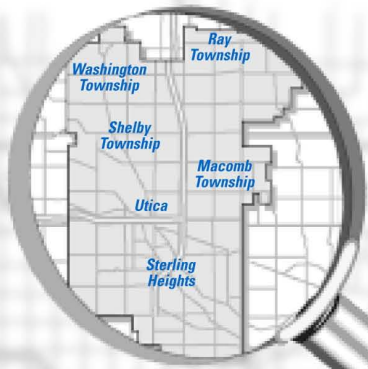


# FOCUS for the community



A Publication for the Residents of Utica Community Schools

## From the Superintendent...



by Christine M. Johns, Ed.D.

### A rewarding, challenging year has ended; another soon to begin

The end of another school year is a time we can look back to celebrate our students' accomplishments, while looking ahead to the possibilities the new school year will present.

School year 2009-2010 was a busy and productive one, with many challenges – and many more achievements in Utica Community Schools. More than 2,200 students became high school graduates as our classes of 2010 proudly walked across the stage at commencement ceremonies in June to receive their diplomas.

In fact, UCS has again posted the county's highest graduation rate, which this year stands at 96 percent. This means that 96 percent of students who began ninth grade with us and completed high school in UCS graduated on time.

I'm also very proud to report that we are home to one of Michigan's two Presidential Scholars and that one of our buildings was named among nation's best high schools by Newsweek magazine.

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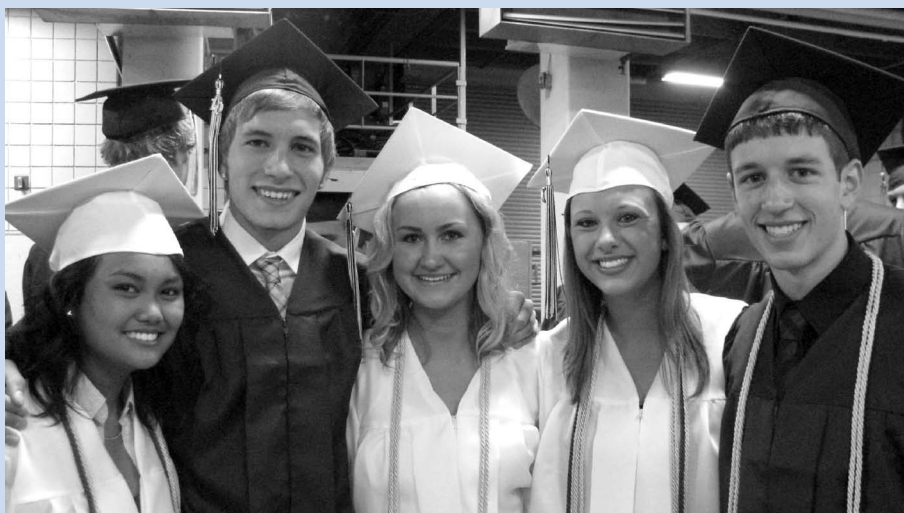
## BRIGHT FUTURES AHEAD —

Saturday, June 12, was a big day for 2,228 Utica Community Schools seniors. The occasion marked their successful completion of a rigorous secondary academic program and the beginning of college, career or military pursuits. It was the date they received their diplomas at commencement ceremonies conducted by the district's four high schools – Eisenhower, Henry Ford II, Stevenson and Utica – at the Palace of Auburn Hills.

The class as a whole was one of which the entire school district can be most proud. Cumulatively, they posted an array of successes, including:

- 363 were honored as UCS Academic Scholars by the Board of Education after maintaining grade point averages of 3.67 or above in a rigorous high school academic program while taking part in extracurricular and/or community service activities.
- 396 were National Honor Society members
- 60 completed advanced studies at the Utica Center for Mathematics, Science and Technology
- 94 percent of those surveyed plan to further their education
- In total, class members received scholarship offers exceeding \$10 million
- 147 earned distinction as Advanced Placement Scholars for having attained a 3.67 grade point average in four or more Advanced Placement classes

