

Making science 'user friendly' for minorities

An Oakland University professor is helping Michigan school districts develop kindergarten through 12th grade science curricula that are more "user friendly" for women and minorities.

Stereotypes portrayed in lesson plans or in unconscious traits of the classroom teacher often combine to track minorities and women out of science, said Dawn Pickard of the OU School of Education and Human Services.

Pickard and OU are working as part of a group of universities, school districts, local schools and the Department of Education. They, along with an advisory committee, are helping interested school districts develop new science curricula throughout the state.

Pickard has received nearly \$80,000 in two competitive grants

through the State Department of Education to support her work on the project.

The OU professor explains that the Michigan program is dedicated to improving the sensitivity and awareness of teachers concerning equity issues in science curriculum development.

"RESEARCH SHOWS that we have not done a good job in helping all women, men of color, hearing and sight impaired, and others who are physically disabled to enter careers in science," Pickard says.

Pickard's project will help school districts deal with the issue of equity — the development of science materials and teaching methods — that recognize multicultural concerns and strengths and how they impact on the learning process.

A lot of little problems in text language and teaching styles can combine to send the wrong messages to women and minorities, Pickard said. The examples can be as overt as the use of only white males to portray careers in space or as covert as a particular teaching style or questioning strategy.

As an example, Pickard offers the teacher who unintentionally asks males science questions requiring synthesizing of several concepts and asks women questions requiring simple recall facts or information.

Or, Pickard says, look at the use of a teaching style that clusters male students around equipment to do experiments while the females take notes, watching science being done without ever getting their hands dirty.

"The messages get through," Pickard says, "science is for white males."

PICKARD SAYS teachers must learn to be more sensitive to the stereotyping of women and minorities and to realize that "meaning is constructed by all the many things in a person's mind, a powerful piece of which is cultural background."

Teachers in all classrooms must realize that "culture colors behavior." For example, she says, "boys in some cultures are taught to be macho and to not respect females or even female teachers. Some female students come from backgrounds where they are taught to be submissive and even expected to leave school at a certain date to enter an arranged marriage."

Pickard said that "other students from some cultures are taught the importance of the group and that

students may become uneasy when singled out in class for praise or for criticism."

The teachers feel that if the goal of science education is success for all learners, then "we need to be aware and sensitive to the beliefs kids bring to the classroom, even if they conflict with a teacher's beliefs or the norms of our culture."

As part of Pickard's project, teams of teachers and administrators from various school districts will be trained in developing science curricula that include and respect the diversity of people who do science.



Dawn Pickard
OU professor

Free auto emission test

In honor of Earth Day, car owners will be able to get a free auto emission test (AET) from noon to 3 p.m. Sunday to check their exhausts for the presence of hydrocarbons that contribute to the so-called greenhouse effect and damage the ozone layer.

The AETs take about 10 minutes and normally cost \$10. Michigan re-

quires the tests before reregistering automobiles.

The tests offered Sunday — good for six months — are available at area Precision Tune auto centers including those in Rochester, Southfield, Troy, Walled Lake, Farmington Hills, Plymouth, Dearborn Heights and Westland.

PREVIOUSLY OWNED HIGH QUALITY FURNITURE AND DECORATIVE ACCESSORIES

WANTED

FOR RE-SALE TO DISCRIMINATE BUYERS
PROTECT YOUR PRIVACY

AVOID THE HASSLE. WE'LL DISPLAY IT IN OUR SHOWROOM.
ADVERTISEMENT AND SELL IT FOR YOU. PICK UP AVAILABLE.

CALL 1-800-SELL FOR DETAILS
SINCE 1981

34769 GRAND RIVER FARMINGTON

MICHIGAN TENT & AWNING CO.

