



The MESSAGE

Rich Township High School District 227

RICH TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 227...A COMMUNITY OF EXCELLENCE

Rich East...One of America's Best High Schools

For the second year in a row, **Rich East High School** was named one of "America's Best High Schools," as a result of data research by *U.S. News & World Report*.

The honor recognizes Rich East as a 2010 Bronze Medal Winner, among the 21,786 public high schools evaluated across 48 states and the District of Columbia.

"I am extremely pleased with the impressive record that Rich East continues to create in its quest for excellence," said Superintendent **Dr. Donna Simpson Leak**.

"This honor, for the second year in a row, exemplifies the strength of our schools and the potential of



our students. We are, indeed, raising the bar toward a future of excellence."

The results, using analytical methodology, were compiled by *School Evaluation Services*, the K-12 research and analysis unit of *Standard & Poor's*.

The independent research and analysis is based on the key principles that great high schools serve all students well, they produce measurable academic outcomes to show that the school is successfully educating students across a wide range of performance indi-

cators, and they provide students with access to college-level curriculum, measured through participation and performance on AP tests.

Congratulations Rich High AP Scholars!

Ameya Banks • Kerrielle Banks • Rebecca Curl • Quincy Elery
 Sarah Field • Tionna Harris • Alexander Kimbrough
 Heather Klain • Zachary Lam • Ryan O'Donnell • Matthew Phillips
 Sairey Pickering • Kali Porzel • Morgan Schwalbe
 Rachel Schwartz • David Shaffer • Tyra Smiley • Melissa Thompson

The College Board Advanced Placement Program (AP) is an opportunity for motivated and academically prepared students to take rigorous college-level courses while still in high school and to earn college credit, advanced placement, or both, for successful performance on exams.

The national non-profit College Board membership organization is comprised of more than 5,700 schools, colleges, universities and other organizations, and serves seven million students each year. The organization is committed to the principles of excellence and equity.

DISTRICT 227

Education For All Students

Three Full-Service Campus Buildings and Grounds

56 Honors and Advanced Placement Courses

68 Sports, Extra-Curricular Activities and Clubs

Technologically-Driven Curriculum

Freshman Academies

Full-Service General and Elective Education Courses

Full-Service Special Education

Alternative Education Programs and Intervention

State-of-the-art Sports and Fitness Facilities

New and Renovated Full-Service Student Cafeterias

Award-Winning Bands

Fine and Performing Arts Programs

Millions in Scholarships

College-Credit Courses

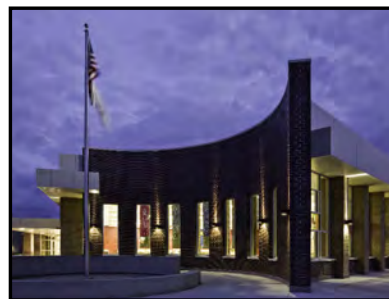
SECME Engineering Program



RICH CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL
 3600 West 203rd Street
 Olympia Fields, IL 60461



RICH EAST HIGH SCHOOL
 300 Sauk Trail
 Park Forest, IL 60466



RICH SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL
 5000 Sauk Trail
 Richton Park, IL 60471

Superintendent's MESSAGE



Donna Simpson Leak, Ph.D.

As Superintendent of Rich Township High School District 227, I am extremely proud of the dedication of our staff and the achievement of our students—and the rewards are here. Rich East, for the second year in a row, has been recognized as one of 'America's Best High Schools' by *U.S. News & World Report's* annual data analysis of American high schools.

Rich East received the Bronze Medal Award, an honor that recognizes test performance in reading and math, as well as the performance of the least-advantaged students. The national honor comes at a pivotal time in our history as enrollment continues to rise, a fact that demands the continual expansion of our resources to better serve the needs of each student.

In providing that service, we have increased our Advanced Placement and Honors courses, expanded our Alternative Education Program and added more technological innovation to our curriculum. Most recently, we partnered with District 163 in a 'Push For Excellence,' an initiative that further integrates technology into the curriculum through our new Distance Learning Program. Through this partnership, fourth graders in District 163 learn remotely, from their District 227 instructor—without ever leaving their classroom. Using interactive whiteboards and video conferencing equipment, the District 163 students are able to ask questions, review materials, and interact with their District 227 high school classmates from the comfort of their desks.

Indeed, our students continue to excel throughout our district, with 18 students earning AP Scholar Awards, as recently announced by the National College Board.

