

# Athena Award goes to Walsh administrator

*'She makes me feel good about life.'*

— Gov. James Blanchard describing Grace Smith

By Pat Murphy  
staff writer

Grace Smith, an administrator at Walsh College in Troy, has a philosophy: "Make the most out of life's experiences."

Because she lived up to that philosophy, Smith last week was the recipient of the Athena Award which is presented annually by the Oakland County Chamber of Commerce to an individual who has attained or supported professional excellence among women.

Smith, a former teacher who is

now director of continuing professional education at Walsh, received the award Thursday at the chamber's 80th dinner meeting at the Northfield Hilton in Troy. About 450 attended.

Gov. James Blanchard presented the award, saying of Smith, "She makes me feel good about life."

The Athena Award was initiated by the Lansing Chamber of Commerce in 1982 to recognize excellence among professional women. Chambers in more than 400 communities currently present the award.

In Greek mythology, Athena is the goddess of womanly crafts, arts and science. The daughter of Zeus, she was also the goddess of war and the protector of civilized society.

SMITH is the second recipient of

the Athena Award for the Oakland chamber, which has existed for 80 years and has more than 1,000 members. The first recipient was Noreen Keating, executive director of Lighthouse, a private, nonprofit agency that provides emergency human services.

Smith lives in with her husband, Russell T. Smith, an administrator with the Detroit public schools. They have two grown children, Stephanie Smith Thorne and Andy Smith.

She has a bachelor's degree in English from Western Michigan University and a masters degree in education from Wayne State University. She is a doctoral candidate at Wayne State in instructional technology.

She was the chairman of the English Department at Servo High School in Detroit from 1976 to 1979, after which she taught English and

reading at Chippewa Valley High School. In 1984 and 1985, she was the lead systems analyst at Wayne State University's Computing Resource Center.

Smith is active in the Girl Scouts of America, the National Association of Women Business Owners, the Michigan Professional Women's Network and the Oakland County Growth Alliance.

Smith, one of 14 people nominated for the Athena Award, was the unanimous choice for the award.

"She stood out because of her involvement in women's organizations . . . especially the Girl Scouts," said Richard Isham, vice president and general manager of the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers and a member of the selection committee.

In his address, Blanchard said Michigan has become a leader in

providing professional opportunities for women.

WOMEN IN MICHIGAN own about 36 percent of new businesses founded in the last decade, Blanchard said, compared to about 30 percent nationally.

The governor predicted that by the end of the decade, women will be the owners of 50 percent of the businesses founded since 1980.

Blanchard, who is expected to seek a third term this fall, cited at least two developments in Michigan that reflect positively on his administration.

Michigan opened the decade with unemployment and a heavy dependence on the auto industry, Blanchard said. Since then the state's economy has diversified and created more than 700,000 new jobs, he said. "That's more new jobs than some states have people," he said.

The governor's policies on financing public education, however, drew some subtle criticism from William Keane, superintendent of Oakland County Schools and the immediate past president of the chamber.

Without attacking Blanchard directly, Keane said he is critical of Michigan's school funding policies as well as the proposal to raise the min-



Grace Smith

imum age at which a youngster can drop out of school from 16 to 18. The proposal is being discussed, although not yet pushed, by groups that say public school students do not possess sufficient skills when they graduate. With all the problems plaguing the public schools, requiring students to stay in school two additional years would not help, Keane said.

## Levin convenes drug conference

By Pat Murphy  
staff writer

The federal government is putting more money into its war on drugs, according to U.S. Rep. Sander M. Levin, D-Michigan's 17th District, who invited more than 200 community leaders to a conference last week in Southfield.

"Seldom before has Congress appropriated money" without already knowing where it would go, Levin said Friday at the conference in the Southfield Civic Center.

But Congress has made more money available, meaning individual agencies can get increased funding, providing they establish their goals

and move quickly, Levin said.

Levin called the conference to help agencies within the 17th District (parts of Southfield, Detroit and Redford Township) apply for additional money appropriated for the war on drugs.

Of \$8.8 billion earmarked for the war on drugs, Michigan will receive almost \$74 million in formula grants, or an increase of nearly 76 percent, Levin said.

THE MONEY will be used for education and prevention as well as treatment and law enforcement, he said.

"This money will go into the trenches of the war on drugs," Levin

said, "where the battle against substance abuse will be won or lost."

It is directed at middle school youngsters just becoming aware of drugs as well as addicts and those trying to help or arrest them, he said.

The money was made available, Levin continued, because of the growing realization that to win the war on drugs the U.S. must reduce the demand for narcotics, rather than curtailing the supply illegally coming into the country.

The U.S. must continue trying to cut off the supply from Colombia, Southeast Asia and other parts of the world, he said. "But the war will largely be won or lost at home . . ."

Eddie A. Clark, deputy director for prevention of the Michigan Office of Drug Agencies, said the war on drugs calls for a cooperative effort between law enforcement and prevention and treatment agencies.

"We (prevention and treatment

agencies) can't win without them," she said. "And they can't win without us."

In a press conference before the conference, Levin said he strongly disagrees with those who advocate decriminalizing drugs. Among them is the distinguished George W. Crockett Jr., a former Recorder's Court judge and fellow Democrat who is the U.S. Representative in the 13 District, or Detroit.

Crockett and others have said the United States is losing its war on drugs and that decriminalizing the use of narcotics will reduce related crime.

Levin admits the United States is getting mixed results from its expensive war. "Casual use of drugs is on the downturn, while use among addicts is near the same level."

"But you can't decriminalize drugs without condoning it. That would inevitably lead to more widespread use," he said.

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