BEAUTIFY YOUR HOME WHILE YOU REDUCE HEAT GAIN TO SAVE ENERGY & COOLING COSTS

CUSTOM STYLES AND COLORS
PERMANIZED WITH VINYL AND SILICONE
DECORATOR FABRICS Designed for all Weather
• HELPS PREVENT SUN FADE ON DRAPES

CALL NOW FOR FREE ESTIMATE 894-4400
Serving Detroit & Suburbs Since 1926

Thinking of Remodeling?

Bob Stern
Building Company

For over 25 years, the word quality has been synonymous with the Bob Stern Bldg. Co. "I promote quality at every level. I will give you the most for your money — I always have!"

When the customer isn't sure what he or she wants when adding a room to an existing home, remodeling a wing, or remodeling a kitchen or bath, Bob Stern, president of Bob Stern Bldg. Co. can solve those problems.

Tradesmen used on our jobs — electricians, bricklayers, plumbers, etc. — have been with us for years. You know we won't accept anything but the best. It's a partnership in pride. And that's a scarce item.

Recommended by Designers

It has the highest compliments paid. Stern are the number of top interior designers who recommend him to their clients.

For Your Free Consultation:
855-3880
6190 Dunmore, West Bloomfield



Judging from the enthusiastic endorsements he has received from many, many Oakland County residents, it would seem that Mr. Stern does in fact transfer his own personal interests to the customer in providing their satisfaction.

Modernizing your home is a personalized thing. Without obligation, Bob Stern will meet you at your convenience to discuss your plans. He'll give you a firm price quotation, suggest helpful ways to cut costs without cutting quality, and make sure you will be happy with the results.

SOME OF THE BEST MANAGERS IN THE WORLD HAVE DIABETES.

Controlling glucose levels is the management challenge of a lifetime.

There are blood tests to conduct, exercise routines to plan, and special meals to prepare.

And for nearly one million Americans with insulin-dependent diabetes, daily injections to administer.

Not to mention coping with the stress of knowing diabetes can lead to heart disease, kidney disease, and blindness.

For all the work they do, people with diabetes deserve more than a pat on the back. They deserve a cure.

Support the research of the American Diabetes Association.

THE RA-PID-GRO TWO FOR THE PRICE OF ONE SALE.

Plant Food

For a limited time, you can buy two 1-lb. packages of RA-PID-GRO Plant Food, Bloom Builder or 20/20/20 for the price of just one. That's a value of \$3.49.

Not counting all the extra growth you'll get out of your vegetables, flowers, shrubs and plants. And there's no limit to how many jars you can purchase.

RA-PID-GRO's special formula of nutrients grows bigger, healthier indoors and out.

And it's so easy to use. Simply mix in water and apply it with any mister, sprayer or watering device. The results garden grow.

The results have been called unbelievable. So make sure you take advantage of this special offer. Get two pounds of RA-PID-GRO for the price of one.

And get a lot more out of your garden and plants.

- AVAILABLE AT THESE FINE GARDEN SUPPLY STORES:
- | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| ACO Hardware Stores
Builder's Square Stores
Church's Lumber | Damman Hardware Stores
English Gardens
Frank's Nursery & Crafts | Hardy, Andy-Forest City Stores
K-Mart Stores
Major Stores | Quality Stores
Sears Stores |
| BIRMINGHAM
Maskill's True Value Hardware | EAST DETROIT
Evergreen Garden Center | HOLLY
Freeman's Garden Center | WILMINGTON
Northside True Value Hardware |
| CLINTON TOWNSHIP
Evergreen Garden Center | FARMINGTON
Stinkopf Nursery | LIVONIA
Livonia True Value | WESTLAND
Clyde Smith & Sons |
| DETROIT
Allison's Landscape Center | GADETOWN
Town N' Country True Value | PLYMOUTH
Plymouth Nursery | WIXOM
Wixom Country Corners |
| Busy Bee Ace Hardware
Murray's Ace Hardware | | WYANDOTTE
Wynne Do-It-Center | |

SINK OR SWIM?

It's never too late to learn how to swim. Just call us and sign up for a Red Cross swimming class.

+

American Red Cross