

In addition to his service to the Altoona Area School District, Dr. Murray is a member of the Board of Trustees at Slippery Rock University. He has served on numerous community boards and committees and teaches graduate level courses for St. Francis University and Penn State.

Management of the budget for the past 25 years with only four minimal tax increases over that time period. The 2010–2011 AASD budget is \$89.3 million.

Completion of numerous capital projects including new school construction/renovation at Baker, Ebner, Juniata Gap, Penn-Lincoln, Irving, Pleasant Valley and Logan elementary schools as well as the \$48.5 million Altoona Area Junior High School which opened in 2008.

Creation of the Bertram Leopold Recreation Center (five tennis courts, two volleyball courts and two basketball courts) on the campus of Altoona Area High School in 1988.

Successful negotiation of numerous contracts with teachers in the Pennsylvania State Education Association, non-instructional employees in the AFSCME Union, and teacher assistants who belong to the Educational Support Personnel organization. These agreements included health/hospitalization agreements.

Negotiation of payments to the school district in lieu of taxes from area hospitals.

Outsourced management of the school district's food service program as well as student bus and van transportation.

Improved computerization of the school district Tax Office.

Established countless school/community partnerships which have stimulated economic development in Blair County.

Implemented a school-based management/total quality education program known as Q-SITE (Quality Schools Involving Teams for Excellence). As part of this initiative, the school received ISO-9001 certification in January, 2002.

Creation of the Altoona Area School District Foundation—a non-profit organization that has attracted \$2.9 million in private contributions since 1989. More than \$725,000 has been allocated for a very successful Teacher Grants program.

A \$507,000 donor-designated gift to the AASD Foundation by the Sheetz family led to the creation of the new Sheetz Athletic Training Center at Mansion Park. Last year, Bob Sill, an AHS graduate, donated \$125,000 for team rooms and coaches' offices at Mansion Park.

Creation of the national 4,200-member Altoona Area High School Alumni Association.

Establishment of partnerships with colleges and universities that have helped to make Altoona a teaching/research-based school district.

Creation of the Center for Advanced Technologies in 1994, believed to be the first of its kind in a public school district in the United States thanks to a partnership with the Cornell University Synthesis Coalition.

Creation of the Central Pennsylvania Digital Learning Foundation, a cyber charter school begun during the 2002–2003 school year in cooperation with 32 Central Pennsylvania school districts.

Creation of an After-School Arts Program and an Elementary Stage Band.

Establishment of a rigorous secondary curriculum which features 18 Advanced Place-

ment courses. The College Board has recognized this AP program.

Creation of a digital multi-media lab at AAHS to enhance foreign language instruction. A digital Mt. Lion Television studio enables students to learn broadcasting skills. Another new digital lab is used to teach multi-media skills and music theory and harmony.

Installation of an artificial surface and an all-weather track at Mansion Park Stadium and an artificial turf on the Altoona Area High School intramural field. In 2008, a new Trophy Turf surface was installed at Mansion Park. Construction of a third turf field, Roosevelt Field, at the site of the former Roosevelt Junior High School, also has a Trophy Turf playing surface.

Offering elementary students a school of choice at the McAuliffe Heights Program at Irving School, which was named a National Blue Ribbon School in 2007 as well as an Apple Computer Distinguished School in 2010.

U.S. News and World Report named Altoona Area High School as one of America's best high schools in 2010.

Becoming the first Pennsylvania school district to put strobe lights on school buses.

Establishment of the William P. Kimmel Alternative School for at-risk secondary students.

Creation of a partnership with Atlantic Broadband which has enabled the school district to deliver public access/educational access television to Blair County residents.

Helped create the Central Blair Recreation Commission of which the school district is a member.

Establishment of a School Police Department will full police powers. This department oversees an extensive network of security cameras throughout the school district. Security greeters are also assigned at all three secondary schools.

Established a technology coordinator position along with a Technology Department.

Instituted drug testing for all new AASD employees and for secondary interscholastic athletes.

Created an employee wellness center.

Helped AASD become one of Pennsylvania's first school districts to implement full-day kindergartens at all schools. This year, Altoona has 31 full-day kindergartens.

HONORING THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT (ASTD)

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2010

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the American Society for Training and Development (ASTD) as one of the largest associations dedicated to the training and development of professionals, recognizing them for their annual Employee Learning Week, held December 6 through the 10, 2010.

