

Osceola Senior High School

MEMBER NORTH CENTRAL ASSOCIATION

2800 West Semmes

Osceola, Arkansas 72370

Memo to: Mr. Sam Commella

From: Mrs. Ann Cooper

Re: Aquaculture Project

Date: 26th May 2009

Dear Mr. Commella,

On behalf of my students and Osceola High School, I would like to thank NUCOR Steel Arkansas for supporting education in Mississippi County. I would especially like to thank you for providing my students with the aquaculture project of raising Tilapia in the classroom. It has been an excellent alternative learning tool for my students. They were so excited about the project and took complete ownership of the entire project.

The students would come into the room everyday ready to feed the fish or to clean the tanks. They would test the water for nitrates, oxygen content, phosphates, and other chemicals that could be in the water. They were also found out that they could predict the feeding habits of the fish by watching the barometer and weather conditions. The students analyze all of the data they took and made comparisons daily. This project has been terrific hands-on learning for the students that they could not get in a regular classroom or out of a text book.

They talked about the project to other students in the school and to their parents, and friends. Soon we had students from other classes coming into the classroom to observe and wanting to be a part of the project. Parents came by to see the fish and to see what their children were learning. The CEO of DENSO, a plant in Osceola, came by to view the project. He brought two gentlemen from Japan to see what the students were doing. They were very impressed.

I will be presenting the NUCOR Steel Arkansas Fish Education Project at the National HSTW (High School That Work) Convention in Atlanta, Georgia this year in July. I have already presented the project at a CSI institute this past March. I want everyone to know how much NUCOR has done to enhance education in Mississippi County. NUCOR is the main support that has helped our students to get back on track with their education. Their test scores have even improved because they have ownership in their learning.

I can never thank Wayne Turney and Kevin Willis and their environmental team; Kimberly Web, Kara Gallo, and Stan McPherson, for all of their help they have given us by setting up the tanks, getting the fish, and running to our emergencies when we need them. I know that they have been a great asset to NUCOR and as they have been to Osceola High School. They have been fantastic. We could never have had or even accomplished what our students did without them. They are the fineness group of individuals that I have ever had the privilege of working with. They have shown the students what the real world is all about; working together as a team, solving problems that quickly arise and coming up with a workable solution. Our student would have never learned this in a regular classroom doing regular class work.

My classes cannot wait until next fall when we get some more fish. They are already deciding how to make the project a little different.

Thank you again for allowing us to be a part of this project and sharing your valuable employees with the students at Osceola High School. We can never thank you enough for the valuable tool that you have given these students, knowledge. This is a rare gift, knowledge, for an industry to share with the community. Our students will have the opportunity to grow using this gift of knowledge and will become better workers in our community and better citizens of the world. Thank you again. If there is ever anything that we can do for you and NUCOR please let us know.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Ann Cooper