Superintendent’s Letter

Dear Friends of Education,

Here in DuPage County, we work hard to maintain high standards of excellence in our educational community. Many people help to accomplish this: high-quality staff, involved families, responsible students, active community members.

The Regional Office of Education supports and strengthens all of their efforts through services that ensure safer schools, well-trained educators, and opportunities for all learners. As you’ll see in this year’s annual report, we help teachers and administrators do their jobs better through professional development, leadership training and licensure navigation. We make sure students go to school in safe buildings with respectful environments. Through the Democracy Schools program, we encourage and foster participatory citizenship; through STEM education programs, we prepare students for challenging 21st-century jobs.

At the same time, the ROE provides resources to students who may need extra support in their educational experiences. Early childhood programs; family-support initiatives, such as Parents as Teachers; and alternative learning opportunities give all learners the chance to learn, grow and achieve.

We are proud to have a committed and caring community that helps us. Partnerships with local colleges, business and organizations expand the resources we can offer and strengthen the resolve we all have to educate students to become responsible, accountable and contributing citizens.

The Regional Office of Education’s mission is to collaboratively build and sustain a high-quality county educational community for all. We promise our resources and services to help assure that success.

Sincerely,

Dr. Darlene J. Ruscitti
Regional Superintendent
DuPage County Regional Office of Education
2013–2014 Highlights

• Dr. Ruscitti and the ROE helped lead efforts to stem the tide of heroin use in DuPage County. Those efforts included a heroin prevention forum, a “Be a Hero-in DuPage” poster contest for students, a student symposium and workshop and the development and distribution of Heroin toolkits for educators.

“Thank you for your help and hard work in making the DuPage County Heroin Prevention Forum a success. I appreciate your willingness to anchor the forum and share your knowledge and experience with educators and the community.”

• Twelve new DuPage County teachers gained National Board Certified Teacher (NBCT) status, bringing the total to 519 NBCTs in the county.

• The DuPage ROE collaborated with the DuPage County Transportation Department on the Illinois Safe Routes to School program. The goal of the initiative is to coordinate the planning, design and construction of infrastructure to substantially improve students’ ability to walk and bicycle to school.

• In partnership with Naperville Community Unit District 203, the DuPage ROE Equity and Excellence Department sponsored Dr. Edwin Javius to discuss issues of the “opportunity gap” to educators, parents and community members.

“Thank you for making the Dr. Javius event a reality. Our community members really enjoyed the night and are anxious for more! I appreciate all you do to support District 203 and all DuPage schools.”

• The ROE took part in the Exploring Education Partnership. This career-focused program helps students learn about career choices to give them a clearer understanding of their post-high school options. The Partnership committee hopes to develop relationships between high schools, colleges and businesses.

• The ROE is committed to providing school districts with best practices in school safety. As such, the ROE organized a tour of the COD Homeland Security Education Center for school district personnel.
Quality Professional Services

Licensure
We are a local office, easily accessed by our constituents. We provide service and answers and research licensure issues for applicants. We also cut through bureaucratic red tape and have direct access to the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) in Springfield. Almost 33,000 people accessed ROE licensure services in 2013-2014.

In 2013, the Illinois State Board of Education switched to the Educator Licensure Information System (ELIS). ELIS is a Web-based system that allows educators and district administrators access to licensure data from the Illinois State Board of Education. The experts in the DuPage ROE Licensure Department worked with area educators to explain the new system and provide the needed training to local professionals. Although our office no longer processes payments or applications, we are available to help educators navigate ELIS.

In 2013-2014 the DuPage Regional Office of Education Licensure Department...

Responded to:
- 18,492 phone calls
- 10,043 e-mails
- 3,957 over-the-counter walk-in customers

Fingerprinted:
- 2,227 applicants for employment

Welcomed:
- 12 new DuPage County National Board Certified Teachers

“It is rare to find people who take the time to listen and to care the way you did for me. I can just tell you that made a significant difference for me and for my family.”

“Thank you for your superfast help in providing a letter of my proof of my license to teach stateside. You have blessed me.”

“Thank you for taking the time to listen to my concerns. Your empathetic ear was a nice reminder that there are real people out there who care.”
Health/Life Safety and Compliance

School Construction
The Regional Office of Education issues building permits for all school building projects subject to the requirements of 23 IL Administrative Code Part 180. ROE staff review the documentation submitted to verify all documentation has been signed and sealed by the architect and contains required District signatures.

