call to get students out of bed and to school on time, or interfacing with families, the TAPESTRY staff will do whatever it takes to help students who are at risk of dropping

out. Project TAPESTRY staff will continue their work with students over the summer.

### **SCOTY Beats Record**

A record number: 100 students were recognized at the fifteenth Annual School Citizens of the Year (SCOTY) Awards, held March 23 at Mannheim Middle School. The students, recognized as outstanding role models, received a medal, certificate, and a booklet with information on each award recipient. Students and their guests enjoyed entertainment by magician Jeff Bibek, and refreshments after the ceremony. Over the years, the SCOTY awards have recognized over 1,300 school citizens!



### **Painted Ladies Return**

The Painted Ladies Butterflies are an annual West 40 ritual. This spring, area educators purchased 674 kits with 3-5 butterfly larvae, nutrients and instructions. The kits are a wonderful opportunity for students to experience the lifecycle of the Painted Lady butterfly. After several weeks, over 2,000 butterflies emerged.

## Regional Safe Schools Report

This year, the West 40 Regional Safe School/Middle School served students at capacity. Although impacted by budget constraints, students enjoyed a modified after-school program. Over 75% of the students participated in one or more after-school clubs.

Family partnerships were strong, with well-attended family events. Four family night celebrations had 100% family attendance!

Interim Site Director Karen Tiemann reported, "We are excited to offer each one of our students group counseling through our Youth Outreach counselor, Sandra Guzman. As a result, some of our families are receiving additional services at the Youth Outreach Offices."

Eleven eighth graders will graduate from the school. Graduates were accepted to attend Proviso Math and Science Academy, St. Joseph, and Mount Carmel high schools. Some of the students will continue work-

ing with West 40 mentors at Proviso or Leyden high schools through the TAPESTRY Program.

In April, the first-year site director of West 40's HARBOR Academy Alternative High School, Kermit Blakley, stated that the school has served about 50 students so far. By spring, 37 students were enrolled. In January, four students graduated, and two had returned to their home schools. In June, four students are anticipated to graduate and four or five students return to their home schools.

"This year has been a great learning experience and has been challenging—and rewarding. Our goal from the beginning of the school year was, and continues to be, building multi-faceted relationships with our students

via Social Emotional Learning and advisory time. We strive to make connections by building a trusting and caring school community that embraces students who need more adult assistance in their lives," Mr. Blakley concluded.



### Honor An Educator

Honor an educator for his/her contribution to students! Difficult economic times and the state's financial crisis have deeply impacted the West 40 Regional Safe Schools program. Today, the needs of at-risk students are greater than ever. Consider a contribution to NFP to honor a colleague; a great way to acknowledge a retiring teacher, administrator, staff or board member!

The West 40 Not for Profit (NFP) helps local students in regional safe schools through after-school clubs that kept kids off the streets and by helping them develop leadership skills.

Send donations to West 40 Education NFP, 2701 W. Washington Boulevard, Bellwood, IL 60104. Please indicate name, position, school and district of the educator the contribution will honor, in addition to the contributor's information. Indicate your willingness to be publicly recognized for your contribution. For West 40 NFP information, contact Karen Tiemann: (708) 447-2515, or [ktiemann@west40.org](mailto:ktiemann@west40.org).

## West 40 Staff: Working For You

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### Maritza Guilamo, System of Support Specialist

Leader of grant-funded *Content and Language Integration as a Means of Building Success* (CLIMBS) program for West 40 schools (one of two locations in the country for pilot program); participated in the 2011 *Standards Amplification Training* sponsored by the World-Class Instructional Design and Assessment (WIDA) Consortium, in an effort to review the WIDA English Language Proficiency Standards Indicators so they can better align with the Core Standards.

### Jacqueline Peña, Administrative Assistant for Office Operations/Parent Advocate

Through West 40: *SEL Parent Liaison*; translator for parent interaction and educational documents, and translator at school Parent Nights.

### Lisa Hopson Teamer, Literacy Consultant

Developer of *West 40 Educational Technology Training and Technical Assistance*; *West 40 Facilitator for Cultural Awareness*.

### Susan Schultz, Literacy Consultant

Reviewer and contact for ISBE's *Reading First* online literacy trainings. Coordinator of professional book study groups for area literacy leaders. Judge for regional Spelling Bee competition.

### Hillyn Sennholtz, Director of Improvement, Support and Innovation

As an advisor to *Parent Educator Partnerships (PEP)*: Conducted a Web-n-Nar on *Response to Intervention*; spoke at the 2010 and 2011 PEP conferences on *Parent Involvement through RtI*; conducted Pt3 activities (*Parents and Teachers Talking Together*) to identify commonalities among parents and educators around the questions 1. What do we want for our students? and, 2. What do we need to do to get what we want for our students?

