

Mr. Rudez was selected for this award because of his outstanding sustained contribution as a public administrator. His achievement is not limited to the Postal Service. Mr. Rudez serves as chairman of the Federal Executive Board, and has contributed his services to a number of community organizations including: Member, vice president, and recording secretary, parish council, St. Margaret's Roman Catholic Church; vice chairman, United Negro College Fund Walk-A-Thon; Federal Executive Board cochair for the Combined Federal Campaign; member of Greater Baltimore Committee; and member of the Baltimore and Hartwood County Chambers of Commerce.

As the chairman of the Federal Executive Board, Mr. Rudez has sought to improve the coordination between the various Federal agencies and other governmental jurisdictions. Working with the Baltimore City Schools, he revitalized the Postal Service Wee Deliver Program and joined in a partnership in education to encourage other groups to commit their expertise, skills, and time in a united effort to enhance the public school curriculum and student matriculation. In 1995, the Postal Service Baltimore District was the recipient of the Greater Baltimore Committee's Mayor's Business Recognition Award.

This award exemplifies excellence in public service and I am pleased to join the American Society of Public Administration in saluting Rich Rudez and his record of service to the postal customers and citizens of the State of Maryland.

#### TRIBUTE TO FRED RICHARDSON

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 5, 1996*

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an accomplished educator, a community leader, and a dear friend, Mr. Fred Richardson. After 38 quality years spent in school systems across Michigan and Indiana, Mr. Richardson will be stepping down this year as superintendent of St. Joseph Public Schools.

Mr. Richardson began his education career as a teacher in 1958 in Shipshewana, IN. He was quickly promoted to principal and spent time at the helm of a number of schools in Indiana before returning to teach and become principal in Fennville in his native Michigan. After spending many years with the Hillsdale Community Schools, he was eventually recognized for his talents and promoted to superintendent.

In 1982, he left Hillsdale to assume the same role in the St. Joseph Public Schools. During his tenure there he was able to turn the cash strapped organization around, balancing the system's books and creating an abundance of financial reserves. In fact, the district just recently became debt free thanks in part to Mr. Richardson's guidance.

Praised by staff, faculty, and school boards, Mr. Richardson has always cared most about the kids. Time and time again, his efforts with the children of Michigan have earned him high marks. A truly first-class individual, Mr. Richardson has also found time in his busy schedule to share his experience with the next generation of educators by teaching at Western Michigan University.

As Fred enters this next stage of his life, my wife Amey joins me in wishing him a long and healthy retirement. Thank you, Fred, for so many great years of quality service to southwest Michigan. Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Fred Richardson on his retirement from a remarkable, 38-year-long career in education.

#### EDUCATION AND TRAINING

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 5, 1996*

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert my Washington Report for Wednesday, June 5, 1996, into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

#### EDUCATION AND TRAINING IN SOUTHERN INDIANA

After years of stop and go growth with periods of high inflation and high unemployment, the U.S. economy seems to have settled into a state of moderate growth during the past five years, with low inflation and unemployment and steady job creation. Southern Indiana has benefited from these broad economic trends. Almost 50,000 new jobs were created in Indiana last year and the state unemployment rate fell to 4.6%, a full point below the national average.

But new challenges for businesses and workers lay ahead, as rapid changes in technology, new ways of delivering services, and tough foreign competition alter the economic landscape across the U.S. and in southern Indiana. Last September, during two roundtable discussions I held in Batesville and Corydon, several local business leaders told me that the most important thing we can do to meet the challenges ahead is to improve the educational system in southern Indiana for our young people and expand the opportunities for current workers to acquire new skills.

To follow up, I recently held two additional roundtable discussions in Scottsburg and Jasper to explore what is being done locally to improve education and job training. The discussions were encouraging. The school systems, colleges, local development corporations, and private companies represented in the discussions all seem to be taking the problem of workforce quality seriously and are doing some innovative things to ensure high quality education and job training in southern Indiana.

#### IMPROVING THE HIGH-SCHOOL CURRICULUM

Local school systems are making significant changes to improve the quality of public education. Many are adding courses, raising requirements, and expanding teacher training. Some, like Union County, will be requiring students to show competency in four skill areas to graduate, using both written and oral exams. Programs for students not going to college are being upgraded by making the courses more relevant to today's job market and by integrating them with postsecondary vocational programs.

#### IMPROVING SCHOOL-TO-WORK AND CAREER COUNSELING PROGRAMS

Some school systems are developing innovative ways for students to test the world of work before graduation. For example, one school system has developed school-to-work labs allowing young people to learn and build job skills through actual on-the-job experiences. Others are starting career counseling as early as elementary school to acquaint students with different occupations. Some

schools are putting more resources into counseling programs for students not going to college.

#### STRENGTHENING BUSINESS-SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS

In many communities, businesses are taking a more active role in working with schools. In Batesville, a business-school-community partnership has raised more than \$1 million to buy computers for the local schools. The Scott County Manufacturers Forum has developed a workforce competitiveness strategy with the schools which includes an agreement that employers will get a high school diploma or GED as a basic job requirement. There is also a summer jobs program where youth learn about various jobs by "shadowing" workers and a learning exchange program where teachers and private employers spend some time in each other's workplace.

#### IMPROVING VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

Some impressive developments in vocational education are occurring at both the high school and college levels in southern Indiana. Ivy Tech in cooperation with local development corporations has created customized training programs for local employers, like running a basic skills program at one company or training 250 people for welding jobs at another. Some favor the tech prep program, under which a student can begin a vocational program during the last two years of high school and finish it with two years of study at a college like Ivy Tech.

#### USING THE INTERNET FOR EDUCATION

Technology is making major changes in how students acquire information about the world around them. The Wilson Education Center in Charlestown has set up an area-wide project providing Internet services to schools in southern Indiana, giving 4,500 teachers and 75,000 students in grades K-12 access to educational information from around the world. The Southeastern Indiana Rural Telephone Cooperative is also providing Internet access to schools.

#### GREATER USE OF DISTANCE LEARNING

Technology is also making it possible for college students to take courses and earn degrees from distant colleges and universities. The Southeastern Indiana Electronic Campus has been set up—a unique system of higher education with 10 learning centers offering 150 courses and more than a dozen degree programs by two-way TV. At Vincennes University Jasper Center, students can use the Indiana Higher Education Television Service to earn an MBA from Ball State University, or to take courses in the Purdue Continuing Education program, or soon to earn a nursing degree from the University of Southern Indiana.

#### BETTER LIFELONG LEARNING PROGRAMS

Steps are also being taken to help older workers upgrade their skills as the economy changes. Colleges are rearranging their schedules to provide more courses during evening and weekend hours. Local communities are setting up adult education centers, where older workers can take courses and earn their GED. One-day non-credit courses focus on specific skills, like learning how to use a computer.

While much progress has been made in these and other ways to improve education and job training in our area, the roundtable participants still found room for improvements. Business representatives talked about the need to instill a good work ethic in younger workers and said that schools should focus on teaching good basic skills—math, reading, communication—while businesses should focus on specific job training. Other suggestions included even better communication between businesses and the