From the Superintendent...
Christine M. Johns, Ed.D.
The Power of Partnerships

We read a lot about the power of social influence these days, but I am struck by the power of community partnerships. A key educational reality is that strong schools are linked to powerful and positive community partnerships.

At UCS, I see the passion and power of these partnerships daily. An example is Tommy Haji and the new Vision Empowerment Academy. The Academy is a partnership between Wireless Vision, The Chaldean Community Foundation and Stevenson High School.

Though he is a busy and successful entrepreneur, Mr. Haji has been willing to share both his time and expertise with our students. As part of the Vision Empowerment Academy mentoring program, Mr. Haji, along with other mentors, are paired with high school juniors from Stevenson High School to help guide them toward achieving their goals.

Mr. Haji challenges students to use their education to both dream and achieve in their future. “Education is the foundation of everything,” he notes. “Once you are educated you are able to find your passions in life and pursue them. You should never limit yourself to one thing.”

Both the foundation and company, through owner Sabeer Ammori, invested not only their time, but also awarded $20,000 in student scholarships.

This type of partnership reflects the Utica Community Schools educational mission — preparing students for successful post-secondary experiences. It also reflects the powerful difference that community partners make as students discern their future.

As a UCS partner, the academy’s mentors are not alone. Parents, grandparents, community members, business and industry leaders model and share the values of our community.

These partnerships also provide strong financial support for our students. Some examples include:

- Partners such as Detroit Regional Dollars for Scholars, the UCS Foundation for Educational Excellence, the United Shore Professional Baseball League, local community foundations and service clubs all invest in our graduates and their academic future through scholarships.
- Business mentors give their time and resources to support classroom innovation. Most recently, an anonymous business leader provided more than $1 million in a private grant for a new Career and Technical Education academy. Local business leaders – including the Sterling Heights Regional Chamber of Commerce and the cyber-academy. Local business leaders – including the Sterling Heights Regional Chamber of Commerce and the cyber-

Our students success continues to go global

District students are earning worldwide honors through competitions with top international students in such areas as Career and Technical Education, innovation, problem solving and robotics.

The honors reflect the work of UCS students and staff members to maintain high expectations and strive for excellence in all areas of our district.

Recent international honors include:

- Two UCS high school Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA) chapters have earned three top honors at an international competition featuring the best business students from across the globe. Henry Ford II High School and Utica High School chapters received the awards at the DECA International Career Development Conference in Orlando, Florida. A Henry Ford II High School team finished in the top 10 in the nation for a Creative Marketing Project. The Utica High School chapter finished in the top 10 in the school-based enterprise event for the second straight year for its school store, the Chieftain Connection.

For the seventh straight year, Utica Community Schools has earned recognition for meeting a high standard of transparency in reporting financial information.

The district is among approximately 500 nationally to earn a Certificate of Excellence (COE) in Financial Reporting award for its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) from the Association of School Business Officials International. The award honors UCS for meeting the program’s high standards for financial transparency, reporting and accountability.

ASBO International Director of Recognition Programs Molly Barrie congratulated the district by saying, “The CAFR informs parents and other stakeholders about the financial and economic state of the district, making it an important communications tool for building trust and engaging with the school community.”

Safety and Security Bond Update 2019-2023

Click this button on the homepage at www.uticak12.org

Bond work has begun! Find out which facility improvements are happening over this summer. Visit our website to view a progress update of bond issue improvements.


For the second straight year for its school store, the Chieftain Connection.

Collins Elementary Destination Imagination team placed second in Engineering Challenge.

Bemus Jr. High Destination Imagination team placed first at Regionals and State tournaments.

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This April, the Utica Community Schools Foundation for Educational Excellence, a non-profit organization, proudly funded 54 Superintendents' Scholarships. 7 Moment Awards and celebrated 5 community-based academic scholarships.

### Alternative Learning Center

- **Lucas McElhinney**
- **Jeffery Monday**

### Eisenhower High School

- **Kiera Coape**
- **Crisalyn Dimiro**
- **Shawn Gary**

### Michigan DECA

- **Adam Good**
- **Samuel Mehta**

### Henry Ford III High School

- **Alia Campbell**
- **Juliet Capobianco**

### Stephen M. Ross

- **Nathan Wehrle**
- **Amelie Hermandez**

### Utica Academy for International Studies

- **Jenna Angelina**
- **Kathryn Sapk**

### Utica Community College

- **Isaiah Kim**
- **Mahum Khan**

### School of Health Occupations

- **Kelly Huynh**
- **Annie Leung**

### Distribution Education Club of America (DECA)

- **Michelle Winters**
- **Jordan L. Farley**

### Personal Assistance

- **Thomas Fezza**
- **Natalie Truesdale**
A UHS team also finished in the top 20 for an Integrated Marketing Campaign.

- After achieving top honors for creativity, teamwork and innovation in regional and state academic tournaments, four teams featuring UCS students have earned the right to compete in Destination Imagination’s Global Finals.

- Five UCS students earned silver medals during the SkillsUSA state conference held in Grand Rapids in April. Eisenhower senior, Thomas Fezzey, earned a first place gold medal in electronics technology and will be competing at the organization’s upcoming National Competition in Louisville, Kentucky.

- UCS students earned multiple honors at the FIRST Competition international tournament in Detroit. The ThunderChickens high school team captured its third world championship. Crevolution robotics team competed, and had its most successful year. An elementary team, The Browning Robotic Wreckers, earned an international Programming Award during the FIRST LEGO League Jr. portion of the competition.

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The Power of Partnerships

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security initiative at the Velocity Center - also play an important role in working with teachers to promote the skills needed for the future workforce.

- Our community approved a $155 million bond issue that will affect every school and every student over the next five years. We appreciate the trust and support of the community to use these funds toward our educational mission. Several projects are now under way and the pace will only accelerate as classes end for the summer. For progress updates on bond improvement projects visit: www.uticak12.org/2018bond/updates.

- Parent and community members invest literally thousands of hours in our classrooms and serve on booster clubs, parent volunteer organizations and advisory boards. By directly sharing their time and talents, our schools truly represent the very fabric of our community. As a whole, our students gain generational knowledge and witness firsthand the importance of community involvement.

These strong partnerships are producing great results. We know that a student’s academic success is strengthened through involvement with other adults. Through community partnerships, students excel both within Utica Community Schools and after they graduate and become citizens and leaders across the state and the world.

Thank you for your continued support. As always, please do not hesitate to contact me, or your building leadership, with questions, suggestions, or affirming stories of the good work that our teachers and students are doing.

As this is our final newsletter of the school year, we have included information on our recent graduating class. I hope you and your families will enjoy reading the many accomplishments of our outstanding Class of 2019. Have a safe and enjoyable summer!

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 Eliot-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 mental 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 Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources at Utica Community Schools, 11302 Greenbale, Sterling Heights, MI 48312 or call (586) 797-1000.