I recently attended a meeting of community and business leaders to discuss their support of a Utica Community Schools initiative.

As the meeting ended, a local business leader came forward and handed me his business card with an offer to support us by saying simply:

“You know, I’m a Utica Community Schools graduate.”

These are words I hear frequently. There is a sense of pride that comes from these statements and a recognition by the graduates that they know they are part of something special. It’s also spoken with the understanding of how fortunate they feel to come from a community that provided such a strong foundation.

We are heading into a season where we take the time to reflect on the many gifts we have in our lives.

In UCS, we are thankful for a community that expects and supports the very best of our students at all levels - academics, fine arts and athletics.

The academic success is well proven; it is demonstrated through our consistently high graduation rate and student achievement levels that are Macomb County’s best and outpace the state and nation.

In fine arts, the lead story in this newsletter will be staging their fall plays. You can see a complete list at: uticak12.org/plays

Throughout November, our high schools are staging their fall plays. You can see a complete list at: uticak12.org/plays

In addition to our students excelling in the fine arts, our athletic teams remain a regional

UCS bands earn superior honors

Utica Community Schools received an “excellent” rating on its annual audit for meeting the highest standards of financial accountability, according to Plante Moran. The firm gave the district an “unmodified” opinion with no findings - the highest level of financial assurance. This is the 13th straight year the district’s financial audit has received this rating.

“UCS is a financially well-run district and is operationally excellent.” Laura Claey's, CPA and partner in the auditing firm of Plante Moran said. “UCS is a financially well-run district and is operationally excellent.”

She added: “The district is using its resources appropriately to meet its high academic standards,

UCS receives excellent financial rating from independent auditor

“From our perspective, this report continues the district’s track record of excellent audits,” Laura Claey's, CPA and partner in the auditing firm of Plante Moran said. “UCS is a financially well-run district and is operationally excellent.”

She added: “The district is using its resources appropriately to meet its high academic standards,

Board president Dr. Carol Klenow celebrates 23 years of public service and will not seek re-election

After more than two decades of providing stable leadership, Board of Education president Dr. Carol Klenow will mark her final term next month as an elected Board member in Utica Community Schools.

“It has been a privilege to serve the students of Utica Community Schools as well as the residents who care so deeply about education and their children,” Dr. Klenow said. “I would like to thank the many dedicated staff, parents and community leaders who have continued to support this exemplary school district.”

Dr. Klenow’s term reflects the Board of Education’s history of experienced and dedicated leadership and a legacy of providing a consistent learning environment for students.

She was first appointed to the UCS Board of Education in 1993 and has been re-elected by voters four times. She has served as Board of Education president since 1995.

As Board of Education president, she has effectively worked to ensure collaborative decision-making and guided the elected Board of Education with a steady hand.

“As I pursue other personal and professional interests, I know my colleagues on the Board of Education will continue their commitment to educational excellence and student success,” she said.

The UCS community thanks her for her tireless efforts and wishes her well in future endeavors.
UCS students honored nationally for AP success

More than 400 Utica Community Schools students earned top honors through the rigorous college-level Advanced Placement (AP) courses offered in its secondary schools. In the 2015-2016 school year, 2,160 UCS students took a total of 3,290 AP exams.

The College Board, which administers the AP tests, has announced that 414 UCS students received national scholar designations. Honors earned by UCS students include:

• National Scholar status to 16 students who received an average score of at least 4 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 4 or higher on eight or more of these exams.
• AP Scholar with Distinction status to 102 students who received an average score of at least 3.5 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams.
• AP Scholar with Honor status to 81 students who received an average score of at least 3.25 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams.
• AP Scholar status to 215 students who received scores of 3 or higher on three or more AP Exams.

Manufacturing Day builds career interest

Utica Community Schools paired up with local business partners Friday, October 7 to help build career interest through Manufacturing Day.

As part of a national initiative, more than 350 UCS high school students learned about possible career paths to promote interest in skilled manufacturing jobs.

Students from each UCS high school received first-hand exposure to viable Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) careers in all areas related to manufacturing, including skilled trades, human resources, marketing/sales, and engineering.

A time to say thanks

This fall alone, our teams captured the league title in nearly every sport.

In a time where headlines feature world-wide instability, Utica Community Schools remains consistent in its commitment to providing the structure necessary for students to achieve excellence in everything they do.

It is a standard they continue to follow throughout their adult lives.

As we head into the Thanksgiving season, we recognize the work of our community to give our students the very best to ensure their success in our schools.

Every member of this school community knows we are part of something special. And for that, we are thankful.

Notice of Nondiscrimination

In compliance with Title II 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 Larson 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 Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources at Utica Community Schools, 11300 Greendale, Sterling Heights, MI 48312 or call (586) 797-1000.