During the 2013-2014 school year, the ROE reviewed and issued:
- Eight building addition permits
- 159 major and miscellaneous renovation permits
- 167 total building permits

Health/Life Safety Protocols
As specified in Illinois School Code 105 ILCS 5/2-3-12, each public school building in DuPage County must be inspected to verify the adequacy and efficiency of each facility. ROE staff verify that districts are maintaining their buildings in compliance with these state standards.

During the 2013-2014 school year:
- 318 buildings were inspected
- 687 violations were found and corrected

Compliance Review
Each of DuPage County’s 42 school districts is visited every four to five years, on a rotating schedule, by ROE staff to verify they are compliant with the 23 IL Administrative Code Part 1, Operational Requirements.

Licensed personnel files are reviewed to verify that assignment requirements are being met. School board responsibilities, policies and procedures, budget records, curriculum and other mandates are also reviewed for compliance.

During the 2013-2014 school year, eight districts were reviewed:
- Five elementary/middle school districts
- One high school district
- Two unit school districts

School Bus Driver Safety Classes
Under Illinois law, Regional Offices of Education oversee bus safety to make sure buses are in proper working order; they also make sure that bus drivers have the training and skills they need to safely get kids to and from school across millions of miles of roads around the state every day. In school year 2013-2014 the DuPage ROE:

- Delivered training for 2,971 drivers to renew certification
- Delivered training for 1,178 drivers to obtain certification
- Identified and incorporated additional safety measures not included in state curriculum

Each year, Illinois school bus drivers travel over 138,700,000 miles transporting children. They shoulder the tremendous responsibility of securing the safety and welfare of the children in their charge. In recognition of their efforts, October 22 has been declared as School Bus Driver Appreciation Day in Illinois.
Professional Development & Technical Assistance

The DuPage Regional Office of Education provides high-quality, data-driven, research-based professional development programs and services to educators, parents, school board members, students, schools, districts and higher education institutions to enable all students to learn and succeed in school and in life.

During the 2013-2014 school year we provided:
- 17 fee-based courses to 721 participants
- 65 free workshops to 2,092 participants

4,306 people attended an event, class or meeting at the Center for Professional Learning in 2013-2014.

Teacher In-Service for DuPage Educators - TIDE
TIDE provides refocused and revitalized quality university coursework at a reasonable cost for DuPage educators.

During the 2013-2014 school year, the Regional Office of Education’s TIDE program:
- Continued to focus on expanding teacher capacity by offering courses leading to additional teaching endorsements
- With support from Regional Office of Education staff, increased the scope of communication and publication efforts to make teachers and school district aware of TIDE offerings
- Continued to be financially self-sustaining while presenting 108 courses, serving 992 teachers from July 2013 through June 2014
- Partnered with DuPage County school districts to offer on-site endorsement-linked courses to their staffs
- Broadened our partnership with University of St. Francis to offer ESL endorsement cohorts in four locations. Enabled districts hosting the program to choose their preferred format and involve their own staff as instructors if they desired
- The TIDE/Lewis University reading endorsement cohorts moved forward at Indian Prairie and Wheaton. TIDE is considering offering new cohort groups in both locations in January, 2015
- Continued to work with Benedictine University to roll out their reconfigured LBS1 courses this winter, but holding back on offering any courses in that area while that process unfolds
- Offered a new series of courses breaking down each of the domains of the Danielson Framework for Teaching
- Continues to investigate courses and programs enabling school districts and teachers to build their professional capacity
- Continued a four-year trend of increased program income and enrollment
- Initiated online course evaluations eliminating the additional cost of paper and postage to the TIDE program

“I just finished the Standards-Based Principal Selection Workshop, and once again the DuPage ROE has demonstrated outstanding leadership in providing high quality and relevant training.”

“I just wanted to drop you a personal note of thanks for your advocacy and resources. It is a pleasure working under your auspices at the ROE.”
Leadership Services

The DuPage Regional Office of Education Leadership Department links schools and districts to professional learning activities which help all leaders do their work more effectively. Our services include site-based and regionally offered content, online administrators’ academies, SharePoint and webcasts.

Administrators’ Academy
State law requires all active Illinois public school administrators to complete one academy activity every year. During the 2013-2014 school year, 55 administrators’ academies were held.

