Preparing students for careers as K-12 teachers has long been a key commitment at Michigan State University. In 2002, MSU took yet another major step forward when it became part of the Carnegie Corporation of New York’s groundbreaking reform initiative—Teachers for a New Era (TNE).

Of the nearly 1,400 American universities that prepare teachers, only MSU, Bank Street College of Education in New York, California State University at Northridge, and the University of Virginia were asked to be part of this multimillion dollar project in its first year.

In announcing the selection of the four institutions, Carnegie President Vartan Gregorian said, “Teaching reform is central to school reform, and these institutions are pioneers in the movement. If we really want to improve student achievement, we have no choice but to improve teaching.”

As part of the project, MSU will receive $5 million over five years to establish a model for preparing high-quality teachers to meet the demands of the contemporary American classroom. The Carnegie Corporation is joined in funding this program by the Ford, Annenberg and Rockefeller foundations. The university must raise an additional $5 million in matching donations to further the project activities.

“MSU’s national prominence in teacher education reform, its reputation for cross-college collaboration and its outreach into community schools gave it a distinct edge in the competition,” said Barbara Steidle, assistant provost and project manager. “Designed as a Carnegie venture, the Teachers for a New Era project attracted additional foundation support, thus providing the funding for four institutions.”

The goal for TNE is to establish nationally recognized exemplars of outstanding teacher preparation. Carnegie expects that the success of MSU and the other institutions, their graduates and the research produced in the coming years will challenge other universities to follow these ideas.

As expressed by Daniel Fallon, chair of the education division at Carnegie Corporation, “The key concern with the matching funds is institutional commitment to the long-term success of the program. A useful concept in this respect is sustainability. We are asking for truly fundamental restructuring, and we expect the changes to be built into the fabric of the institution in ways that will long outlive the expiration of resources provided by the funders of TNE.”

“Part of the reason MSU was chosen is because our commitment to preparing teachers well, particularly in their subject areas, extends across the university,” said Joan Ferrini-Mundy, associate dean for science and mathematics education in the College of Natural Science, and a co-principal...
The faculty leadership team includes people from the colleges of Education, Natural Science, Arts and Letters, and Social Science. We will build on our strengths and become a national model for how teacher education can be taken seriously across the arts, letters, science and social science.

The funders are counting on leadership from the presidents of supported institutions that elevates the role and importance of the teacher education enterprise within the university community, said Ferrini-Mundy.

THE MSU VISION

The TNE initiative treats teacher education as a university-wide responsibility, involving the colleges of Natural Science, Arts and Letters, and Social Science in addition to the College of Education. A unique aspect of MSU’s approach is a focus on the kinds of subject matter knowledge would-be teachers need to improve student learning. Plans call for revising or creating courses and developing new coalitions of university and K-12 school faculty.

Another key emphasis involves an understanding of context: the characteristics of the students, the schools, and the communities in which they teach.

Assessment is pivotal to all aspects of the MSU initiative. The project is committed to identifying or developing assessment tools and promoting their use in continual program improvement and in tracking student progress. Another important goal is to have graduates use assessment tools as an integral part of their teaching to support student learning.

To provide continuing support and promote the continuing professional development of MSU-trained teachers, a new induction program will be available to graduates in the first two years of their careers.

After five years, MSU expects that its university-wide teacher education program will be preparing teachers who are more knowledgeable and skilled in their subject areas, better able to teach their subject to diverse learners, and more proficient in using assessment information to guide their teaching. MSU expects its experiences and results will serve as a model of teacher education reform for other programs and institutions.

MSU’s Teachers for a New Era project will lead to changes in five areas of teacher preparation:

• design of new content courses in English, mathematics, the social sciences and the sciences that are well integrated with education courses on teacher preparation and student learning;

• overhaul of education coursework and teacher education field experiences, both in subject matter and teaching methods so that content and context are central;

• development of a new two-year induction program for beginning MSU teachers;

• creation of a new MSU focus on preparing teachers for urban schools and educating more teachers from groups underrepresented in the teaching profession; and

• use of assessments to strengthen the entire MSU teacher education program and evaluate its effectiveness.

Michigan State University’s highly regarded teacher preparation program has been a leader in the reform and development of teacher education for nearly 30 years. MSU has been a frontrunner as an advocate of extended field experience in schools for MSU students and strong content preparation of teachers. MSU’s program has led the country in building deep connections with K-12 schools, as well as implementing a successful fifth-year internship program for new teachers. Through the Teachers for a New Era initiative, MSU will help lead the way into a new era of modeling teacher education as a university-wide responsibility.