## UCS Class of 2010 Celebrates Its Success!



Representing this year's 2,228-member graduating class from the Utica Community Schools is this group of Stevenson High School seniors pictured as they eagerly awaited the start of their commencement ceremony backstage at the Palace of Auburn Hills. Pictured (l-r) are Sitha Hoeung, Dan Hlivka, Marissa Gardner, Samantha Roehl and Andrew Lutz. Sitha plans to become a registered nurse, specializing in pediatrics, and will attend Charleston Southern University. Dan will attend Central Michigan University to pursue a career in graphic arts. Marissa will major in pre-medical studies at the University of Michigan. Samantha will study business at Oakland University. Andrew will attend the University of Michigan to study pre-medicine. Congratulations to these and all our UCS graduates as they begin their paths ahead to bright futures!

- 143 colleges and universities in the United States and abroad offered admittance to our graduating seniors
- 82 total valedictorians and four salutatorians led their classmates

across the stage in front of family and friends. The valedictorians reached their status by achieving a 4.0 or above grade point average; salutatorians attained the next highest GPA.

## Look for the Eisenhower, Henry Ford II, Stevenson and Utica High school Valedictorians and Salutatorians on [www.uticak12.org](http://www.uticak12.org)

Website includes photographs and profiles of all 86 of these class leaders!

## Board of Education approves balanced budget for 2010-2011 school year

Employee concessions, staff reductions, program adjustments and use of fund equity make up for a projected deficit caused by state funding cuts, increased costs

The Utica Community Schools Board of Education approved a balanced budget for fiscal year 2010-2011 that contains nearly \$18.7 million in employee concessions, staff reductions, program adjustments and spending

reductions and the use of the district's fund equity.

While the Board's target for balancing the coming school year's budget has been met, the district's long-term financial outlook remains

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School starts on Tuesday, September 7

## FOCUS

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## Balanced budget approved

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uncertain because the structural cause of Michigan's prolonged budget deficits has not been resolved.

"The potential for additional red ink is not of our making," said Board Treasurer Carl Territo. "The voters of Michigan, when they transferred authority for funding schools from local taxpayers to the state legislature, did so with the expectation that schools would be adequately funded by the school aid fund. But since that time, the state has either raided the fund or cut the taxes that are used to provide monies for schools."

The Board unanimously approved the \$266 million operating budget on June 14 at its regular meeting, following a public hearing held earlier in the evening. Revenues coming to UCS are anticipated to be \$259 million while expenditures are estimated at \$266 million.

The budget was balanced through a combination of cost cutting measures totaling \$18.7 million.

Fully \$11 million of that amount – more than 50 percent – came directly from employee concessions that included pay freezes, a 20 percent contribution to their health care premiums and unpaid furlough days.

The reductions also included closing four elementary schools, restructuring the alternative education program and technology support services and also redesigning many other services, for example, transferring crossing guard costs to local municipalities as state law designates.

The budget also includes an expected savings of \$2 million stemming from senior employee retirements under the state retirement incentive.

In addition, about \$6.7 million will be applied to the deficit from the district's fund equity. The fund equity is a one-time revenue source that once expended, cannot be replaced under the current school funding structure.

While UCS was able to balance its 2010-2011 budget, Michigan's revenue sources,

upon which public education is dependant, remain volatile.

Despite maintaining its own fiscal responsibility each year, Utica Community Schools has

***School funding levels for 2010-2011 will be less than that of 2007-2008.***

undergone substantial state funding cuts – an offshoot of the Proposal A funding structure voters approved in 1994.

Proposal A shifted the majority of funding for schools from local property tax to a combined system of state sales tax, income tax and local property taxes. Each revenue source has been negatively impacted by the state's significant economic downturn. As a result, school funding levels for 2010-2011 will be less than that of 2007-2008.

Additionally, the state-set retirement rate that districts must pay will increase to 19.41 percent in 2011, or 2.47 percent above the 2010 rate. In Utica Community Schools, this equates to an additional cost of approximately \$143 per-student or \$4.2 million in total.

State cutbacks can come mid-year, after student programs have been set and are in full swing. Last December the district was forced to absorb a mid-year reduction of \$4.8 million, the result of a legislative cut of \$165 in per-pupil funding enacted in October 2009.