Panel presenter, with the Illinois PTA president, at the *Coalition for Illinois High Schools Conference*; committee member to review and expand *Rising Star* indicators to add depth and completeness; member of the design team for initial *Rising Star* training for Illinois RESPRO coaches. (*Rising Star* is a comprehensive School Improvement Model for schools and districts to address an ongoing and continuous improvement process); treasurer, Illinois Chapter of *Learning Forward* (previously named The Illinois Chapter for Staff Development).

### Leslie Wilson, System of Support Specialist

Founding member and president of the *Coalition for Illinois High Schools (CfIHS)*, which will host its sixth annual High School Challenge Conference in June. Leslie Wilson and CfIHS will also share the organization's *Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Reauthorization Task Force* report with State Superintendent Koch in June.

Steven Bogren,  
Principal  
Hillside District 93  
*President Elect*

Al Fang,  
School Board Member  
Elmwood Park CUSD 401

Deborah Floto,  
Teacher  
River Grove District 85½

Debbie Baness King,  
Dean  
Triton College

Katie Mussio,  
Teacher  
Elmwood Park High School  
CUSD 401

David Nemec,  
Superintendent  
Franklin Park District 84  
*Past President*

Neil Pellicci,  
Superintendent  
Komarek District 94  
*President*

Judith Sayre,  
Teacher  
Riverside District 96  
*Board Secretary*

Glenn Schlichting,  
Superintendent  
LaGrange South District 105

Eva Smith,  
Superintendent  
Berkeley District 87

Robert Dyer,  
Superintendent  
LaGrange Highlands District 106  
*Administrative Agent for  
West 40, Ex-Officio*

## Districts Make AYP, Illinois Honor Roll

The Annual Yearly Progress (AYP) requirements continue to rise, making AYP attainment more difficult each year. In 2010, fifty-five schools in the West 40 region made AYP. Since 2003, when the *No Child Left Behind* legislation made schools accountable for reaching AYP, **34 schools in the region have attained a remarkable goal: they achieved AYP every year** (see chart below).

*In eight districts, all of the schools within the district achieved AYP every year since 2003. These districts are **Rosemont ESD 78, Pennoyer 79, River Forest 90, Union Ridge 86, Riverside 96, Western Springs 101, LaGrange Highlands 106 and Pleasantdale 107.***

On the Illinois Honor Roll, the West Cook region had 12 **Spotlight Schools**—high-poverty schools where high academic performance is closing the “achievement gap,” with at least 77.5% of students passing state tests in math and English. They are: **Lincoln Middle School and Washington Elementary, District 81; Jane Addams, District 89; Whittier and Jefferson, District 98; McKinley and Sherlock, District 99; Emerson, Hiawatha and Piper, District 100; Edison and Lincoln, District 103.**

Twenty West Cook schools were recognized on the Honor Roll for **Academic Excellence**—at least 90% of students met or exceeded state standards in reading and mathematics for at least three consecutive years. They are: **Rosemont, District 78; Pennoyer, District 79; J. Giles, District 80; Roosevelt, Lincoln and Willard schools, District 90; Hauser Jr. High, Central, and Hollywood schools, District 96; Horace Mann, District 97; McClure Jr. High, Field Park, Forest Hills and John Laidlaw schools, District 101; Ogden Avenue, District 102; Spring Avenue, District 105; Highlands Middle and Elementary schools, District 106; Pleasantdale Middle and Elementary schools, District 107.**

### WEST 40 SCHOOLS THAT MADE AYP EVERY YEAR SINCE 2003

District	School(s)
Rosemont ESD 78*	Rosemont Elementary
Pennoyer 79*	Pennoyer Elementary
Norridge 80	Leigh Elementary
Schiller Park 81	Washington Elementary
Franklin Park 84	North Elementary
Union Ridge 86*	Union Ridge Elementary
Maywood-Melrose Pk.-Broadview 89	Jane Addams Elementary
River Forest 90*	Lincoln and Willard Elementary, Roosevelt M.S.
Forest Park 91	Betsy Ross and Garfield Elementary
Westchester 92½	Westchester Primary, Westchester M.S.
Riverside 96*	Ames, Blythe Park, Central, and Hollywood Elementary; Hauser M.S.
Oak Park ESD 97	Horace Mann and Longfellow Elementary
Cicero 99	McKinley and Sherlock Elementary
Berwyn South 100	Piper School
Western Springs 101*	Field Park, Forest Hills, J. Laidlaw Elementary, McClure Jr. High
LaGrange 102	Ogden Elementary
Lyons 102	Edison Elementary School
LaGrange Highlands 106*	Highlands Elementary, Highlands M.S.
Pleasantdale 107*	Pleasantdale Elementary, Pleasantdale M.S.

\*All of the schools in the district have achieved AYP each year since 2003.

Congratulations to the administrators, teachers, staff, parents and students whose hard work has helped schools attain AYP status. For further information, and to see the this year's Illinois Honor Roll of Schools, visit [www.ilhonorroll.niu.edu/](http://www.ilhonorroll.niu.edu/).

Register Online for West 40  
Professional Development  
Programs:  
[www.west40.org](http://www.west40.org)