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Supt. Maxfield receives Fulbright Scholarship

By Sue Buck
Staff Writer
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Farmington Public Schools Superintendent C. Robert (Bob) Maxfield Jr. has received the prestigious and international J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship.

Maxfield, 60, a Huntington Woods resident, who has served as school superintendent since 1994, will participate in the 2002 Superintendent Seminar in Germany from Sept. 29-Oct. 12. All expenses are paid.

More detailed information from the Fulbright Commission in Germany is expected by the end of June.

"I was invited to apply," Maxfield said. "I'm hoping to see how German education is organized particularly in career preparation."

He believes Germans are more successful at integrating business and schools. "They do a better job of making kids employable without closing doors," he said.

When Maxfield returns, he will share his knowledge with small groups of German parents whose children attend Farmington Schools, with administrators and teachers, and with his superintendent colleagues and business partners in Oakland County.

"I would also share my insights with the recently-developed Regional Action Boards which have been charged with linking business and education in using the county vocational education millage to promote development of new career academy-type programs," he wrote in his application.

He hopes to form an ad hoc committee within the Farmington School District to explore continued expansion of the district's German program and possibly link the program with other school districts, through the development of "multi-district business career academies."

"This seminar would further enhance my expertise, credibility and enthusiasm to help our district continue to identify the



Supt. Dr. Bob Maxfield

has the ability to bring people together and move forward on opportunities for children and youth. He will make a tremendous contribution."

Due to his efforts in promoting diversity in and out of the school system, Maxfield received a first-ever Leadership Award from the Farmington/Farmington Hills Multicultural/Multiracial Community Council at the Jan. 28 Rainbow Recognition Awards Breakfast held at the Costick Activities Center in Farmington Hills.

Maxfield received both his doctorate in curriculum development and administration and his Master of Arts degree in American and Russian history from Wayne State University. His Bachelor of Arts degree in history and English with a minor in political science is from Albion College. He was the Berkley Schools Superintendent from 1988 to 1994 prior to being hired in Farmington.

Maxfield is married to Sara and has two children, James and Scott, who are both teachers in the Lake Orion School District.

A peacemaker

The scholarship program is named after the late Senator J. William Fulbright, a peace-keeping advocate, who died in 1995. President Bill Clinton bestowed the Presidential Medal of Peace on Fulbright in 1993.

In 1954, Fulbright was the only Senator to vote against an appropriation for the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations which was chaired by Senator Joseph R. McCarthy. He also lodged serious objection to President John F. Kennedy in advance of the Bay of Pigs involvement in 1961. Fulbright was a powerful voice during Vietnam.

In 1943, the House adopted the Fulbright Resolution which supports an international peace-keeping machinery encouraging United States participation in what became the United Nations.

most effective ways to serve our remarkably diverse population," he said, adding his participation in the International Educators to Japan program had such an impact.

That program was sponsored by the Japanese Business Society of Detroit in 1989.

The seminar means a lot of work with little down time, Maxfield said. "No spouses are allowed," he said. "It's not a social thing. We're real busy. It stretches your thinking and allows you to see something through someone else's eyes."

Distinct honor

Farmington School Board President Cathy Webb made the announcement at Tuesday's board meeting.

"He's one of 16 superintendents from across our nation who has been nominated for the award," Webb said. "It's a distinct honor for Dr. Maxfield and for our district. More power to you."

Maxfield's support extends beyond the Farmington School District as well.

"We can't say enough nice things about him," said Dan Austin, Deputy Superintendent of Oakland Schools. "He's a champion of public education. He

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