

## Making Integrated Education Work for Everyone

---



On Wednesday, June 25, 2008, Holt High School was far from summer silent, but excitedly consumed by hundreds of educators and administrators attending the First Michigan Joint Education Conference offering integrated education, curriculum and instruction for the multi-faceted educator.

*When you are walking, nature does not confront you for three quarters of an hour only with flowers and in the next only with animals. - Lionel Elvin*

Elvin suggests that experiences often occur simultaneously and the lessons to be learned may be better understood if integrated into a more natural environment. Some students are taught one subject at a time in a 50-minute block while focusing on one particular curriculum, yet educators are often responsible for teaching two and three curriculums. An integration of the curriculum courses could create a more cohesive lesson plan, increase student comprehension and broaden the scope of learning. The Michigan Joint Education Conference focused on the integration of the curricula content areas in mathematics, science and social studies and technology. One conference attendee wrote, "I enjoyed the session that aligned the GLCEs for math, social studies, and science so it was easy to see how they could be taught in units rather than individually." Sessions provided an invaluable opportunity for educators who team teach or those that teach several disciplines, to learn techniques that connect lesson plans, create integrated program scripts and increase personal and professional merit through continued education. This was to be a different type of conference, right down to the large round insulated coolers handed out at registration.

In planning for this conference, 250 attendees were anticipated... after all it was summer vacation. Over 400 educators registered for the one-day conference and are excited to join us again in 2009. The 2nd Annual Michigan Joint Education Conference is scheduled for Wednesday, June 24, 2009 and will return to Holt High School in Holt, Michigan.

On this beautiful summer day, five Michigan associations, The Michigan Council for the Social Studies, Michigan Council of Teachers of Mathematics, Michigan Science Teachers Association, Michigan Association for Computer Users in Learning and the Michigan Association of Middle School Educators, joined together to offer the first integrated educational conference in the State of Michigan. Partners in this project were the Michigan Business Education Association, Michigan Mathematics and Science Centers Network and the Michigan Department of Education.

"What a wonderful way to spend a day of summer vacation. I loved the opportunity as a science teacher to spend time with teachers of other disciplines. We need to do this more! Our students will definitely benefit," said a conference attendee.

For more information visit the Michigan Joint Education Conference online at [www.mijec.org](http://www.mijec.org)

###