

from the  
**President/CEO**



Greetings!

It is hard to believe that as you are reading this, schools in our area are finishing up the first half of their 2006-2007 school year. Where does the time go?

Each school year brings about new challenges and resurfaces some old challenges. One of those old challenges for many schools is the issue of achievement gaps between girls and boys.

Teachers know that boys, who are more likely to land in the principal's office, be sent to special education classes and

receive poor grades, can excel if an environment allows more activity and shorter, hands-on lessons.

Girls, on the other hand, often prefer quiet, orderly lessons and can feel more secure expressing their thoughts and ideas when boys are not around.

Studies also show that male and female brains are different and develop at different rates. One study revealed that women's brains are better wired for language and comprehension, which can explain why girls are more verbal. Another showed that the section of the brain that governs impulse control develops more slowly in boys.

Because of this knowledge, there is a growing national movement to experiment with educating boys and girls separately. The concept got a boost recently when federal education officials relaxed restrictions on single-gender education.

Since 2000, the number of single-sex public schools and classrooms has risen. Six years ago, there were six public single-gender schools, compared with 51 this year, according to the National Association for Single Sex Public Education. There are at least another 200 schools nationwide that offer single-gender classrooms.

Experts expect those numbers to increase dramatically over the next few years, due to new federal regulations unveiled recently by the U.S. Department of Education.

The rules are the most expansive alteration of the landmark Title IX law that banned gender discrimination in schools, and they allow school districts to separate boys and girls in classrooms and schools as long as enrollment is voluntary. The district also must ensure that the opportunity for the excluded gender is "substantially equal."

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Learning for **Life.**

**SINE adds new board members**

Recently SINE added three new board members to its Board of Directors.

Jon Craig was elected to the board in September. Craig is the Mayor of the City of Petersburg where he is responsible for running the day-to-day operations of all city departments including Police, Fire, Parks, Water, Sewer and Street Departments.



Craig says he believes SINE is an important organization because he believes that "it is critical that everyone takes to heart the education system as it relates to children and adults. We shouldn't leave everything up to the schools. The partnerships that SINE creates between the workplace, workforce, and our traditional education system can only serve to synergize and build the outcomes of all of our individual endeavors."

As Mayor of Petersburg, Craig serves on many boards - primarily as the presiding officer of the Petersburg City Council, Water Board, and Board of Public Works and Safety. He is also on the executive committee of the Indiana Association of Cities and Towns (IACT), board chairman of the Pike County Economic Growth and Development Council, Chair of Pike County Junior Achievement, and sat on the Indiana 15 Regional Planning Commission. He has also recently served on the State of Indiana Fire Service Certification Review Committee, the Industrial Development and Education Alliance of Pike County (IDEA Pike County), and is a member of the Board of Deacons of the Petersburg First Baptist Church.

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# SINE welcomes new employees

SINE is pleased to welcome two new employees to its organization.

Steven Stump is SINE's new Marketing/Public Relations Manager. He is responsible for promoting the organization and increasing public awareness of its purpose and programs, data analysis and reporting, copywriting and strategic planning of marketing efforts.

Steven joins SINE with seven years of sales, marketing and management experience with a history of working for companies whose products enhance the classroom and extracurricular experiences of junior high, high school and collegiate students.

He holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Southern Indiana and has spent his entire career in the Evansville area.

Steven says he believes SINE is an important organization in southwest Indiana. With his wife being an elementary school teacher, he witnesses first-hand the challenges that educators face in this part of the state.

"SINE empowers teachers with effective methods and practices that enable their students to learn and better comprehend information in all subject areas," he says. "In addition, SINE offers opportunities to adults and the business community by providing ways for individuals of all ages to increase their education, thus making them more effective in the work force, improving the economy and quality of life for themselves and their employers."

Steven is currently taking courses at USI towards a Master's

in Business Administration. He and his wife have three children (6, 3, and 9 months).

"I am certainly grateful to have the opportunity to be a part of an organization that has and continues to enhance the lives of so many people in our community," he says. "I truly believe in SINE's mission and its attainability. I hope that my efforts will bring awareness of the benefits of education to all residents of our nine-county area and expand the geographic borders of the area we serve."

Sheila Welton is SINE's new Accountant. Her responsibilities include maintaining the accounting records, preparing financial statements and processing accounts receivable and accounts payable.

She has worked in Financial Analyst and Accounting positions for the past 16 years in the utility and healthcare industries. For the last eight years, she worked at Vectren in various financial roles.

She is a CPA with a Bachelor of Science in Business/Accounting from the University of Southern Indiana. She is also a member of the Indiana CPA Society and is active in the Institute of Management Accounting.

