



# March 31, 2014

## Wyandotte Distinguished Graduate Inductee



### Suzanne (Hughes) Figurski January Class of 1966

Suzanne Figurski distinguished herself as a renowned expert in the field of Early Childhood Education and as a dedicated educator and School Administrator.

Suzanne graduated from Roosevelt High School with the January Class of 1966, where she enjoyed being a part of the A Cappella Choir and was recognized for her academic achievements.

Suzanne pursued her college studies when her children began elementary school. In 1983, she earned an Associate Degree from Wayne County Community College in Child Care and Guidance. In 1986, she received a Child Development Associate Degree from the University of Michigan-Dearborn that certified her credentials for teaching in the Head Start Program. Suzanne earned her B.S. Degree in 1990 from Madonna University in Child Development that gave her the vocational credentials for teaching in grades 9-12. In 2000, Suzanne earned her M.S. Degree from Nova Southeastern University with a major in Early Childhood Education and Administration.

Suzanne Figurski began her educational career in 1983 at the Wayne County Regional Education Service Agency in the Head Start Program. In 1987, she served in the Taylor Public Schools as a Kindergarten Readiness Teacher and Child Care Assistant Director. From 1988-2002, Suzanne served as the Early Education Director. Suzanne implemented the Michigan Department of Education Vocational Curriculum Lab Preschool, and Parent Resource Center. She also made available numerous Wayne County RESA teacher grants and chaired the Phonemic Awareness Committee that realigned the Pre-Kindergarten and Elementary School Curricula.

Suzanne was recognized as an Early Childhood Specialist for the Michigan Department of Education School Readiness Program where she secured the funding through grants to expand the early education programs into the elementary schools. She provided service in staff training, curriculum planning, student follow up and parent education. Suzanne was a major presenter with the Michigan Department of Education at the Governor's Educational Summit focusing on the positive results of Early Childhood Education. During this period in Suzanne's career, she also served as an adjunct teacher at Monroe Community College in their Early Childhood Educational Programs.

In 2002, Suzanne was appointed an Assistant Principal at Roosevelt High School and Early Childhood Director. From 2003-2008 Suzanne served the Wyandotte Public School district as Principal of Jefferson Elementary School.

Suzanne has devoted her entire professional career to making Early Childhood Education an integral part of every elementary school in Michigan and beyond. Suzanne has been a role model to her colleagues. She is active in her church and gives her time to serve the many organizations downriver. Though retired since 2008, Suzanne remains active with the Michigan Association for the Education of Young Children (MiAEYC) and continues to volunteer her expertise at workshops, seminars and presentations for both the MiAEYC and the Michigan Department of Education conferences. Currently, Suzanne is co-presenting with the MDE the alignment of the Early Childhood State Standards of Quality, and the Common Core State Standards.

Suzanne Figurski lives in Wyandotte with her husband James. They enjoy their children and their families.