

McLean County Unit District No.5
1809 West Hovey Avenue
Normal, IL 61761-4339

Office of the Superintendent

Ph.: (309) 452-4476
FAX: (309) 452-7418

Good News Report!

Praise from our peers is always the best praise. It is hardest won, and we appreciate it most when people from our own group say, "Job well done!" That is why it meant so much to learn that the session presented by Carmen Bergman, Sue Hospelhorn, Martha Kindred, and Barb McClarty at the Illinois Association for Gifted Children Convention held this February was listed as one of the most beneficial sessions at the convention. The session titled, *What Are You Doing?* provided attendees with information about what Illinois school districts and teachers can do for gifted students during times of dwindling resources. During their session Carmen, Sue, Martha and Barb talked about the Unit 5 Gifted Education Program and all that our Unit 5 teachers and IMC Specialists are doing to make sure the needs of our gifted students are still being met despite the elimination of the Illinois Gifted Grant and its associated funding.

Carmen, Sue, Martha, and Barb were able to field with ease questions from teachers and administrators about the complexities of differentiating the curriculum, communicating with parents, and increasing the number of teachers and administrators who are knowledgeable about gifted learners because they have been instrumental in creating our Unit 5 Gifted Education Program. They shared the communication pieces we've created and talked about how our program has grown through the professional development activities provided by the district and our Regional Office of Education.

It was exciting to be approached by Trudy Wallace, the director of the Chicago Public Schools Gifted Education Program and to be asked if she could visit our district to see our program in action. It is a tribute to these ladies who represent our team of Gifted Lead Teachers and IMC Specialists. That team continues to strive to keep our Gifted Education Program strong. Their efforts are to be commended.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Greene

"Educating each student to achieve personal excellence"