Established in 1943, ASTD has been a leader in the training and development field. In recent years, ASTD has widened the profession's focus, aligning learning with an individual's performance and their organizations' results. In 1945, ASTD held their first annual

conference and continues to be a leading voice in the field of workplace development 65 years later.

Members of ASTD come from more than 100 countries and connect locally in 130 U.S. chapters with 30 international partners. They work in thousands of organizations of all sizes, in government, as independent consultants, and as suppliers.

ASTD continues to help its members and the learning profession build a highly skilled workforce that is critical for organizations to grow and sustain a competitive advantage. To further these goals, ASTD has declared December 6 through December 10, 2010 as "Employee Learning Week" and designated time for organizations to recognize the strategic value of employee learning.

I applaud ASTD and its members for their dedication to developing the knowledge and skills of employees during Employee Learning Week. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting policies that commit to maintaining a highly skilled workforce.

THE LEAVING ETHANOL AT EXISTING LEVELS (LEVEL) ACT

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2010

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce legislation to place a pause on the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) irresponsible actions in moving forward toward approving a waiver for an increase in ethanol in fuel.

Currently, gasoline contains a 10 percent blend wall of ethanol, known as E-10. The EPA is considering increasing the allowable amount of ethanol in gasoline to 15 percent, or E-15. This, despite the EPA not performing any of its own studies on the matter, and relying entirely on outside studies. I questioned Assistant Administrator Gina McCarthy regarding the EPA's decision to move forward with a waiver for E-15, and was wholly dissatisfied with her responses as to the research EPA has done itself on the safety of increasing to this level of ethanol. She deferred entirely to outside groups and to the Department of Energy's research. Does EPA not employ its own scientists and experts? Is EPA's position that it is incapable of doing its own research? We saw that EPA was inept at performing its own "climate science" research, I suppose we could expect no different with the safety of ethanol levels.

But this is serious business. If EPA approves this waiver, car engines, lawn mowers, tractors—any engine that uses gasoline, could be potentially at risk for catching fire or having mechanical failure. Moreover, businesses tasked with selling this new gasoline with increased ethanol could face potential lawsuits from consumers who fail to follow posted signs warning them that E-15 should only be used in newer engines. Does anyone truly believe that mis-fillings and misunderstandings of the sign won't lead to disastrous results? The fact that EPA is even considering this change proves they simply don't care.

I'm not necessarily opposed to increasing the level of ethanol in fuel—if it's done responsibly, and with sound science to back it up. I

don't believe EPA has done its due diligence, and certainly nothing EPA has provided to the Energy & Commerce Committee would disprove my fears. This bill will allow for a pause—before EPA hastily approves any further ethanol in fuel—for more studies to be conducted and more assurances to be made that an increase in the blend wall for ethanol will be safe. The security of the public's well-being should be paramount in this case.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER OF MR.
SAM WOLF

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2010

Mr. COSTELLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the distinguished career and significant regional contributions of Mr. Sam Wolf.

Sam Wolf, a resident of Granite City, Illinois, served 18 years in the Illinois House of Representatives from 1974 until he retired in 1992. Among his more notable accomplishments during his time in the General Assembly was legislation establishing community college voting sub-districts. This was important to ensure equitable representation of the different geographic areas covered by a community college district.

Sam Wolf has been a strong proponent of Southwestern Illinois College and was a driving force in the establishment of the college's Granite City Campus in 1984. Sam worked to secure funding for the Industrial Technology Center at the Granite City Campus and the development of the Automotive Collision Repair Technology program there. Sam has been a member of the Southwestern Illinois College Board of Trustees since October 1995.

In recognition of Sam's tireless efforts to expand and improve Southwestern Illinois College, the Granite City Campus is named the Sam Wolf Granite City Campus. This is a fitting tribute for a man who has done so much to provide quality educational opportunities for current and future generations.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in an expression of appreciation to Mr. Sam Wolf for his many contributions to the Southwestern Illinois region and to wish him the very best in the future.

CONGRATULATING WALTER
PAYTON COLLEGE PREP OF CHICAGO ON RECEIVING THE INTEL
SCHOOL OF DISTINCTION TOP
AWARD FOR INNOVATION IN
MATH AND SCIENCE

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2010

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, today I wish to congratulate Walter Payton College Prep from Chicago on its success within the Intel Schools of Distinction competition. Walter Payton prevailed over 149 other schools to win both the School of Distinction for Mathematics Excellence as well as the overall competition grand prize, the Star Inno-

vator Award. Together, these two awards convey over \$175,000 in monetary grants as well as materials—including hardware and software, professional development materials, and curriculum resources. I celebrate the hard work of the students and faculty of the school and applaud their success.