“This is part of becoming not only an outstanding program, but a recognizably outstanding program,” said Robert Floden, director of the Institute for Research on Teaching and Learning and co-principal investigator of the project. “We have to study what we are doing as we are doing it, we have to write about it, and make connections to other teacher education programs in the state or elsewhere and to school districts. We will get the word out.”
For the second year in a row, The Guido A. & Elizabeth H. Binda Foundation has given $5,000 to help Michigan State University students from the Battle Creek/Calhoun County area participate in the nation’s leading Study Abroad program.

Binda Scholarships are awarded in the amount of $1,000 to help defray the costs of overseas study. During 2001-2002, the first group of five Binda Scholars deepened their educational experience with programs such as Food, Environment and Social Systems in Australia (two scholars); English Literature in Dublin, Ireland; Journalism in the United Kingdom; and Tropical Ecology and Management in the Bahamas. Three scholarships have been awarded this year to MSU students who will participate in Medical Ethics and the History of Health Care in London; Globalization, the Environment and Social Capital in Argentina; and International Food Laws in Europe (Belgium). The remaining two Binda Scholarships will be awarded later this year.

“... The gift helps us pursue a university goal of making study abroad accessible for all qualified undergraduates.”

Private sponsorship of Study Abroad is particularly beneficial at MSU, where the majority of students come from families of modest means and most work during the semester to meet educational and living expenses. The loss of wages during a Study Abroad experience is a factor that deters many MSU students from gaining the benefits of international study, despite the university’s efforts to keep costs down. For these hard-working students, a scholarship of $500 to $1,000 makes the difference in their ability to spend a semester overseas.

Established in 1977 by Guido A. Binda, AIA, an architect specializing in school design, and his wife, Elizabeth, a teacher, The Guido A. and Elizabeth H. Binda Foundation shares and invests its resources in creative programs that improve education and quality of life for areas of southwestern Michigan.
On April 29, 2003, in the first gathering of its kind, members from throughout the American automotive industry united to commemorate the longstanding partnership of the industry and Michigan State University.

More than 700 MSU alumni and friends from DaimlerChrysler Corporation, the Ford Motor Company, General Motors Corporation and the top tier of automotive suppliers joined MSU Interim President and Provost Lou Anna K. Simon, Trustee Dolores Cook, college deans, faculty, staff and coaches at the Marriott Centerpointe in Pontiac, Michigan to celebrate A New Century of Partnership/The Automotive Industry and MSU.

The successful partnership between MSU and the automotive industry is vital to forwarding MSU’s legacy of innovation and accomplishment. Research by MSU faculty drives innovations in engineering, management and related disciplines. MSU students engage in coursework designed to equip them with practical skills and knowledge of emerging industry trends. The automotive industry, in turn, supports the university’s efforts with funding, access to technology and insight into the latest developments.

Highlights of the celebration were the presentations by leaders of the industry—Nick Scheele, President and COO of Ford Motor Company, Dieter Zetsche, President and CEO of Chrysler Group of DaimlerChrysler, and Rick Wagoner, President and CEO of General Motors Corporation. (see excerpts from their addresses)

MSU administrators and guests who spoke included Board of Trustees member Dolores Cook; Interim President and Provost Lou Anna K. Simon; College of Engineering Dean Janie Fouke; College of Engineering student Maia Broadway; Eli Broad College of Business Dean Robert Duncan; Business alumnus Spencer White; and Coaches Joanne P. McCallie, John L. Smith and Tom Izzo.

Industry representatives also included Lynn C. Myers of General Motors Corporation, national co-chair for The Campaign for MSU; Jon Pepper, Ford Motor Company; Sue Unger, DaimlerChrysler; and Dave Cosper, Ford Motor Company.

Guests talked with speakers after the program.

MSU Alumni Association Director Keith Williams (left) posed with guests after the program.

Guests posed with MSU engineering students who helped design and construct a formula-style race car.
Excerpts from presentations by the heads of the Chrysler Group, Ford and GM

Address by Dieter Zetsche, President and CEO of the Chrysler Group, DaimlerChrysler Corporation

The Chrysler group has long been a supporter of Michigan State University. In our executive ranks, for example, Michigan State graduates represent one of our three largest alumni groups.

The MSU executive MBA program has long provided an excellent graduate business education for our high potential mid-career executives.

Our challenge fund projects, including recent examples, such as our engine cooling fan system noise and performance enhancements, help us develop cutting-edge technology.

Michigan State’s recent ranking, the top ten of all American universities in receiving U.S. patents, is a reflection of your university’s dedication to research and innovation.

Partnerships between the auto industry and leading universities have always been essential. We rely on top institutions like MSU to provide us with the educated talent we need to run our companies and for the incubation of ideas, new technologies and new approaches to business. And, in turn, universities rely on industry and alumni for their continued support.

Address by Rick Wagoner, President and CEO, General Motors Corporation

Our industry is pretty competitive and getting more so every day. To win, we need to attract the best and brightest young people to work in our companies.