Schools Superintendent Dr. Christine M. Johns cautioned that even with a balanced operating budget for 2010-2011, fiscal year 2012 will not be without problems. "Because we are dependent on the state for most of our funding, our finances remain in a constant state of flux," she said.

Despite the poor economic forecast, the district has developed its operating budget with emphasis on student learning and stability in the classroom. "Throughout the year, we have kept our focus on adjusting to a changed economic landscape," Johns said.

She pointed out that stimulus money from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) – one-time federal revenues

intended to support school districts and municipalities through the early stages of the recession – will expire in 2012.

"Unless there are meaningful structural changes in how Michigan's schools are funded and/or the economy improves significantly, all districts – including Utica Community Schools – will face similar budget shortfalls for the foreseeable future," Johns said.

As part of its budget process the Board of Education set the district's debt retirement millage rate at 3.75 for 2010-2011. The increase from 3.5 mills was necessary to meet the district's debt obligation, as required by state law, after local property assessments decreased more than 10 percent.

It is anticipated that the majority of residents will see a reduction in their 2010-2011 property taxes because, as taxable values decline, the 3.75 mills will generate approximately \$1 million less in property tax revenue.

For example, a house that was valued at \$200,000 in 2009 is most likely now assessed at \$180,000. The 3.5 mill debt levy would have generated \$350 in taxes in 2009. But, because of the 10 percent decrease in taxable value, the tax would now be \$338.

Dr. Johns concluded, "Our challenge throughout this crisis has not been just to cut costs, but to re-imagine and then redesign aspects of how we do our work. Our budget process has supported those efforts.

We will begin the new school year with a balanced budget and we will continue to offer our students the academic stability our community has come to expect. We will continue to do so as long as we can."

## From the Superintendent...

*continued from page 1*

*We have state and national award-winning programs, seven National Merit semi-finalists and 10 commended students, as well as increasing student achievement in all areas of academics and the fine and performing arts.*

*Student enrollment continues to grow in challenging courses of study, including the 27 Advanced Placement classes offered by the district*

*The school district's rigorous secondary programming, including the International Baccalaureate curriculum at the Utica Academy for International Studies, the Utica Center for Mathematics, Science and Industry and the Utica Center for Science and Industry, continue to expand and thrive in both student numbers and academic achievement.*

*UCS students continue to excel as members of competitive academic teams in robotics, Japanese language skills, Science Olympiad, Career and Technical Education and others – the list of student accomplishments this year alone could fill this entire newsletter. UCS student-athletes and sport teams have again done the district proud, as well.*

*And once again, UCS student bands and orchestras were rated among the top in the state in competitive performance. Our vocal music and performing arts students also earned acclaim for their outstanding performances. Next year, please consider attending any of our high school performances and be treated to Broadway-style entertainment.*

*Traditionally in the summer edition of the Focus for the Community newsletter, we brought you the photographs and accomplishments of the valedictorians and salutatorians of the graduating classes of the four UCS high schools: Eisenhower, Ford II, Stevenson and Utica. I hope that each year you have enjoyed reading about these high-achieving young men and women and their plans for the future as much as I have.*

*We are doing something a little different with our valedictorians and salutatorians this year. We are presenting them in a special section on the UCS website, [www.uticak12.org](http://www.uticak12.org), which can be accessed right from the home page.*

*As I mentioned, school year 2009-2010 brought its share of challenges, as well. The ongoing recession caused a carry-over of state funding losses into the 2010-2011 school year. The budget shortage forced the district to make reductions totaling more than \$18 million that included closing four elementary schools.*

*I want to thank our administrators, teachers and other employees who agreed to salary and benefit concessions that allow us to begin the new fiscal year with a balanced budget – a requirement of Michigan school law.*

*When you receive this, our schools will be closed for students and teachers, but the work of the school district continues. Central office employees and staff in other buildings will be working throughout the summer preparing for the students' return on Tuesday, September 7.*

*Construction and renovation projects are nearing completion, transition plans are in place for students attending different schools in the fall due to the closures and new teachers are being hired to replace those who retired under the state incentive.*

*Summer in Utica Community Schools is always a bustling but exhilarating time as we prepare to welcome our students back for another exciting year of quality teaching, learning and achievement.*

*I am pleased to wish you all a pleasant and restful remainder of summer with the assurance that your children will continue to experience educational excellence and success in the coming year – the tradition of Utica Community Schools.*

## UCS underwater robotics team captures second regional title

Macomb County's location at the center of automotive manufacturing technology may be one reason for the phenomenal success of the Utica Community Schools student robotics teams. But the main force driving this high-tech educational hotbed is the pure dedication of the students and their teachers.