Sheila believes SINE is an important organization in southwest Indiana because she says, "It is important because it provides educational and learning opportunities for teachers using best practices and promotes learning for life."

In her spare time, Sheila enjoys antiquing, gardening, running and being with friends and family.

## 2007 Workshop Schedule

Take a look at the workshops SINE has planned for 2007:

Date(s)	Workshop	Location	Date(s)	Workshop	Location
January 30 & 31	DIBELS training	Evansville	April 16	DIBELS Interventions	Evansville
February 13	Differentiated Instruction	Princeton	April 19	Simple 6 Advanced The 15-Day Crunch and Simple 6 Your Summer School Plan of Attack	Petersburg
February 21	DIBELS Interventions	Princeton	May 8 and 9	DIBELS training	Princeton
March 2	Boys and Girls Are Different (Closing the Achievement Gap)	Evansville	June 26	Recertification Training for Poverty in the Classroom	Evansville
March 5	Tucker Signing	Princeton			
March 7	DIBELS Interventions	Washington			

If you are interested in attending any of these workshops or would like more information logon to [www.sineonline.com](http://www.sineonline.com) or call 1-866-380-7463.

## SINE adds new board members (continued)

Craig says his hopes to serve as a liaison between the local school corporation and SINE. He also hopes to serve as a liaison between SINE and the business world.

“I embrace the idea that education is not just about children,” Craig says. “It is a lifelong process that affects learners of all ages. We have seen such a focus of importance placed upon economic development and job creation, we have all heard the negative effects associated with losing our best and brightest human capital through the “brain-drain” process. It is critical that we realize that these situations can be improved through the culture of our education system. SINE has done a great job nourishing the values that schools, economic developers, government, and the entire southwestern Indiana region are trying to instill for our children and workforce to succeed.”



Donald Rupprecht was elected to the board in August. He is currently President of the Evansville Catholic Interparochial High Schools (Reitz Memorial and Mater Dei). In that role, he serves as the Administrative Officer of the Board of Trustees and is responsible for the institutional advancement of both high schools.

Rupprecht says that he believes SINE is an important organization because SINE has demonstrated that it can have a positive impact on the learning results of the population of southwestern Indiana. “Economic development, the standard of living and the ability of society to exist in harmony are highly dependent on the communication skills of all members of the population,” he says. “SINE is uniquely positioned to improve the communications (literacy) skills in this area.”

With his background in law and corporate management, Rupprecht hopes to offer guidance in fiscal and fiduciary responsibility, efficient operations, long term planning and growth and positive measurable results to the SINE board.

In the past, he served as Vice Chair for four years and Chair for three years of the Workforce Development Board of Region L in North Carolina. He also served on the Board of the Edgecombe Community College Foundation (ECCF) for seven years and the Treasurer and Chair of the Development Committee of ECCF. In 2004 and 2005, he served on the Board of Tarboro Savings Bank. From 1998 to 2004, he served on the board of Tarboro Edgecombe Chamber of Commerce and was Chair of the board in 2003. In 1996-1998, he was President of the board of The Indiana Soccer League.

“I strongly believe that education is the foundation to economic development,” Rupprecht says. “In order for southwestern Indiana to grow, SINE must be successful in

raising the teaching and learning standards in the area. It is the one organization that has introduced consistent and comprehensive programs to a nine county area.”



Dr. Ronald Davis became a SINE board member in September. He is currently Provost, Vice President for Instructional Services, and Dean of the Faculty at Vincennes University.

In his role, he is responsible for oversight of instruction, curriculum, and student affairs.

In the past Davis has served on the board of directors for the Salvation Army and United Way.

He says he believes SINE is an important organization because “impacting the teaching and learning environment early on in the educational process by providing new ideas, environments for the exchange of ideas, support and encouragement will enhance the learning experience and will ensure the global competitiveness of the American workforce.”

Davis says he hopes to bring several decades of effective teaching and learning innovations and experiences to the SINE board.

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**“We believe all people of southwest Indiana deserve the opportunity to participate fully in the economic, civic, and cultural life of the region. SINE provides leadership and services that focus on educational networks, literacy for all ages, professional development of educators, workforce advancement, and lifelong learning.”**

# “I Stayed ...How About You?” message targets teens

The Minority Student Achievement Initiative-Evansville (MSAI) has been working diligently with the Evansville-Vanderburgh School Corporation to help close the achievement gap that particularly impacts children of poverty and African American students in our community.

Having spent several years collecting and analyzing data, it is evident that the achievement gap is a multi-faceted community issue.

A coalition of community organizations has worked to develop a strategic plan to help close the achievement gap and increase the number of Evansville youth receiving high school diplomas.

