

## ***YEAR END REPORT:***

### ***Galileo Institute for Teacher Leadership at Oakland University***

The 2009-10 academic year saw the Galileo Institute continue to fulfill its potential as an influential voice for developing and supporting teacher leadership. Fulfilling this mission is particularly important at a time when educational policy and politics are undergoing profound changes while the financial support needed to help navigate these turbulent times is rapidly shrinking. During the past 12 months we have sought to provide encouragement needed for school leaders to see teacher leadership as essential at a time when formal instructional support roles have been eliminated. Many have responded to our rallying cry that this is a time for school leaders to “step up” not “hunker down”.

We are proud of the Institute’s contributions to teaching, service and scholarship. This year’s projects included:

- Completion of studies on the roles of superintendent’s and principals supporting teacher leadership and a successful collaborative leadership project in a local school district
- Presentation at the conferences sponsored by The Michigan Association of School Administrators, The National Council for Professors of Educational Administration, and the Oakland County chapter of the Michigan Elementary and Middle School Principal’s Association.
- Development of a partnership with the Oakland University Early Childhood Department leading to a multi-session series on teacher leadership for early childhood educators
- Participation in the Learning Achievement Coalition-Oakland’s on-going work to identify and close achievement disparities in K-12 schools.
- Continued support for the teacher leadership projects in the Van Dyke and Center Line school districts.
- Provided on-going graduate education through the Teacher Leadership Masters and Galileo Education Specialist programs
- Prepared two U.S. Department of Education grant proposals to develop teacher leadership in the Pontiac Schools. The first was rejected and the second is pending.
- Maintained outreach to the education community through an interactive Ning site, monthly newsletters, and weekly podcasts.

The work of the Institute would not be possible without the encouragement and wisdom of the Advisory Board. This remarkable group of individuals has effectively served as a sounding board and source of new ideas. Recently they helped formulate a system change project that will be conducted during the upcoming school year. It is anticipated that 6-10 districts will participate in this project, which will help them maximize the potential of teacher leadership, remove barriers, and learn from successful efforts in other districts.

Other projects for 2010-11 include outreach of more school districts, continuation of the early childhood and achievement gap projects, more frequent Meadow Brook seminars, and possible publication of the first edited book by the Galileo Institute.

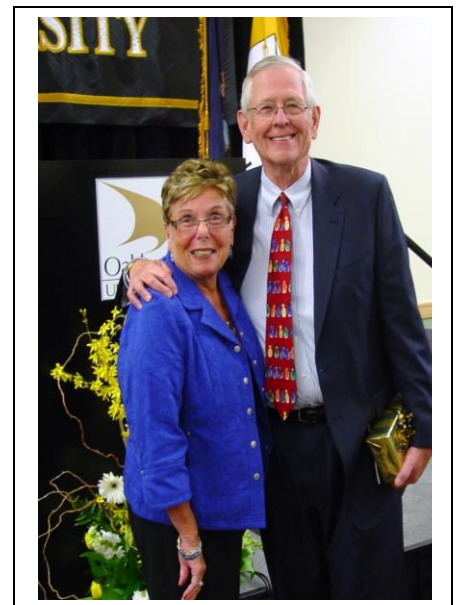
## **OU recognizes Maxfield for outstanding service**

By: Caryn M. Wells, PhD

On April 14th, Oakland University celebrated the Fifteenth Annual Faculty Recognition Luncheon where faculty were awarded for their distinguished contributions in research, teaching, and service. Dr. Bob Maxfield represented the School of Education and Human Services (SEHS) as the recipient of the esteemed award for service. Dr. Maxfield was elected by his peers, and selected as the representative from the SEHS.

Maxfield’s work with the Learning Achievement Coalition-Oakland (LAC-O) was cited as being exemplary as he collaborates with local districts to advance the work of closing achievement disparities. In addition, Bob’s leadership of the Galileo Institute has ensured the growth that connects Oakland University with the outstanding work of the Galileo Consortium. Bob’s leadership and legacy are of the highest calling- the call of service.

