

INSIDE
REPORT

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SERVING FENTON, HOLLY, LINDEN
AND THE SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES SINCE 1957

Grant allows LF teachers individual Web sites

By Sharon Stone
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

Kathleen Conover gave a slide presentation to the Lake Fenton Board of Education Monday night, outlining the progress of Project SBC (Schools Building Communications).

Conover, a representative of the Information Technology Services Department at UM-

Flint, has been working with SBC, formerly Ameritech, to implement individual Web sites for staff members at Torrey Hill Middle School and West Shore Elementary.

According to Conover, Ameritech awarded a \$1.5 million Learning Collaboratory grant to three campuses of University of Michigan over

See GRANT on Page 11A

GRANT

Continued from Front Page

five years ago. This grant expired last year, but Lake Fenton benefited by receiving training in creating classroom Web sites and a Web server for several teachers.

The Project SBC grant, worth \$10,975, was written as a continuation of these efforts. The grant money was used to cover the costs of training and equipment, which included a laptop computer for each principal, a data projector and digital camera for each school. West Shore and Torrey Hill began training through the SBC Project in September of 2003 and the grant expires in June of 2004. Conover said that she would continue to search for available grants to assist the school district for future endeavors.

Conover, who has a child at West Shore Elementary, believes that students, parents and staff would benefit from the state-of-the-art and interactive Web sites. She pointed out that the Web sites would help parents with staying on top of important issues, such as the latest school information, homework assistance, classroom policies, lunch menus, student contact information, field trip information and teacher needs, among other things.

Approximately 50 percent of the staff from the two schools has obtained training through the grant, though all staff members were permitted to participate in the training and creation of their own Web site. Conover is confident that enough staff members are proficient with creating Web sites that they would

be able to teach other co-workers in the future since the grant is expiring.

She said the University of Michigan-Flint is achieving its mission through Project SBC, by strengthening partnerships and reaching out to the community. She said that Lake Fenton School District mirrors the commitment to community involvement by stating in its mission, "Through effective communication with parents, the staff will maintain a partnership ensuring that each child will achieve mastery of the intended curriculum and grow intellectually, socially and physically."

A wide range of Web site homepage designs have been created by several teachers, allowing for individual style and needs.

Parents and students can access the individual teacher Web sites through the Lake Fenton School District Web site, which can be found at www.lake-fenton.k12.mi.us. After clicking on either the Torrey Hill or West Shore link, parents and students can then click on the Teacher Web site link for a list of teacher homepages.

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