

# Excellence in Teaching and Learning

*Meeting Educational Challenges in Difficult Times*

**October 21-22, 2011**

**A joint conference of  
the Michigan Association of Teacher Educators and the  
Michigan Association for Gifted Children**

**Detroit, MI**

The Excellence in Teaching and Learning conference will host presentations by Michigan leaders in education, including a keynote address from State Board of Education Vice President Dr. Casandra Ulbrich.

There will be something for everyone, but the sessions below may be of particular interest to the families of gifted students and MAGC members.

## **Big Words, Big Thoughts, Little Bodies**

A young child talking like an adult yet crying the next moment? and questions only a parent should handle? What am I dealing with? Learn about children who remember everything, question constantly, yet can exhibit extremes emotions. Gain insight about the wiring of these 'little brains', their complexities and unique view of the world. Handouts helpful to both teacher and parents for understanding and meeting needs.

**Presenters:** Marie Brucker, M.Ed., VP for President Chapters, MAGC and Lynn Pomerleau, M.Ed.

## **Fact or Fiction: Getting to the Truth of Gifted Education**

The dissemination of research on gifted education, allows attendees to discern between the myths of gifted education and the realities faced by today's advanced and accelerated learners.

**Presenter:** Nan Janecke, Assistant Program Coordinator, Academically Talented Youth Program, Western Michigan University

## **Organizational Strategies for Gifted Students**

Learn methods and techniques for use at home and at school to help your student become more organized. Counselors, teachers, parents, and students can all benefit from these "how-to tips".

**Presenter:** Kelly Shultz, Academically Talented Youth Program, Western Michigan University

## **Invitational Learning: Creating Classrooms with Enthusiasm**

Learning thrives where there is enthusiasm in the classroom. Invitational Learning provides a model that helps students demonstrate academic growth and teachers find real joy in teaching. This interactive session highlights key assumptions of Purkey's Theory of Invitational Learning including respect, trust, optimism and intentionality. Strategies and resources are included.

**Presenters:** Ellen D. Fiedler, Ph.D., Wings for Education, LLC and Michele Kane, Ed.D., Northeastern Illinois University

## **A Family Tool Kit for Raising a Thinking Person**

Gifted and talented individuals, possess characteristics and temperaments that translate into highly sensitive interpersonal relationships. Families that consciously and regularly practice effective thinking and conversation strategies maximize love and productivity within their homes.

**Presenter:** Sherry Sparks, MightyMindz , Inc., Development for High Ability and G/T Children, Youth, and Adults



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[www.michiganate.com](http://www.michiganate.com)