In only its third year of existence, the UCS Technical Underwater Robotics Research Engineering Team (TURRET) won its second consecutive regional title at the Marine Advanced Underwater Remote Operating Vehicle (ROV) competition,

held this year at the Chicago's Shedd Aquarium. The UCS team advanced to international competition at the University of Hawaii, Hilo this summer against teams from other U.S. regions, as well as Canada, Hong Kong and Scotland.

At this year's competitions the students' TURRET robot was required to perform a series of retrieval and research tasks in simulated study of an underwater volcano.

Real life ROV robots are vital in performing dangerous deep water tasks. Repairs to stem the Gulf of Mexico oil spill clearly illustrate this use.



Working pool side at Utica High School to ready their ROV for the 2010 Marine Advanced Technology Education Underwater Remote Operating Vehicle International Competition in Hawaii are TURRET members forefront l-r: **Justin Wright, Jenna Ross, Zach Elie and Jonathan Nguyen**; manning the middle computer: **Joe Wyrzykowski, Nick Zambelli and Kara Marsh**; and at the rear computer station: **Hayley Schuller**, team captain **Sebastian Sznitka**, teacher/advisor **Geoffrey Clark** and **Breanna Meyer**. Michigan Technological University is an advisory partner for the UCS engineering technology programs.

## UCS Teachers of the Year recognized



**Laura Martin**, UCS Elementary Teacher of the Year with sixth graders (l-r) **Anusha Rajendren, Kristina Slifco, Deniro Faranso, and Justin Walters**. The students were assessing their progress in a written project utilizing the writing process.



UCS and Macomb County Junior High School Teacher of the Year, **Kimberly Hall**, upper left, leads eighth grade American history students (clockwise) **Rojin Teodoro, Angela Hampel, Chynna Potts, Jeremiah Daniel, Rachel Matti, Evelyn Sebell and Gregory Cousineau** in a discussion on the Industrial Revolution.



**Mary Blain**, UCS High School Teacher of the Year, shown in class with several of her Advanced Placement French IV students.

It's said the best teachers teach not only from the mind, but also from the heart, and so it is with the Utica Community Schools Outstanding Teachers of 2010. The honorees – Ebeling Elementary School sixth grade teacher, **Laura Martin**; **Kimberly Hall**, Heritage Junior High School social studies and yearbook teacher; and **Mary Blain**, French teacher at Eisenhower High School – are each skilled in reaching the minds and hearts of students.

Their many attributes, including subject mastery, effective instruction and assessment, maintaining an optimal learning environment, meeting individual student needs, engaging all learners and overall professionalism, coupled with high marks from students, parents and colleagues alike, make it easy to see why Blain, Hall and Martin so well represent the title "Teacher."

**Mary Blain's** gift for seamlessly linking language and culture realistically connects the members of her classroom community to those of the global community. Short of whisking them to Paris, she brings France to life every day for her students – from first year to Advanced Placement.

**Laura Martin's** sixth graders clearly know that, when it comes their academic success, she is "in it to win it" and expects the same from them. It's her belief and practice that every child can and will achieve, especially when allowed to try different paths to learning and have fun along the way.

**Kimberly Hall** was also chosen as Macomb County's 2010 Outstanding Junior High/Middle School Teacher by the county-wide selection team – and with good reason. Her work can be best summarized by a student who said, "She shows you that whoever you are, you can achieve."

## Points of Pride

**Eisenhower High School** was recently named by Newsweek magazine as one of America's Best High Schools

**Nicole Black**, a 2010 Henry Ford II valedictorian, who will pursue biomedical engineering at Boston University, is one of only two students from Michigan to receive the Presidential Scholarship, awarded to distinguished high school seniors. Scholarship winners are invited to meet the President of the United States at the White House.

