

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