As our academic performance garners national recognition, motivated members of our community have come together to support our vision of excellence.

The Superintendent's Advisory Councils are an integral part of connecting ideas with opportunity. The councils are:

- Student Advisory Council
- Parent Advisory Council
- Staff Advisory Council
- Community Advisory Council
- Local Educators' Advisory Council
- Business Advisory Council

The first quarterly council meetings were held in September and produced a range of ideas and opportunities for our district and students. Moving forward, these groups will play a significant role in cultivating resources, developing events and positioning our students for greatness.

Thank you for helping us Raise the Bar Toward a Future of Excellence!

Distance Learning connects school districts, motivates students

Interactive whiteboards and video conferencing equipment now connect fourth grade Honors Spanish students at District 163 with high school Spanish students at District 227.

This technological innovation allows the District 163 students to receive instruction, answer questions, and interact with their high school counterparts and their high school instructor, Rich South's Juanita Southern—all from the comfort of their classroom.

"We hope to provide early exposure to our future Rich High students while allowing current high school students the opportunity to function as academic leaders and role models," comments **Dr. Jennifer Norrell**, Assistant Superintendent for Student Learning and Accountability at District 227.

The program, Norrell adds, is slated to run the entire 2010-2011 school year. "And it will expand the current Spanish I exposure offered to middle school students and make our students more competitive at an even earlier age."

District 163 Superintendent **Dr. Joyce Carmine** and District 227 Superintendent **Dr. Donna Simpson Leak** developed the idea during the process of articulation meetings between the two districts, in order to bring greater opportunities to students.



Rich South Spanish teacher Juanita Southern (above) uses interactive technology in her classroom to instruct fourth graders in District 163, housed at Mohawk Intermediate Center for the class.

Headliners & Newsmakers

830,000...

Rich East recently received \$830,000 from the Illinois State Board of Education to improve technology in the classroom. Seventy-five percent of the money was used to purchase Dell Networks for the core courses of math, science and language arts, for freshman through senior levels. Twenty-five percent is allocated towards professional development.

100+...

The 100+ members of the award-winning Mississippi Valley Marching Band practiced at the Rich East Rocket's newly renovated Bob Lombardi football field prior to their performance at the 13th annual Chicago Football Classic game at Soldier Field in September. Rich Central and Rich South marching bands also performed at the game.

21st...

Dr. Donna Simpson Leak was featured recently on the cover of *N'DIGO Magazine*, as a leading educator of the 21st Century. The story chronicles the origins of Dr. Leak's passion for learning, for students, and of her continual quest for excellence in education. (Look under 'District News and Announcements' at www.rich227.org.)

SIX...

The six divisions of the Superintendent's Advisory Councils met for their first quarterly meetings this September. The second quarterly meetings will be held in December.

64...

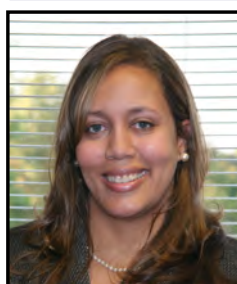
This past September, 64 passengers and crew credited Rich Central Alumnus Jack Conroyd for his safe emergency landing of Delta Flight 4951 at JFK Airport. They compared him to U. S. Airways Captain (Sully) Sullenberger, who landed Flight 1549 in the Hudson River in 2009. Conroyd, who graduated from Rich Central in 1973, is a former U.S. Navy pilot.

50...

This year marks Rich Central's 50th Anniversary, and activities are planned throughout the school year to celebrate the occasion. Visit the Rich Central 50th Anniversary page on Facebook or www.rich227.org for a calendar of events.

2432...

Combined number of registered members following District 227 on Facebook, Twitter and eCommunicator, our information management system. These sites connect students, parents, staff, alumni and community members to news and information about our schools. Joining is easy and just takes a few minutes on the following sites: www.Facebook.com, www.Twitter.com, and click the tab for eCommunicator on our website, www.rich227.org



Welcome New Administrators

◀ **Dr. Jennifer Norrell**
Assistant Superintendent
for Student Learning and
Accountability

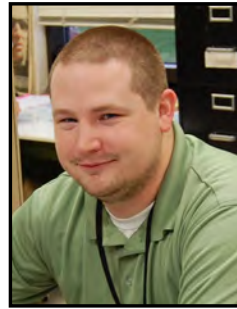
Keith McLean ▶
Supervisor of
Buildings and Grounds