Administrator Mentoring Programs
Research shows that administrators new to their positions benefit from mentoring and stay in their positions longer if they have a mentor. The DuPage administrator mentor programs were designed to provide new administrators with collaboration opportunities, connection to resources, and the guidance of a “critical friend” who has already been successful in a school leadership role.

2013-2014 new principal mentoring
• 20 first-year principals were mentored
• Six second-year principals continued to be mentored

2013-2014 new superintendent mentoring
• Four new superintendents were mentored

“Meta Moments” to “Mood Meters”
Dr. Marc Brackett addressed issues of bullying and beyond at a May presentation at the Center for Professional Learning. Dr. Brackett, director of the Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence, stressed the integration of emotional intelligence with social and emotional learning skills. “All children are different,” he emphasized, “so, one-size-fits-all programs don’t work. Research shows that bullying prevention programs are not as effective as teaching students social and emotional learning skills.”

Dr. Brackett’s presentation was funded by the NoVo Foundation in collaboration with the DuPage ROE and CASEL.
Service to the Community

Community Resource
The Regional Superintendent is the natural link to the education community to support quality community initiatives. We partner with:

- ACT-SO, an acronym for the Afro-Academic, Cultural, Technological and Scientific Olympics. It is an academic mentoring and enrichment program that provides career exploration and a competition in 27 science categories.
- College of DuPage: This past year, the DuPage Regional Office of Education has taken on an active role in supporting DuPage County high schools’ efforts to expand college dual credit opportunities with COD. This includes expanding curriculum at the high schools that award transferable college credit under the Illinois Articulation Initiative and increasing the college readiness of our DuPage high school graduates. We are currently working with College of DuPage to develop wording for an intergovernmental agreement between the college and its catchment area school districts to share data on student success at COD for school improvement purposes.
- The Transportation Department: The DuPage ROE collaborated with the department to obtain funding that will substantially improve students’ ability to walk and bicycle to school.
- Workforce Investment Board (WIB): Connecting students to businesses through WIA career to education for at-risk youth.
- Argonne Laboratories, Fermilab, DeVry University and others to provide STEM education.
- DuPage Credit Union to support children of low-income families with backpacks and school supplies to assure a good start to their school year.

Partnering for School Safety
Each year the DuPage ROE reconvenes the School Safety Task Force to review policies and make recommendations for the continuous improvement of safety in our schools. The task force is composed of representatives from public and private schools, the DuPage County State’s Attorney’s office, Health, and Homeland Security departments, police and fire chiefs, researchers, and others. Recommendations implemented this year include:

- Conduct a security/penetration test before October 1 each year.
- Conduct a weather awareness/tornado drill before October 1 each year.
- Conduct an unscheduled lockdown drill for a school shooting incident before October 1 each year.

Other suggestions made to improve school climates included:

- Review student rules and communicate to students.
- Establish a climate that encourages and supports students and others to report threats and acts of violence.
- Train all staff in social emotional learning standards.
- Provide cultural competency training for all staff.
- Identify behavioral warning signs that could indicate a student’s risk for violence.
- Establish information sharing agreements for best practices.

Additional resources and other best practices were shared at the annual school safety meeting in September. The complete report can be found at: www.dupage.k12.il.us.
The Regional Board of School Trustees
The seven-member Regional Board of School Trustees is an elected board that hears petitions for annexations, detachments and changes in school district boundaries. The Regional Superintendent acts as ex-officio secretary to the Board, and the Regional Office maintains all records of petitions filed in the region. The main responsibilities of the Regional Board of School Trustees are:

- Hearing and disposal of petitions for change of school district boundaries
- Hearing and disposal of petitions by school districts to withdraw from joint agreements/cooperatives
- Appointment of appraisers and approval of final settlements in the division of assets when new districts are formed

Regional Board of School Trustees meetings are regularly held the first Monday of each quarter; special meetings are scheduled when needed.

Back-to-School Fair
In collaboration with DuPage Credit Union, Catholic Charities, Humanitarian Service Project, DuPage County Community Services, Black Diamond Charities, and the North Central Illinois Labor Council, the ROE distributed more than 3,000 backpacks loaded with school supplies to low-income children in DuPage County. None of this would have been possible without the generous support of donors throughout DuPage.

This important service helps level the playing field for these children and provides the materials each child needs to start the new school year prepared to learn.

