

# PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SCHOOLS NETWORK



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## Rhoades Elementary School Earns Blue Ribbon Award

In April 2002, the evening news and local newspapers announced that Rhoades Elementary School was one of the first schools in Indiana to be identified through No Child Left Behind as a failing school. On September 26, 2005, Christine Cohn from the U.S. Department of Education presented Rhoades with a national 2005 No Child Left Behind Blue Ribbon Schools award due to its dramatic gains in student achievement. Rhoades was one of 11 schools in Indiana to receive the award.

During the award ceremony, the school officials identified the PDS partnership with Ball State as playing a significant role in the improvement of student achievement. Since Rhoades became a PDS in 2001, approximately 25 BSU student teachers have worked in the school each year. The PDS Network congratulates Rhoades Elementary School.

## The PDS Network Welcomes Apple Tree Child Development Center



Muncie YMCA's Apple Tree Child Development Center is the newest member of the PDS Network. In a ceremony on February 25, 2005, Dr. Beverley Pitts, Ball State's provost and vice president for academic affairs presented a framed document representing the new partnership to Apple Tree's director, Diana Badger. Dr. Pitts was accompanied by Roy Weaver, dean of Teachers College; Larry Smith, acting associate dean; Jill Miels, chair of elementary education; Ruth Swetnam, director of the PDS Network;

and Lynn Staley, university liaison for the Center. Others attending the ceremony were Apple Tree faculty, staff, children, and parents; Martin Fink, YMCA CEO; Nancy Prater, chair of Apple Tree Board of Managers; Becky Satterfield, master teacher and adjunct faculty; Shannon Brodkorb, student teacher.

Becky Satterfield, master teacher/adjunct faculty at Apple Tree describes what this partnership means to her:

I am proud to say I have been a part of something incredible. The PDS partnership between Ball State and Apple Tree has brought out the best in me as an educator, a team member, and as a mentor. Being asked about my experience as a preservice teacher and what I think “we” as a Center can do to enhance the experience of future student teachers really got me thinking.

After several inquiries with our administration, we came up with the hands-on experience of Administrative Seminars. Student teachers in our Center now have 20 hours of hands-on training with our administrative team, gaining knowledge about all aspects of life as an administrator. Items such as budgeting, accounts payable/receivable, managing staff, curriculum guide reviews, off-site management, food management, customer service, and following specific regulations are just a sample of the areas in which our student teachers are trained. The student teachers have acknowledged they feel included in the Center and have gained not only from the information given to them, but have had more of a chance to know the staff themselves. Now, the preservice teachers are not only qualified on paper to become administrators, they have the training and knowledge too. I guess knowing I had something to do with the enhancement of our program, and knowing without this partnership it may not have taken place, I can’t help but wonder, “What else can we do?”

### **Tracy Shafer Named Distinguished Principal of the Year**

The Network congratulates Tracy Shafer, principal of Wes-Del Elementary School, recently named the District VI distinguished principal of the year by the Indiana Principals’ Association. Tracy began her career as an elementary teacher and, in 2001-02, became principal of Gaston Elementary School. In 2003-04 she led the merger of two PDSs, Gaston Elementary and Harrison Elementary into the remodeled and expanded Gaston Elementary School, renamed Wes-Del Elementary School. Tracy has been very involved with the Network activities and has served on the PDS Executive Committee.

### **Ron Purtlebaugh Wins Award**



Congratulations to Ron Purtlebaugh, teacher at Mitchell Elementary School and PDS adjunct faculty member. Ron has been named the Great Lakes Regional Winner of the 2005 International Reading Association Presidential Award for Reading and Technology sponsored by PLATO Learning for his project “Digital Middletown—The Future of Education!” The award comes as a result of his participation in the Ball State University “Digital Middletown Project,” focusing on improving student achievement through the use of high definition digital presentations from Unitedstreaming and Annenberg/CPB Channel. Ron received a check for \$500, and all regional winners were recognized at the annual convention in San Antonio in May 2005.