

ANGELA SIGGIA, GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT HEAD

Stevenson graduate puts energy into counseling

Livonia resident earns her national certification while at Trenton High

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It took nearly three months for Mike Doyle, the principal at Trenton High, to come up with the right person to handle the responsibility of being the guidance department chairperson.

After less than a year on the job, Angela Siggia has made Doyle feel like Trenton definitely found the right person for the job.

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Siggia recently earned certification through the National Board of Certified Counselors.

"For her to be certified, it's like winning a national award," Doyle said. "She has had such a positive effect on Trenton High School, and she never, ever shies away from work. Those of us in the education field know this is a big deal, getting this honor."

Siggia is a 1997 graduate of Livonia Stevenson and lives in Livonia. She completed her undergraduate studies at Western Michigan University and her graduate work at Eastern Michigan University.

Prior to being hired into the Trenton School District in December 2006, she worked in the Romulus School District.

QUESTION: Your principal said you bring a lot of energy to your job. Do you feel that way?

ANSWER: I am very excited by what we do. I realize it's getting what the kids need. I get my energy from the kids and the staff. We do what we can to make sure they get the best education they can.

Q: What is the role of a high school counselor?

A: It has changed. Between issues at home, to girls and boys issues, to college planning, to career pathways ... we do a lot of life-skills training.

It's quite a variety of work. We work one-on-one, or in groups, with problem solving and other issues.

If they plan on going to technical school, a community college, a four-year university, or even if they

want to start work right out of school, we get them ready for it.

Q: As a department head, what does your position entail?

A: I more or less head up the counseling program. Part of what we do is help prepare for state testing ... and we meet with different teachers and work between them and the administration.

Q: What is the most gratifying part of your job?

A: The best part is when a student comes back and tells you how their life is now. My favorite part of the job is working with the kids.

Q: You've been involved with many activities outside of school. Do you encourage students to do the same, which will help them grow and have more opportunities to get into college?

A: Absolutely. I think our kids are really involved outside of school.

Trenton offers all kinds of programs for kids. From volunteer programs to National Honor Society, or even a Japanese program, there are so many things a student can do.

Trenton is an excellent school and the students take advantage of it, and there are some great teachers who are involved to help make it all happen.

It's a great place to be.

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