DuPage County Spelling Bee
Twenty-eight students in third through eighth grades, representing 21 public and three private schools, demonstrated impressive spelling skills during the DuPage County Spelling Bee on February 26, 2014 at Wheaton North High School in Wheaton. Nafisa Asad of Herrick Middle School in Downers Grove District 58 won the DuPage championship. Nafisa and her parents, Asad and Farah Cheema, received an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington D.C, compliments of ComEd, to compete in the 2014 Scripps National Spelling Bee on May 25-31, 2014.

First runner-up was fifth-grader Adi Badlani of Brook Forest Elementary School in Butler District 53, and second runner-up was eighth grader Evangelia Analits of St. Raphael Catholic School.

Participating schools hold their own bees and send their champion to the county competition. On February 12, 2014, Islamic Foundation School in Villa Park hosted the DuPage County Private Schools Spelling Bee. Three top spellers from the Private School Spelling Bee went on to compete in the County Bee. Dr. Darlene Ruscitti served as the opening speaker for the event and promoted educational excellence for all DuPage County students.
Democracy Schools

There are 22 Democracy Schools in Illinois; ten of them are in DuPage County. The Democracy School designation is bestowed upon schools that meet the highest civic and service standards as defined by leading national civic and service organizations. These schools consciously promote civic engagement by all students, have an intentional focus on fostering participatory citizenship and place an emphasis on helping students understand how the fundamental ideals and principles of our democratic society relate to important current problems, opportunities and controversies.

In March 2014, Dr. Ruscitti surveyed social studies teachers in the county who attended the annual DuPage Valley Social Studies Conference. This survey was done to identify the current state of civic learning in county high schools and understand the needs of teachers as they seek to strengthen classroom practice and offer schoolwide civic learning opportunities for students.

Dr. Ruscitti hopes to pave the way for all 24 high schools in DuPage County to pursue National Democracy School recognition in the next three to five years.

Social Emotional Learning (SEL)

The DuPage Regional Office of Education established a partnership with the Collaborative for Academic, Social and Emotional Learning (CASEL) to support DuPage districts in implementing SEL standards and to develop a regional model that could have impact on a national movement.

During 2013-2014, the partnership received a grant from the NoVo Foundation and was able to continue to provide coaching and professional development support from CASEL to nine districts: Medinah District 11, Queen Bee District 16, Keeneyville District 20, West Chicago District 33, DuPage School District 45, Downers Grove District 58, Hinsdale District 86, Lisle District 202 and Wheaton-Warrenville CUSD 200. The partnership also added three new districts: Center Cass District 66, Glen Ellyn District 89 and Naperville District 203.

The partnering districts include 93 schools serving more than 56,200 students.

Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (STEM)

- A total of 177 educators representing more than 40 different schools, districts or educational institutions enrolled in the four STEM workshops offered during the 2013-2014 school year. Topics included NGSS science and engineering practices, reading in the science classroom, argumentation from evidence, and tools and resources to enhance STEM learning
- On November 15, 2014, 70 middle-school girls, their parents, and several teachers attended the 4th Annual STEM Career Exploration Event at Argonne National Laboratory. AAUW volunteers assisted at the event
- In partnership with the Technology Center of DuPage (TCD), nearly 20 exhibitors offered hands-on STEM learning experiences with more than 150 students in grades 5 through 8, along with their parents, at the President’s Day STEM Open House on February 17, 2014. AAUW members and TCD students supported the event through volunteer efforts
- More than $20,000 in STEM grants were awarded to local school districts to assist their efforts in promoting STEM awareness, after-school STEM programs, family STEM nights and other similar events and programs
- The STEM Team published five STEM newsletters
Learning Technology Center

The DuPage Learning Technology Center (LTC) provides support and guidance to the Regional Office of Education operations and professional development opportunities, while also implementing the Illinois State Board of Education K-12 technology initiatives.

The LTC provides technological resources to improve academic achievement and to provide all learners with technology-rich learning opportunities. The ROE/LTC supports all DuPage County school districts as they develop and implement their technology plans.

Technology Coordinators
The ROE/LTC conducts monthly meetings of DuPage County technology coordinators. These meetings provide a shared learning environment for the coordinators to network on various issues of interest.