All good coaches will tell you one of the secrets to ongoing success lies, not only in the players you can suit up today, but also with the ones you can recruit for tomorrow. The same is true in the auto business. One way to make that happen is to support one of our major home-team universities, Michigan State, and the programs they sponsor in support of our industry.

Over the years, we’ve provided MSU with more than $18 million in financial support while our MSU alumni, with the help of our matching gifts program, have donated almost another five million.

For its part, MSU is one of our top sources of outstanding research and talented employees. We’re proud that some three thousand GM employees are MSU grads, including a number of our senior executives.

This kind of mutual support is critical both to our industry and to Michigan State, and tonight you have a chance to demonstrate that belief in person.

Address by Nick Scheele, President and COO, Ford Motor Company

Today, more than 2,300 MSU alumni work for Ford Motor Company.

Many of our employees, including graduates of other universities, have taken advantage of continuing education opportunities at MSU. Continuing education enriches not only the individual, but Ford Motor Company as well.

Ford was one of the first corporations to step up as leaders in The Campaign for MSU, with a $5 million pledge for the Biomedical and Physical Sciences facility and the ARES project. Today, Ford Motor Company provides MSU student scholarships in business, engineering and labor and industrial relations, as well as support for minority education, facilities and programs. Ford’s corporate support for MSU over the years totals nearly $17 million.

MSU alumni at Ford have been instrumental in their support of their alma mater through the Ford-MSU In-House Campaign… the first of its kind for Michigan State.

As your careers take you across this broad and varied industry, let us remember to support the university where many of your aspirations first took root.
The School of Labor and Industrial Relations received a $1.3 million software grant from PeopleSoft, Inc. through its participation in the PeopleSoft On Campus program. On Campus is an industry-academic partnership that provides software, faculty training, educational materials and technical support to higher education institutions. The program’s primary goal is to help colleges and universities update their curricula and produce graduates with expertise using enterprise management tools.

Dr. James Dulebohn, assistant professor of Human Resources and Information Management, plans to offer several graduate human resource information systems courses based on PeopleSoft Human Capital Management. In addition, the School will integrate PeopleSoft software into its MLRHR program’s Introductory Human Resource Management and Compensation courses. The implementation, faculty training and curriculum development began during the spring 2003 semester, with the first use of the software in coursework planned for fall 2003 semester.

Professor Dulebohn said, “We are very grateful to PeopleSoft for their generous gift to MSU. This gift will enable the School’s graduate students in human resources management and labor relations to be more effective strategic business partners in the organizations in which they will become employed, said Theodore H. Curry, II, director and professor, School of Labor and Industrial Relations. “With our computer lab provided through a generous gift from IBM, and smart classroom renovation project, provided through a generous gift from Ford Motor Company, MSU LIR students will be second to none in technology enhanced learning.”

The PeopleSoft On Campus Program supports higher education institutions by integrating PeopleSoft applications into college and university curricula. New software grants and the program’s first faculty curriculum awards are recent achievements that have marked a strong year of collaboration for the four-year-old program. With these recent awards, PeopleSoft On Campus has now provided more than $40 million in software and training grants to institutions throughout North America and Germany. Through the On Campus program, PeopleSoft offered hands-on industry experience to more than 10,000 students in the 2002 -2003 academic year alone.

Michigan State University’s School of Labor and Industrial Relations is a premier center for teaching, research and outreach on issues related to human resources management and employment.
The SUR awards also support the advancement of university projects by connecting top researchers in academia with IBM research personnel, along with representatives from product development and solution provider communities.
The Multicultural Business Programs (MBP) in The Eli Broad College of Business were established to improve the recruitment, retention, and graduation rate of multicultural students by providing opportunities for them to develop full academic and career potential. The programs promote a success philosophy by fostering a positive awareness of personality, gender, physical and cultural differences.

MBP provides continuing support to graduation, with individualized academic counseling support, career development and placement. MBP currently serves more than 650 multicultural students enrolled in business or pre-business majors. “We are proud of our commitment to provide individualized academic, career and personal guidance to students in The Eli Broad College of Business,” said Dr. Ernest Betts, director of Multicultural Business Programs. “In fostering a supportive environment to promote academic and professional development, the alumni of this unique program are employed by Fortune 500 companies and are leaders within their chosen industries.”

Through these programs, the Broad School is able to offer a variety of services to retain students at the college and university level and to prepare them for success in their careers.

- Tutoring programs increase the students’ overall GPA; 22 tutors work with over 250 students per semester.
- Summer programs help over 60 student freshmen acclimate to the university environment, establish connections prior to attending, and gain an early knowledge of corporate relations.
- Career development is aided through workshops to increase a student’s understanding and preparation for the business world. Corporate representatives and MSU alumni work with the Broad School, facilitating workshops on such topics as career fair preparation, business etiquette and interviewing techniques.