



A big show: About 60,000 people attended the "Public Schools... Public Pride" show at Summit Place, and part of the fun was watching Chris Cobb (left), Dean Cobb and James Middleton do some editing for TV10 of Farmington.

School exhibits 'amaze' a huge turnout as districts take pride

By JENNIFER PLACITO
STAFF WRITER

More than 10,000 adults and 1,500 student volunteers turned out for the public school pride day at Summit Place Mall in Farmington, 60,000 actually attended. "It exceeded everybody's expectations," said Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson during a celebration after the event. "This is what can happen when we join hands for an extremely good cause."

The amount for exceeded the just 3,000 people who attended the first event, in November 1995 at Oakland Intermediate School District offices.

Patterson said he expects public education to be asked to provide increased services in the

years to come and feel Oakland Schools are up to the challenge. "I think Oakland County schools are in the unique position to lead the way not just for Michigan, but for the entire country," Patterson said.

With 100 different exhibits from Oakland County public schools, Oakland Community College and Oakland University, the day was filled with entertainment, including dance, music and theater, as well as academic programs.

Carmen Huston, a 38-year-old Troy resident, was very impressed with the event. "This was all about the students," she said. "It was a great day for the students and the community."

Southfield teacher Debbie Levin did not let that stop her from participating. "Public education, because it's important to let the public know what's going on in public schools," Levin said.

Farmington school board member Jack Itoh was one of many board members who also showed their support. Itoh wanted to get the three-dimensional effect of what he had already seen on paper.

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Electrifying motion: Kevin Price (left) and (right) Justin McBride from Lake Orion High School are at a display of an electric race car.

Programs help to teach disabled, offer support

By JENNIFER PLACITO
STAFF WRITER

Tens of thousands of people walked away from the Summit Place Mall Sunday better educated about Oakland County public schools. Students, teachers and school representatives answered their questions at more than 100 kiosks inside the Waterford Mall.

"Public Schools... Public Pride" which featured the best from Oakland Intermediate School District member schools as well as Oakland Community College and Oakland University, spotlighted unique programs which many residents came to learn more about. Some of these programs are highlighted below:

• Helping disabled people, these studying English as a second language, or those who have low grade point averages with support in their college years in what Oakland Community College offers through Academic Support Services. Some of these services include note taking and reading exams. Adriana Curtis of Royal Oak is an employee of the college as well as a student who has a disability. She said the free service has helped her obtain a higher education and has "accelerated" with the number of users since it's debut in 1994.

• A myriad of early intervention programs are offered for newborns to 6-year-olds in Birmingham Schools. The programs assess children to determine if there is a need and referrals are made to the appropriate public

education programs, according to Marilyn Whittaker, a psychologist with Birmingham Schools.

• All programs can be available at all schools in Oakland County, but not all schools have them, according to assistant Sue Stupetson. She said it is to change that. "It's a resource program for anybody that works with kids," Stupetson said.

• International Academy in Bloomfield Hills is a school of choice open to any student in ninth through 12th grades. Supported by 12 core school districts, including Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills, Farmington, Oxford, Lake Orion, Rochester, Troy and West Bloomfield.

Academy staff stress motivation, responsibility and a desire to learn in students, according to Christine Gamble, a Spanish teacher and his director with the International Academy.

A major advantage of attending the Academy is an early start on college through international baccalaureate curriculum which can eliminate up to one year of a college education. In its first year, the school only has ninth-grade students now.

• Character Education in West Bloomfield schools is incorporated in the school day. Students are recognized for good behavior, and at Green Elementary, fifth graders are working with second and third graders to teach them respect and responsibility. The program is designed to teach them caring, virtues, trustworthiness, and responsibility.

"We have everybody working together," said a teacher at the school.

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Manufacturing education: Stephen Steffes (left) and Justin John of Troy's Ford Academy of Manufacturing Sciences work at their display of a flashing experiment.



Toying around: Play is often hard work for youngsters, but Kristen (left) and Laura McElroy of Farmington Hills appear to be enjoying a couple of Slinky's at the S.T.R.I.P.E.S. booth at Summit Place on Sunday.

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or said Scotch Elementary Principal Bob Fyles.

• Rainbows is a transition program in two Christian School elementary schools, which assists students who have suffered a loss in the family through death or divorce. The 14-week program allows students to meet 30 minutes per week to discuss their feelings during lunch and recess periods. Volunteer teachers give up their planning time to make the program possible, according to Karen Connors, a Christian teacher. "It's good for the children to know they aren't the only ones

programs from reading... but when you see it with people involved it makes a difference," Inch said.

Many of the stores inside Summit Place joined in the effort by offering sales as part of the incentive to give money for public schools. One percent of total sales will be given to the schools, divided proportionately according to the number of people who attended from each district in relation to each district's enrollment, said Jennifer Davidson, Oakland Schools area education and school improvement.

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OU courts bright students

Oakland University is looking for high-achieving high school seniors to its second Honors Exploration program at the university's Oakland Center on Feb. 15 and 16.

Oakland University is committed to providing a dynamic, challenging environment where liberal and professional studies are integrated and 80 percent of all classes are taught by faculty.

To be invited, students must have been accepted to OU for fall 1997 and carry an academic grade point average of 3.3 or higher.

Students will spend the day learning about majors, talking to faculty members and academic advisors, taking a campus tour and examining their financial aid options. In addition, they will hear a mock lecture and will participate in points of honor at a luncheon.

The approach may be new to higher education, according to admissions adviser Amy Rickard.

It appears to be working.

On average, OU enrolls about 45 percent of the students it accepts, ranking it near the national average, Rickard said.

When the Honors Exploration program was piloted for one day last year, 25 of the 32 students who attended chose to enroll at OU — 71 percent.

The tentative schedule for the program begins with a welcome by Robert Johnson, associate vice president, enrollment management. The morning will also feature a faculty panel discussing OUP advantages and a question-and-answer session.

Academic advisors will be on hand for a morning session called Exploring Your Major.

The program will end with a tour of the campus.

Two break-out sessions will follow as Associate Professor Kevin Grimm presents a mock class lecture and Patricia Bumpus, coordinator of Intercollegiate Programs, discusses how to get involved in student leadership and government.

Also scheduled in the morning are talks on continued academic success and campus recreation.

A luncheon will be followed by a session discussing OU's Honors College. The college is designed for highly motivated students who are seeking a challenging education in conjunction with their majors.

The program will end with a tour of the campus.

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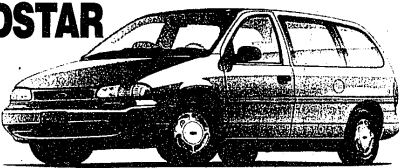
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