Technology Facilitators Group
The DuPage ROE/LTC also coordinates regular sessions for DuPage technology facilitators, coaches, and integration specialists. These sessions focus on learning with technology by sharing strategies and tools with district staff who support learning technologies in the classroom. Each of these sessions is hosted by a DuPage school district whose staff leads the session and shares strategies, tools, and implementations based on their district experiences. Sessions this past year were hosted by Downers Grove District 58, Glen Ellyn District 41, DuPage District 88, Community Consolidated District 93 and Naperville District 203.

Online Learning
The online Administrators’ Academy “Cultural Competencies to Engineer a Single School Achievement Culture for All Students” was offered for the first time in February 2014. Twenty-two area administrators successfully completed this academy. The ROE also submitted and received approval for the first of a series of academies pertaining to the Common Core standards. Online Administrators’ Academy #1543 “English Language Arts (ELA) Common Core: Beyond the Basics – the ELA Shifts” will be offered for the first time in October - November, 2014. The ROE plans to expand its catalog of online administrators’ academies to meet the needs of area administrators.

Technology Plans
The DuPage ROE/LTC assisted 23 school districts with the development of their new technology plans during the 2013-2014 school year. This process typically includes dissemination of information on the revised process, several plan-writing support sessions, and individual support as needed.

SMART Boards
The LTC coordinates the SMART Major Account Program for DuPage County school districts. This program provides reduced pricing on interactive whiteboards and other products from SMART Technologies. Twenty-one educational agencies are participating in this program for the 2014-2015 school year.

Teachscape
Teachscape is an observation and evaluation management system that helps districts make the connection between evaluations and long-term practice improvement. Teachscape helps educators systematically improve teaching practice and accelerate their professional growth. The software tools,
online content, and services allow educators to assess their skills and competencies, collaborate with colleagues, build their expertise, and plan their careers.

With Teachscape’s observation and evaluation management, professional learning, and talent management systems, administrators can strategically manage and develop their educators, along with non-teaching personnel, resulting in more highly skilled staff, increased retention, and improved student outcomes.

On December 4, 2013, the DuPage Regional Office of Education collaborated with Teachscape, to host a showcase event. Representatives from Glenbard District 87 and the ROE shared their experiences with the various Teachscape tools.

**Other Professional Development**
Throughout the year, a total of 25 technology-related professional development sessions were offered, serving more than 500 participants.

**Serving Our Most Vulnerable**

**Bullying Prevention**
Now in its third year, the Bullying Prevention Professional Learning Community (PLC) meets periodically to discuss best practices and to share resources and strategies. On June 26, 2014, HB 5707 added criteria for a school’s bullying policy, including:
- School contact numbers and e-mail addresses
- Procedures for promptly informing parents
- Procedures for prompt investigation
- Interventions to address bullying
- Statement prohibiting reprisal or retaliation against those reporting acts of bullying

**Parents as Teachers**
Parents as Teachers is a researched-based prevention initiative program, serving children up to age 3, and is based on the philosophy that parents are their children’s first and most influential teachers. The program includes: personal visits, with activities for parents and children to do together; information on child development and parenting topics; developmental screenings, including informal hearing and vision checks; and in-home parenting support focused on children’s school readiness. In 2013-2014, the ROE served 50 families; 98% were low income and 40% were teen parents.

**Truancy Services**
In 2013-2014:
- 201 students were referred for truancy services by school districts in DuPage County
- 100% of the students referred received some form of early intervention services
- 100% of students received monitoring
- 9.5% received court-related services
- 21.8% received administrative hearings
- 7.5% received health-related services
- 17% received individual counseling
- 23.5% received referral to outside services
Service total for 2013-2014:

- Court-related services: 1,239
- Hearing-related services: 470
- Health-related services: 15
- School visits: 382
- Home visits: 100
- Individual counseling: 34
- Referral to outside services: 47
- Monitoring: 4,402
- Parent contact: 682

These numbers and percentages represent multiple services to many of the same students during the 2013-2014 school year.

General Education Development (GED)
During the 2013-2014 school year:
- 2,114 GED tests were administered
- 1,057 transcripts/certificates were issued
- 1,051 total official transcript/duplicate certificate request/verification requests were made

Alternative Learning Opportunity Program (ALOP)
The Alternative Learning Opportunities Program (ALOP) is designed for high school students who are at risk of academic failure or retention, or are having difficulty with school attendance. This program provides students with an alternative learning environment which includes individualized instruction, small class size, and counseling sessions.