Walter Payton College Prep High School is a magnet school whose curriculum emphasizes mathematics, science and world languages. The Intel award highlighted Walter Payton's mathematics program. Impressively, over a quarter of the students at Walter Payton take five or more math courses before graduation. In addition to this rigorous set of core classes, many of the students at Walter Payton fill their electives with advanced placement statistics and/or university-level math courses. Over 99 percent of the student population scores as "Meeting or Exceeding" state math standards on the Prairie State Achievement Examination. Walter Payton also has an impressive 98 percent graduation rate and an outstanding record of students who both qualify for advanced placement courses and pass advanced placement tests.

Through its focus on math and science, Walter Payton College Prep is helping America become more competitive globally. Multiple reports and experts have sounded the alarm that our nation must quickly accelerate and enhance its training of students in the areas of science, technology, engineering, and math in order to meet the growing demand for U.S. workers with these skills and to improve our ability to compete in a global economy. Further, these experts agree that we need to broaden the participation of individuals who are underrepresented in these fields, such as racial/ethnic minorities and women. According to the Census Bureau, 39 percent of the population under the age of 18 is a racial or ethnic minority. However, in 2003, only 4.4 percent of U.S. science and engineering jobs were held by African Americans and only 3.4 percent by Hispanics. In 2008, the American Community Survey reported that 10.3% of the total U.S. population were in the professional, scientific, management and administrative services industry; however only 7.7% of Cambodians, 6.8% of Hmongs, and 5.2% of Laotians actually held these types of jobs. Given that over half of the students attending Walter Payton represent racial/ethnic minorities, the school is helping decrease this gap in science and math fields. State, local and federal officials must do more to offer the high-caliber programming offered at Walter Payton to all students so that we can strengthen our citizens and our nation.

As we start the 2010–2011 school year, I am pleased to congratulate Walter Payton College Prep in the Seventh Congressional District of Illinois for its achievements and commitment to the mathematics and science fields. Well done!

TRAINING AND RESEARCH FOR
AUTISM IMPROVEMENTS NA-
TIONWIDE ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 2010

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5756, the "Training

and Research for Autism Improvements Nationwide (TRAIN) Act of 2010," which will provide grants and technical assistance to create innovative approaches to providing services to children and adults with autism, and their families. This legislation will help secure the resources necessary to provide the best possible care for the people and families affected by Autism Spectrum Disorders.

I thank Congressman DOYLE, the sponsor of this legislation, for his leadership on this issue and his commitment to raising awareness about the growing number of people diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorders.

Mr. Speaker, there is a lack of trained professionals capable of providing desperately needed services and support to children and adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders. H.R. 5756 will expand the number of training facilities for service providers by awarding grants to University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research, and Service. Training individuals to provide services to people with autism is critical to addressing the growing demand for care.

In addition, these grants will help fund autism research. Research into the causes of Autism Spectrum Disorders across multiple disciplines is a critical part of improving our understanding and treatment of these disorders. For example, research continues to indicate that environmental factors, such as air pollutants, the presence of hazardous chemicals in the home, and poor nutrition, can contribute to the risk of developing autism. I find these studies particularly significant, as my district contains several poor, low-income areas, where these kinds of environmental factors are disproportionately concentrated.

Finally, H.R. 5756 will also establish a nationwide structure to disseminate important research and the latest evidence-based findings related to Autism Spectrum Disorders. This will help doctors and families affected by autism stay up to date on the latest research on diagnosis and treatment of autism.

Mr. Speaker, the growing number of people in this country that are diagnosed with autism demands action on this issue. We must take action so that families no longer have to struggle to find care for loved ones with autism. This bill will take important steps to achieve health care equity for individuals with autism by finally making available the care that they deserve.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 5756.

HONORING SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE WEST HILLS
COLLEGE NORTH DISTRICT CENTER

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2010

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the students, faculty, staff and administration at West Hills College, North District Center as they are recognized for being named as one of "America's 50 Best Community Colleges" in August 2010 by the Washington Monthly. Chancellor of West Hills Community College District Frank Gornick, President of West Hills College-Coalinga Wilard Lewallen, Director of the North District