These UCS students achieved Commended or Semifinalist status in the 2010 National Merit Scholarship Program:

**SEMIFINALISTS:**  
Eisenhower – **Tyler Brisendine, Nicholas Carducci, Benjamin Mastay, Michael Nevitt**  
Henry Ford II – **Nicole Black, Stephanie Godden**  
Stevenson – **William Ascenzo**

**COMMENDED STUDENTS:**  
Eisenhower – **Eric Cai, Joseph Chmielewski, Steven Gerdeman, Hollie Kicinski, Kara Marsh, Robert McGowan**  
Henry Ford II – **Amanda Duffy**  
Stevenson – **Steven Czyn, Alana Hartley**  
Utica – **Natalie Agresta**

Commended students make up the top five percent who took the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Test. Semifinalists comprise less

than one percent of those tested and qualify for the Finalist level of competition for scholarship awards.

Each year, more than 4,500 district volunteers donate their talents and time – some 100,000 hours – to support the educational program offered to UCS students. In recognition of 20 years of service performed by each, these individuals were inducted this spring into the UCS Volunteer Hall of Fame: **Dorothy Fisher**, classroom volunteer at Walsh and Schwarzkoff Elementary schools; **Lynne Itria**, reading tutor and library volunteer at Browning Elementary; **Sharon Kraydich**, who has volunteered at Beck Centennial, Crissman, Duncan, Ewell, Morgan, Shelby, Malow and Eisenhower; and **Jimmy Neil**, office volunteer at Eisenhower High School.

Twelve UCS student teams were top finishers at the elementary, middle or senior level at the Destination Imagination (DI) regional tournament and qualified for the state competition. The first place teams are as follows. "Direct D!posit" Challenge – Switzer Elementary; **Garret Waligora, Danielle Stefanski, Jacob Goethals, Patrick Grabowski, Henry Kieliszewski, Paul DeSaele, Lauren Seymour**  
Bemis Junior High: **Anthony Landini, Madison Laidlaw, Christopher Tobeler, Meghan Cullen**  
"DI-Bot" Challenge –

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## Points of Pride

continued from page 3

Switzer Elementary:

**Jacob Oyster, Brennan Brown, Anthony Krempa, Emma Rawsy, Brooke Striker, Charles Wytrychowski IV, Alec Pustelak**  
Malow Junior High:  
**Christopher Dyke, Kathleen Niedbalski, Josh Scott, Daria Solomon, Marisa VanRyckeghem, Michael VanRyckeghem**

“Do or DI” Challenge –

Switzer Elementary:

**Lazo Dordeski, Katarina Garibian, Catherine Kobetis, Tessa Peruzzi, Rachael Pustelak, Nathaniel Valdenor, Vinessa Palermo**

Volunteer **Kim Ostin** organized the regional DI tournament at Henry Ford II High School.

Two teams from the Utica Academy for International Studies (International Baccalaureate) were among 86 statewide that competed in the 2010 Japanese Quiz Bowl at the University of Michigan. Upon demonstrating their knowledge of Japanese language and culture, the team of **Allison Stankov, Eleanore Dara, Feba Thomas, Isabel Kinney** and **Jordan Mevorach** finished as Division II state champions.

At the 2010 Scholastic Art Awards regional exhibit, 58 UCS high school and junior high students brought home a total of 94 awards: 31 silver keys, 48 gold keys, 13 special awards and two national awards. Utica High School's **Amber Patterson** earned a National Portfolio Silver Medal for photography. **Elizabeth Kutchey** of Eisenhower High School, earned a National Silver Medal for sculpture. **Ariana Patriquin** of Ford II received Best of Show honors for her drawing portfolio.

**Steve Whitmore** was selected the 2010 Macomb County School Social Worker of the Year. He is assigned to Ewell, Beck Centennial and Duncan Elementary schools and also coaches Lego Robotics.