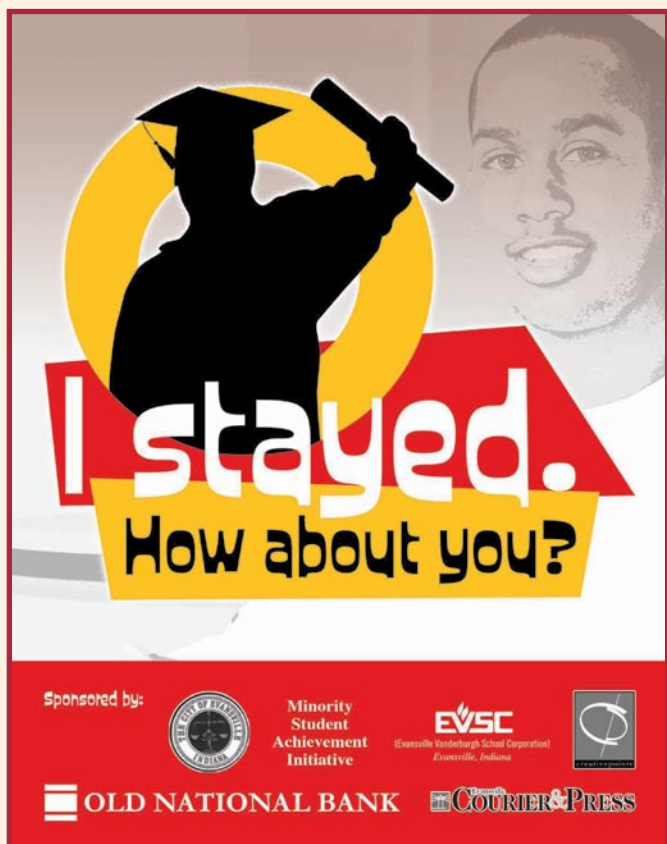
interferes with future success. The point is to demonstrate to Evansville youth through this message that the entire community supports and expects them to succeed.

A kick-off event for the campaign took place on Monday, August 14, 2006, heralding the beginning of the 2006-2007 school year. A press conference took place with all of the collaborative partners and young people from all five Evansville public high schools involved. Mayor Weinzapfel (Education Roundtable), Rev. Larry Rascoe (Minority Student Achievement Initiative), Bob Yeager (EVSC), Don Travis (Evansville Teachers Association) Kathy Schoettlin (Old National Bank) and Pam Decker (Joshua Academy) shared information about the purpose of the campaign and premiered the public service announcement. There were cheerleaders, students and other supporters as well as t-shirts and banners at the press conference.

Advertisements for the campaign will consist of print, TV, PSAs and radio spots. The message will also be displayed on billboards, posters, banners and bus benches.

Anyone who is interested in assisting with the campaign may do so by posting a banner or poster or sending a contribution towards the sustainability of the campaign through August of 2010. Donations may be sent to EVSC-Media Campaign, Attn: Cathy Gray.

“We must instill in our young people that high school graduation is not optional,” Pam Decker says. “It is the first major life hurdle that young people must jump. It isn’t easy but it is necessary and the Evansville community supports them in this endeavor.”



The group believes that it truly does take “a whole village to raise a child” and the community’s involvement is critical in this initiative. While peer influence is strong at this age, positive role models and encouragement from caring adults are also critical to a student’s future success.

One component of this strategic plan is a media campaign aimed specifically at students with a simple message, “I Stayed...How About You?” The elaborated message includes staying in school to graduate, staying and working to get all the credits, and staying focused and on point so that nothing

**There is a wide disparity in the national graduation rates of white and minority students. In the class of 2002, about 78% of white students graduated from high school with a regular diploma, compared to 56% of African-American students and 52% of Hispanic students.**

from the  
**President/CEO (continued)**

But the excluded gender could get an equal education in a co-ed classroom, the rules state.

Because this will serve as a green light for school districts that want to experiment with the concept of single-gender education, we at SINE are committed to providing training for educators and administrators on the issue. In March, SINE will host a workshop by Dr. Kenneth Wallace.

Wallace, an assistant superintendent in Illinois' Maine Township High School District 207 and a board member of The Boys Project, says we have a misguided emphasis on trying to remake boys who account for most of the disciplinary referrals, suspensions and drop-outs. Instead, he says we need to learn to respect and understand who they are.

Wallace is not alone in his concern. After years of efforts aimed at boosting girls' achievement in science and mathematics, researchers and educators are now expressing alarm about the future of boys.

And the gender patterns now generating worries are not new. On National Assessment of Educational Progress test in reading, for instance, boys at every age tested – 9, 13 and 17 – have trailed behind girls since at least 1971.