Celebrating our alumni...giving back and making a difference

Kirk Keelan...Rich Central Alumnus, Rich South and Rich Central Social Studies Teacher ▶

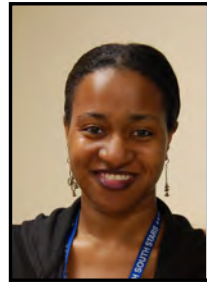
"I believe that attending Rich Central prepared me for my career as an educator by surrounding me, as a student, with teachers who wanted nothing more than for me to succeed. These teachers served as an example of what I want to be as an educator. I want my students to know that when they walk into my classroom, I will make sure they leave surpassing all expectations."



Dion Wilson...Rich Central Alumnus, Millikin University Running Back ▶

Senior Dion Wilson is an Arthur Ashe, Jr. Sports Scholar, which recognizes students of color who have excelled both academically and athletically.

He set a school record (278 yards) for rushing in the 2010 season opening game, including five touchdowns. His 2009 accomplishments include: lead rusher (832 yards) and All-Conference First Team for College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin; Nominee for the Allstate AFCA Good Works Team.



Monica Bell...Rich Central Alumnus, Rich South Foreign Language Teacher

"My education from Rich Central prepared me to compete with some of the best and the brightest at Northwestern University, where I earned my undergraduate degree. It also helped me take what I had learned from my AP and Honors classes to study abroad in France. I am very proud to be a product of Rich Township High Schools."



Earl Rogers...Rich South Alumnus, Rich East Family/Consumer Science Teacher

"My education at Rich South prepared me to find a way, or make one, to solve any of life's difficulties. I take that same approach now, when educating my young students today."

Carley Demchuk...Rich East Alumnus, Research Assistant for Hematology and Oncology, University of Chicago Medical Center ▶

"I am in oncology clinics three times a week conducting translational research under the guidance of two doctors. We compile patient cancer histories for esophageal, mesothelioma, thymoma, lung, head and neck cancer research to update databases to learn more about how cancer starts in all different kinds of people.

The kind of diverse, open community that students experience at Rich East helped me immensely to interact not only with all different kinds of people in Chicago, but all over the world—as in 2007 when I studied for a semester in Florence, Italy.

I had the opportunity to take several Honors and AP classes with some really great teachers at Rich East. The way I learned to study helped to prepare me for the University of Chicago, and I would not be where I am without all the instruction, support and guidance from my teachers."

Next stop: Post-baccalaureate Pre-Med Science at NYU, January 2011



Wendell Mosby...Rich Central Alumnus, Liaison, Aunt Martha's Health Services; Founder, WIMP Wear Clothing

Mosby won the 2010 Iowa STATEment Maker Award as 'Volunteer Extraordinaire', which honors early (under 32) personal and professional accomplishments and contributions of Iowa State University alumni. He has volunteered for the Chicago Public Schools, the Lil SIS Chicago Expo, and Adopt-a-Highway.

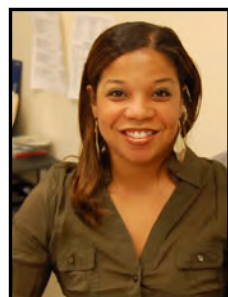
His favorite quote: "You can either let the world define who you are or you can define yourself to the world."



Leekita McCorker...Rich South Alumnus, Pre-dentistry, University of Illinois at Springfield

"The teachers I had at Rich South were incredible. They were tough and demanding, but they were the best. Because I participated in a lot of activities and clubs, it helps me to stay balanced now that I have a full college schedule. Because of Rich South, I feel prepared and able to succeed."

A former high honor roll student, Leekita was in Key Club, Yearbook, Peer Mediation, and numerous worthy causes for her community of Richton Park.



Kelli Townsend...Rich South Alumnus, Rich South Special Education Teacher

"I was fortunate to have had the opportunity to graduate from one of the best high school districts in the South Suburbs. My teachers emphasized taking responsibility...and maintaining good grades. Now, I apply those same concepts, and I am very proud to be part of a dynamic team of professional educators who are dedicated to being proactive and providing a safe and successful learning community for our students."



Derrill Miller, Jr...Rich South Alumnus, Student: Robert Morris College, Chicago ▶

Derrill Miller is the founder of *One Love, One World*, a foundation designed to help those in need, including care packages and meal kits for the homeless. He is a recent winner of the Park Forest Good Egg Award, which recognizes leadership and community service and those who have had a significant impact on fostering inter-group relationships and equal opportunity in the South Suburbs. Miller has traveled to South Africa with *Coca-Cola* to learn about Africa's water crisis as part of the *Coca-Cola Water for Schools* program.

