

# Archdiocese of Detroit

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## **Specialized Training for Catholic School Principals Skillman Foundation Grant Awarded to Detroit Archdiocese**

September 2005 begins year three of the Principal Proficiency Program for the Archdiocese of Detroit Office for Catholic Schools. This program has been possible because of the generosity of the Skillman Foundation, which awarded a grant totaling \$540,000 in 2003.

Awarded in three installments, this year's grant of \$180,000 will be used in selected urban schools to provide an assistant principal internship experience for aspiring urban principals. Teachers in the Detroit archdiocese traditionally move from the classroom to the principal's office. The Principal Proficiency Program provides a valuable opportunity for direct mentoring provided by the building principal, along with ongoing supervision and professional development designed by the Archdiocesan Skillman Project Director. The interns collaborate closely with the principal in the areas of school improvement, curriculum development, instructional strategies, and student achievement

"This grant is a marvelous opportunity for our urban principals and the interns they are mentoring," explains Sister Mary Gehringer, OSM, superintendent of schools for the Archdiocese of Detroit. "Through the generosity of the Skillman Foundation, we have been able to provide resources for our current principals, and our future urban school administrators, which would not have otherwise been possible."

The Skillman Foundation is a resource for improving the lives of children in metropolitan Detroit. The Foundation applies its resources to foster positive relationships between children and adults, support high quality learning opportunities, and strengthen healthy, safe, and supportive homes and communities. The Foundation was founded in December 1960 by Rose P. Skillman, widow of Robert H. Skillman, vice president and director of Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing Company, and has an annual grant-making budget of \$19 million.

The individuals taking part in the Principal Proficiency Program this year are: Christa Laurin who will be working with Rosanne Jodway at Christ the King Elementary School; Lisa Powaser who will be working with John Champion at Gesu Elementary; and Joyce Mann who will be working with Faye Vaughn at St. Scholastica Elementary School. The schools involved are all within the City of Detroit.

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