Eisenhower High School teacher **Elizabeth DeWulf** received the 2010 Theatre Educator of the Year award from the Michigan Educational Theatre Association. DeWulf also belongs to the Michigan Educational Theatre Association Hall of Fame.

In only its second year, the “Crevolution” robotics team, made up of students from the four UCS high schools, reached the quarterfinals and semifinals in two 2010 regional tournaments and received the Team Spirit Award.

continued at top right

## First Superintendent's Scholarship recipients honored at Arts & Idols Gala

The second Arts & Idols Gala, an annual scholarship fundraiser co-sponsored by the UCS Foundation for Educational Excellence and the Palazzo Grande Banquet and Event Center, was a sold-out success. The 770 patrons attending this year had the opportunity to help judge the singing talents of local “idols” and view and bid on original works of art by UCS students.

The evening was highlighting by the introduction of eight UCS graduating seniors, the inaugural recipients of the Superintendent's Scholarship. The awards were funded from \$12,000 raised at the first Gala in 2009, plus a \$1,000 donation from Baker College.

The scholarships were awarded based on academic achievement, leadership,

having overcome personal challenges, community service and future career plans.

Recipients of \$3,500 awards were **Kevin Cammarata** of Utica HS, who will attend Lawrence Technological University, and **Michael Nevitt**, of Eisenhower HS, who will attend Dartmouth College. Those receiving awards of \$1,000 were **Nicole Black** (Boston University) and **Kendyll Erickson** (Ferris State University) both of Ford II HS, **Sara Juhl** (Baker College) of the Utica Center for Applied Learning, **Alyssa Keller** (Northwestern University) of Eisenhower HS, **Karisa Wendland** (Michigan State University) of Stevenson HS and **Stacey Yelda** (Baker College) of Utica HS.

## 2010-2011 District Calendar

### SEPTEMBER 7

First day for students – elementary half day – A.M. kindergarten, only

### SEPTEMBER 8

Full day for all students – P.M. kindergarten, only

### OCTOBER 29

Half day for elementary – record day for teachers

### NOVEMBER 2

No school – staff professional development

### NOVEMBER 10 – 23

Conference window

### NOVEMBER 18

Half day for all students, PM conferences

### NOVEMBER 24 – 26

No school – Thanksgiving break

### DECEMBER 22 – JANUARY 2

No school – Holiday break

### JANUARY 3

Classes resume

### JANUARY 17

No school – Martin Luther King Day

### JANUARY 19

Secondary half day – secondary exams

### JANUARY 20 and 21

Half days for all students – secondary exams

### FEBRUARY 1 – 11

Elementary conference window

### FEBRUARY 21 – 25

No school – Mid-winter break

### FEBRUARY 25

No school – staff professional development

### MARCH 1 – 11

Secondary conference window

### MARCH 1 – 3

High School ACT/MME exam

### APRIL 4 – 8

No school – Spring break

### APRIL 22

No school

### MAY 27

No school – staff professional development

### MAY 30

No school – Memorial Day

### JUNE 14

Secondary half day – secondary exams

### JUNE 15

Secondary half day – secondary exams

### JUNE 16

Last day for students – half day for all – secondary exams

## Notice of Nondiscrimination

In compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Elliot-Larsen Civil Rights Act and the Persons with Disabilities Civil Rights Act, it is the policy of Utica Community Schools that no person shall, on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin or ancestry, sex, age, disability, height, weight, or marital status be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination during any instructional opportunities, programs, services, job placement assistance, employment or in policies governing student conduct and attendance. Any person suspecting a discriminatory practice should contact the Executive Director of Human Resources at Utica Community Schools, 11303 Greendale, Sterling Heights, MI 48312 or call (586) 797-1000.