Maxfield is shown at right with his wife, Sarah after receiving this prestigious award. We salute Dr. Maxfield for his vision, his love of the profession, and his willingness to serve. Kudos!



## GALILEO GOOD-BYES

The Galileo Institute for Teacher Leadership bids a fond farewell to two colleagues who have been closely involved in its successes. Interim Dean William Keane retired from Oakland University on June 30, 2010 and Research Associate Barbara Klocko has accepted a position at Central Michigan University as an assistant professor in the Educational Leadership Department.

As former Chair of the Department of Education Leadership, Bill Keane played a major role in the development of the Galileo Institute through his advocacy for the project and participation on the Advisory Committee. As Interim Dean, he secured university funding, which is needed to sustain the Institute.

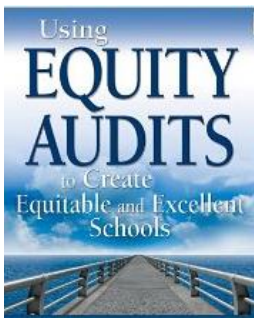
Barb Klocko's service as the Institute's Research Associate has been vital as she has simultaneously provided leadership and support for research studies, the *Teacher Leader* newsletter and other outreach efforts, and partnerships with local school districts. Everyone in the Galileo family appreciates her creativity, passion, and "can-do" spirit. While we will all miss her, we look forward to working with her as she takes the Galileo spirit to CMU.

## GALILEO RESEARCH REVIEW:

Galileo Institute researchers Caryn Wells, Bob Maxfield and Barbara Klocko will be presenting several studies at the annual NCEA Conference this August in Washington, DC. The initial findings of *Complexities Inherent in the Workload of Principals: Implications for Teacher Leadership* will be presented as well as *Building a Connected System: Voices in the Intersection of Early Childhood and K-12 Education* and *Everybody leads: A model for collaborative leadership*.

Don Brosky's dissertation, *Micropolitics in the School: Teacher Leaders' Use of Political Skill and Influence Tactics* has been selected in national review for the Morphet Award for Outstanding Dissertation. He will also present his findings at the NCEA Conference in Washington, D.C, in August.

## BOOK TALK with Kay Cornell, Education Consultant



### Using Equity Audits to Create Equitable and Excellent Schools

Linda Skrla, Kathryn Bell McKenzie, James Joseph Scheurich, Corwin Press, 2010.

For those districts and schools that are truly committed to closing the achievement gap, this practical, easy-to use-book provides a process for using data to identify issues of inequity and inequality. This is not a tool, but rather it's a process that provides a set of "inquiry indicators" for evaluating school, generating essential data, and identifying problem areas. This book fills a gap in the how-to part of closing the achievement gap and will be exactly what people need to move to the next level of change in their districts. Another must read!



Dr. Brian Clark and members of EdS Galileo cohort discussed their action research projects at the recent action research fair. From left: Nan Kaufman, Julie Sipila, Cherie Godfrey, Mike Cahill and Dr. Clark.

## KEEPING UP WITH THE PODCASTS



This spring's podcasts included conversations with: **Lee Felts** from AVID, a very promising program aimed at eliminating achievement gaps in schools; **Jason Flom**, founder of Ecology of Education, and active blogger on school reform issues; Oakland's own **Dr. Tom Pedroni** discussing his project - Metropolitan Detroit Youth Studies Seminar; **Michele and Robert Root-Bernstein** of MSU discussing their very interesting "Sparks of Genius" project; Motivational speaker, **Marlon Smith** who was in town as the keynote speaker for the student leadership conference sponsored by the Learning Achievement Coalition-Oakland. Joining this conversation was Reginald McCloud - OU's Director of Pre-College Programs; and **Jay Matthews** from the Washington Post, discussing school reform.

The podcast crew has prepared a directory of this year's programs. It is available on the Podcasts For Leaderful Schools website. ([www.oakland.edu/podcasts4collaborativeleadership/](http://www.oakland.edu/podcasts4collaborativeleadership/))

## QUESTIONS?

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