RICH TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 227
 20000 GOVERNORS DRIVE, #200 • OLYMPIA FIELDS, IL

BOARD OF EDUCATION

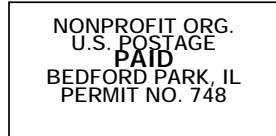
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 Superintendent for Finance & Operations
 DR. JENNIFER NORRELL, Assistant
 Superintendent for Student Learning & Accountability
 DR. SELMA MCDONALD, Director of Human Resources
 MARDA COTTON-RAMEY, Director of Special Education

SERVING ALL OF RICH TOWNSHIP

ALL OR PART OF THE COMMUNITIES OF
 CHICAGO HEIGHTS
 COUNTRY CLUB HILLS
 MATTESON
 OLYMPIA FIELDS
 PARK FOREST
 RICHTON PARK
 TINLEY PARK
 UNIVERSITY PARK



POSTAL CUSTOMER

PRESIDENT, BOARD OF EDUCATION



Sonya Norwood

As Board president, I have the privilege to help our students reach their fullest potential. I have the pleasure of identifying the resources that will help each student individually, while developing objectives that will help our district collectively. It is a task that I do not undertake alone. With the assistance of my fellow Board members, the administrative teams and staff members, we work toward a standard of excellence and a future of success for our students.

And yet, success is not limited to merely one picture, or one definition. There is not a one-size-fits-all approach that we can simply apply to each student who comes through our doors. There are as many components of

success as there are students who will eventually attain that success. For some, it may be acceptance into the college of their choice. For others, it may be the development of job readiness skills that will propel them into the career path they've decided to pursue. Leading a student toward that vision may come through the instruction of teachers, the guidance of parents, or the example of peers.

The more we talk to our students, and the more versions of success we recognize, the better able we are to respond to those needs. That is why we will conduct student forums in the coming months at each of our schools, to connect with our student body and to better identify the supports that are needed going forward. Information regarding dates and times for the forums will soon be available on our website.

This is part of our strategy of bringing innovation and solutions to our district. It is part of our commitment of responding in new ways to new opportunities on the horizon. From increasing technological innovation, to expanding financial literacy, to learning how to respond to economic changes, our students are better prepared to compete when we arm them with the tools and the knowledge to be successful. That is our job. These are my goals. And we, as a Board, are committed to them, and to the students of this district that we are proud to call our own.

Upcoming Meetings & Events

Saturday Coffee Dates for Community to meet with the Board of Education

November 13, and December 11, 2010
 Meet at District Office, 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Monday Coffee Dates for Parents to meet with the Superintendent

November 15, and December 13, 2010
 Meet at District Office, 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

More Saturday & Monday Meetings at: www.rich227.org

November 16, 2010

Board of Education Meeting
 7:30 p.m. at Rich Central High School

December 8, 2010

Community Advisory Council Meeting
 5:30 p.m. at District Administrative Office

December 8, 2010

Student Advisory Council Meeting
 3:30 p.m. at District Administrative Office

December 9, 2010

Staff Advisory Council Meeting
 3:30 p.m. at District Administrative Office

December 9, 2010

Business Advisory Council Meeting
 5:30 p.m. at District Administrative Office

December 15, 2010

Parent Advisory Council Meeting
 5:30 p.m. at District Administrative Office

December 16, 2010

Local Educators' Advisory Council Meeting
 5:30 p.m. at District Administrative Office

December 21, 2010

Board of Education Meeting
 7:30 p.m. at Rich South High School

Rich High thanks District 163 for preparing their students for high school



At the recent Board of Education meeting, **Dr. Donna Simpson Leak**, Superintendent of District 227 (at far left in photo), presented **Dr. Joyce Carmine**, Superintendent of District 163 (near center in photo, holding plaque), with an award recognizing achievements with elementary students, thereby supporting the Rich East award as one of 'America's Best High Schools' from *U.S. News & World Report*.

After accepting the award, Dr. Carmine noted that the bridge between the two school districts has grown with articulation.

Also, five of District 163 schools were recently recognized as being in the top 300 elementary schools in Cook County by *Chicago* magazine.

Others present at the meeting included Board members from both districts, students, and staff.