**AHERA Annual Notification** This annual notice is required by the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) to inform Utica Community Schools parents, employees and residents of the district's Asbestos Management Program. Asbestos surveillances are conducted every six months and continue on a regular schedule. The next three-year re-inspections are scheduled for January and February of 2012. All surveillances and re-inspections are conducted by Michigan licensed asbestos inspectors. Asbestos abatement was conducted at 13 UCS facilities during the 2009-2010 school year. Asbestos abatement is scheduled at six UCS facilities during the 2010/2011 school year (summer). All asbestos abatement is conducted by Michigan licensed asbestos abatement contractors during after school hours, school breaks and summer recess. Notifications are provided to potential occupants prior to scheduled abatement. The UCS AHERA management plans are available for review at each school or at the Auxiliary Services Facility (ASF), 6600 Eighteen Mile Road in Sterling Heights. Summaries of abatement projects prior to the 2010/2011 school year are included in the plans, and complete documentation is maintained at the ASF. Inquiries regarding the program can be directed to the district's AHERA designee at 586.797.7130 during business hours.

The students also took part in Habitat for Humanity, a breast cancer walk, road-side clean up and mentoring younger students in robotics. “Crevolution” members included: **Austin Rudisll, Craig Leland, Matt Polhemus, Jill Georgiou, Esther Phillip, Bryan Battiglia, Jarred Versical, Michelle Wood, Cody Marshall, Ryan Caldwell, Amit Shah, Mays Overton, Marek Pilarski, Sean Minnie, Mike Dworakowski, George Chene, Majed Zhrwn, Tom Milewski, Julie Keena, Lauren Cocco, Brett Hudson, Eric Riedel, Ryan Brown, Hannah Hess, Bartek Pekala, Kelsey Geromin, Mike Coyle, Ryan Bradley and Yogi Taxak.**

In two area competitions, the 2010 UCS ThunderChickens robotics team won first place at both and the Engineering Inspiration Award at one before advancing to a regional contest in Rochester, NY. There they earned the Team Spirit Award and captured first place. At Michigan's state championship, the ThunderChickens advanced as finalists to the World Championship in Atlanta, GA where their robot finished fifth of 400 overall.

The ThunderChickens included: from Henry Ford II High School – **Ashley Arscheene, Nicole Black, Rachele DeBenedetti, Amanda Duffy, Eric Durham, Ian Hatzilias, Andrew McMillen, Amanda Orban, David Quesada, Haley Schuller and Zachary VanMaldeghem;** from Eisenhower High School – **Nicholas Bely, Daniel Bock, Eric Cai, Jeffrey Carr, Joseph Chmielewski, Gina Ferro, Chelsea Fournier, Rutvik Gandhi, Ryan Grady, Cameron Herringshaw, Ashlee Lambert, Alexander Lee, Claire Liburdi, Antonio Moraccini, Elliot Pearson, Kyle Roeber, Joseph Wyrzykowski and Alex Zettler;** from Stevenson High School – **Ryan Perry, John Grunow**

**John Beauvais, Anthony Kazyaka, Branden Mansour, Sam Moore, Rebecca Pace, Jenna Ross and Linsa Varghese;** and from **Utica High School – Devpreet Chahal, Jean-Francois Henry, Kelley Langlois, Jessica McNeil, Breanna Meyer, Nischal Nakkina, Nicholas Simpopoulos, Katharine Syms, Bradley Vogt, Justin Wright and Kayla Wizinsky.**

At the 2010 Macomb County Science Olympiad, teams from Utica Community Schools swept the competition, securing all ten of the top ten positions. Finishing first, second and third respectively were Messmore, Roberts and Ewell Elementary schools.

Five UCS high school students earned gold medals at this year's SkillsUSA state championships, qualifying them for national competition: Eisenhower's **Jordan Armstrong** and **Vincent Persichetti** for TV/Video Production; Ford II's **Andrew DeSanto** and **Austin Jesiel** for Electronic Technology; Stevenson's **Ryan Bradley** for CNC Milling Technology.

Utica High School students **Katie Jezak** and **Alex Martinez** were selected as Michigan's top marketing students from among 6,600 students involved in the Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA). They went on to be recognized in the Top Ten of the Sports and Entertainment event at the DECA international conference in Louisville, KY.

At the “You Be the Chemist” competition on Detroit Public TV, Davis Junior High seventh grader **Calvin Montgomery** was named state champion, earning the \$1,000 savings bond top prize. As Michigan's winner, he qualified for the national competition held in June in Philadelphia.



586.797.1000

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### FOCUS for the Community

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### MSPRA Distinguished Award

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