At SINE we believe education should embrace the differences between boys and girls and let the differences help shape instruction to best meet the needs of both genders. For more information on the Boys and Girls are Different: Closing the Achievement Gap workshop check out [sineonline.com](http://sineonline.com) or call 1-866-380-7463.

Sincerely,

Mary K. Cardinal  
President/CEO

## How to CONTACT US

### Wilder Center

Route 3, Box 12C  
Oakland City, IN 47660  
866-380-SINE (7463) toll-free  
812-749-4972 fax  
[www.SINEonline.com](http://www.SINEonline.com)

### Kevin Chattin

Vice President Information  
Technology and Services  
Cell 812-385-6956  
[kchattin@SINEonline.com](mailto:kchattin@SINEonline.com)

### Mary K. Cardinal

President/CEO  
Cell 812-385-6946  
[mcardinal@SINEonline.com](mailto:mcardinal@SINEonline.com)

### Susanne Wilson

Vice President Development  
and Marketing  
Cell 812-459-6123  
[swilson@SINEonline.com](mailto:swilson@SINEonline.com)

### Martha Carpenter

Administrative Assistant  
Cell 812-454-1600  
[mcarpenter@SINEonline.com](mailto:mcarpenter@SINEonline.com)

### Sheila Welton

Bookkeeper  
Cell 812-385-6366  
[swelton@SINEonline.com](mailto:swelton@SINEonline.com)

### Sandy Nixon

Coordinator, Consultants in Education  
and K-12 Professional Development  
812-385-4756  
Cell 812-677-0493  
[snixon@SINEonline.com](mailto:snixon@SINEonline.com)

### Steven Stump

PR and Marketing  
Cell 812-385-6577  
[sstump@SINEonline.com](mailto:sstump@SINEonline.com)

\*SINE employees' cell phones can also be accessed  
through the toll-free number.

## A Time for Thanks Giving

As the holidays are celebrated, many of us realize that we are truly blessed. Most of us possess everything we need and so much of what we want. The holidays are a popular time to consider helping others and to give rather than receive. Many of us participate in canned food drives or donate to help buy a child presents for Christmas, yet it is more difficult to recognize the needs which are intangible. Not possessing the ability to read or not being able to aspire to a better job because of educational limitations is not easily identifiable. Yet, approximately 40% of adults operate at the very basic levels of literacy. Additionally, new studies suggest that approximately 25% of students drop out of high school. Although much has been accomplished since SINE's inception in 2001, there is much that needs to be done.

Since our beginning, over 400 adults have received their GED through SINE supported programs. We have trained over 3,500 teachers in best practices professional development workshops. In order to continue offering programs for both adults and educators, we need your support. As the end of the year approaches, it is time to consider a tax deductible charitable gift. Please consider a donation to SINE. We appreciate your support and will strive to fulfill our mission:

**We believe all people of southwest Indiana deserve the opportunity to participate fully in the economic, civic, and cultural life of the region. SINE provides leadership and services that focus on educational networks, literacy for all ages, professional development of educators, workforce advancement, and lifelong learning.**

Year-end giving is as easy as (1) making a charitable gift, and (2) saving taxes. The tax laws intentionally encourage charitable giving. Because of the income tax charitable deduction, individuals who make their gifts by December 31, 2006 and itemize can significantly reduce their income taxes for 2006.

Charitable giving is more than tax brackets and charitable deductions. Your gift provides the meaningful difference in what we can do.

*SINE is a non-profit organization supported by the charitable gifts of those dedicated to enhancing the culture for learning in southwest Indiana.*



Learning for Life.<sup>5</sup>



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OAKLAND CITY INDIANA 47660

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# You and SINE

## Partners in a Stronger Future



SINE has had a very good beginning ... but this is just the beginning. SINE has made a profound impact on the lives of countless individuals in Southwest Indiana ... not only through direct contact, such as the many training programs, but also through the impact that these trained professionals, successful students, and achieving adult learners will have on the lives of those around them.

Your generous contribution aids SINE in developing and sponsoring the much-needed programs that partner with education and businesses to improve our workforce; assist us in underwriting costs for programs that aid our at-risk and underachieving youth, creating brighter opportunities for their future; help us establish or enhance adult learning opportunities that include literacy services, basic computer training, ESL, GED or high school completion programs; and allow us to increase the contributions that SINE makes to such programs as our classroom libraries. SINE is a non-profit, charitable organization supported by public donations.

Yes, I want to become a SINE partner. Enclosed in my tax-deductible contribution that will enable SINE to develop and support much-needed programs in our communities. I understand that through my generous gift, I will contribute to building a better future for Southwest Indiana.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Company/Organization/School: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete and return this form with your check to:  
the Southwest Indiana Network for Education, Wilder Center, Route 3, Box 12C, Oakland City, IN 47660.