The high school learning program focuses on supporting the Illinois Learning Standards and preparation for the GED exam. All students are instructed in the core subjects of mathematics, science, language arts, and social studies. In addition to academic instruction, students also work with staff on transition planning. Students will become familiar with resources available for career development and college planning. Upon completion of the ALOP program, students will register for the GED exam.

During the 2013-2014 school year:
- 110 students were referred from 14 schools in nine districts
- 76 students at risk of dropping out of high school participated in the ALOP program
- 50 students successfully received GED credentials
- Staff members developed and will continue to monitor 19 transition plans that included enrollment at College of DuPage, vocational training and employment
- ALOP hosted an intensive career-readiness program over the summer for four at-risk students

“I reached the conclusion that as my mother’s only son, I owed her a better outcome than the track I was on.”

The DuPage ROE Truancy Department helped this student move from chronic truancy to the honor roll.

The ROE truancy team works with schools, the courts, families and community resources to abate chronic truancy.
Regional Safe Schools – Partners for Success

Partners for Success (PfS) is an alternative school setting offered by the ROE in lieu of expulsion for middle school and high school students. In 2013-2014, 88 students were served at Partners for Success.

- 33 middle school and 55 high school students participated
- Three high school and 11 middle school students graduated
- 26 returned to their home school in good standing
- Three students were identified with special needs and services obtained
- 12 students received other educational placement
- Three students returned to home school in poor standing
- Six students moved out of district
- 24 students will continue at PfS in the fall
- 55% of students tested in reading maintained or improved reading levels
- 62% of students tested in mathematics maintained or improved math concepts
- 100% of students participated in social work service - individual, group or both

Homelessness - McKinney-Vento Programming

The Regional Office of Education employs a homeless student advocate, funded through federal McKinney-Vento grant dollars, to assist homeless families, schools and community service providers to understand homeless education law and work together to help these families in need.

The State of Illinois began tracking the number of homeless students in the 2005-2006 school year. At that time there were 269 homeless students identified and served in the county. In the 2013-2014 school year, there were 1,640 homeless students identified by DuPage County schools - an increase of 610% in nine years.

Cultural Competence

In the 2013-2014 school year, the Cultural Competence initiative facilitated interactive and candid discussions to provide insights on closing the academic achievement gap for economically disadvantaged students and African American and Latino students. Dr. Ruby Payne’s research, A Framework for Understanding Poverty, along with the ROE-published book, Voices: African American and Latino Students’ Perceptions Regarding the Academic Achievement Gap were featured as the primary source materials.

Activities included the presentation “Perceptions of the academic achievement gap from an African-American student’s perspective,” which was delivered to students and parents. The initiative also offered economic and ethnic diversity workshops that promoted open conversations about economic and ethnic diversity; provided participants with insights to increase cultural competence and presented strategies for improving academic outcomes for diversity student populations.

It also fielded questions from parents regarding the Voices book and provided discussion forums about what parents can do to help the school and their children close the academic achievement gap.

“Thank you so much for your inspiring talk. The feedback has been wonderful. You continue to inspire me.”
Fiscal Responsibility – Teacher Institute Fund

This fund concerns itself with teacher certification and development workshops.

BEGINNING FUND BALANCE (UNAUDITED)
JULY 1, 2013 $1,409,305.38
Auditors Adjustment ($32,549.73)
Balance $1,376,755.65

Revenue
Certification $241,912.87
Interest $1,750.01
Total Revenue $243,662.88

Expenditures
Purchased Services $63,763.00
Supplies and Materials $69.00
Capital Outlay $0
Total Expenditures $63,832.00

ENDING FUND BALANCE (UN-AUDITED) - JUNE 30, 2014 $1,548,766.53

In partnership with the DuPage branch of the NAACP and the College of DuPage, the ROE helps coordinate the annual ACT-SO (African-American Cultural, Technological and Scientific Olympics). 57 students from 28 area high school participated in this year’s competition. 16 students won a record 18 gold medals and qualified for national competition in Las Vegas.

“Darlene - what a blessing you are. Thanks so much for your gift of time and talent. You riveted the audience.”

“Thank you for making time to celebrate National Voter Registration Day with the students of Community High School. I am grateful for your leadership in DuPage County as a champion of Civic Education.”