

# The Voice

[www.ceaohio.org](http://www.ceaohio.org)

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Columbus Education Association

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## Holmes Partnership® Conference

The Holmes Partnership® is a consortium of universities, public school districts, teachers associations and local, as well as national organizations. It is a model of partnerships at work. The Holmes Partnership® serves as a major vehicle to reform teaching and learning.

One of the keynote presentations at the February Holmes Partnership® Conference was the “Through Students’ Eyes” project. Jim Harmon, an English teacher in Euclid City Schools, teamed with Dr. Kristien Zenkov, an associate professor of literacy education at George Mason University, to create the project. The goal is to reduce the number of dropouts in Cleveland area schools. Through pictures and writings, students are asked to describe the purpose of school, who or what supports them to stay in school and the obstacles that may prevent them from graduating. Students are given digital cameras paid for through grants and corporate gifts. This project helps students clarify their feelings toward school and gives them success in an arena not afforded to them in a regular class.

Many of the photos and corresponding writings are poignant reminders of the many challenges that students overcome.

Teachers who make connections with students are vital supports for their success. Hearing the students’ voices about perceptions of their schools, the obstacles they face and the support they need can help us understand and advocate for them. For additional information about starting a similar project, or to see examples of students’ photos and writings, go to [www.throughstudenteyes.org](http://www.throughstudenteyes.org).



*“This is a picture of my father’s oxygen machine. He has emphysema and is on 24-hour oxygen. He was in the hospital during part of my senior year. I missed a few days of school because of it. I didn’t allow my grades to seriously suffer, but I had to work very hard to keep the situation from distracting me from school too much. Worrying about my dad made it very difficult to think of school as a priority...”*

—Rhodes High School Student

## Dream big

Got a great idea to help your students learn? The Teachers’ Dream Grant is your opportunity to apply for funds to support teaching and learning. You could receive between \$500 and \$5,000 for focusing on academic enrichment, increasing student achievement, closing the achievement gap, improving school/community relations and improving classroom learning environment.

Application information was sent to staff late in February. Applications are due Friday, Apr. 3, to the CCS Development Office. For more information, see the district Web site or contact the Development Office at 365-8733.



## Round 1 interviews begin

The 211 process has begun. Round 1 job postings will open Thursday, Mar. 12, and close on Tuesday, Mar. 17. Round 1 interviews begin on Friday, Mar. 13, and end on Friday, Mar. 20. Selections for positions cannot be made before Round 1 interviews close.

To apply for a posted position, send a cover letter, a résumé and a copy of your teaching certificate/license to the building principal/department supervisor *and the Senior Faculty Representative*.

Panels must interview the two most senior applicants for each position. The interview panel is responsible for making recommendations about applicants to the principal. If a principal/supervisor does not agree with the recommendation of the panel, the administrator must send written notification of the selection to the CEA President and to each interview panel member.

Please note that Round 2 Postings open on Wednesday, Apr. 1, and close on Wednesday, Apr. 8. Interviews will begin on Monday, Apr. 6, and will close on Wednesday, Apr. 22. There will be no interviewing during spring break.

Read Article 211 in the *CEA Master Agreement* for more information. The 211 calendar and manual are available at [www.ceaohio.org](http://www.ceaohio.org).

## CEA elections update

Ballots were collected across the district by the CEA Elections Committee on Tuesday, Mar. 3.

Donna Baker (District 3), Teri Mullins (District 6) and Phil Hayes (High School At-Large) were re-elected without opposition to the CEA Board of Governors.

By virtue of office, the CEA President, Vice President and the Board of Governors are delegates to the NEA Representative Assembly. Additionally, the following members, in order of vote totals, were elected and will represent CEA at this summer’s convention in San Diego: Dean Fowls (Northgate Ctr.), Greg Mild (Northgate Ctr.), Ezetta Murray (CEA Office), Barbara Flu-Allen (East HS), Tracey Johnson (CEA Office), Bruce Green (Eastmoor Academy), Michele Mays (Sherwood MS), Judy Wright (Northgate Ctr.), Bob Hern (CEA Office), Kenya Davis (Cedarwood ES/Elem. Art), Vern Miller (Yorktown MS), Rosie Perry (Sullivant ES) and Dale Rucker (Como ES).

State delegates are: Susan McCoy (Eastmoor Academy), Carla Robinson (Colerain ES), JoAnnette Byas-Marston (Linden ES) and Deb Starr (Broadleigh ES).

The first five alternates are: John Coneglio (Independence HS), Chris Ault (Sullivant ES), Deborah Huffman-Mirib (Independence HS), Claudia Eschelbach (Marion-Franklin HS) and Ernestine Creasy (PAR Office).

CEA thanks all members for participating in the democratic process and for offering their time and effort to represent all teachers.

## Bargaining update

The CEA Board of Governors and the Bargaining Team has recommended bargaining priorities to the Legislative Assembly. Faculty Representatives voted on the items you prioritized on our survey.

The CEA Bargaining Team will now write proposals based on the recommendations of the Legislative Assembly. The proposals will be sent to a SERB mediator and then exchanged with the school board's bargaining team.

CEA will e-mail members a list of priority items voted on by the Legislative Assembly. If you do not have a personal e-mail address registered with CEA, you may obtain a copy of the list from the CEA office. You may also leave a message for the CEA Bargaining Team at 253-4731, and a copy will be mailed to you at your home address.

## Retirement tip: Diversify

The NEA wants to help you prepare for retirement. Here are investment options you should understand:

- ▶ The Individual Retirement Account (IRA): Members 50 and older can contribute a "catch-up" amount of up to \$6,000 a year.
- ▶ Supplement your state pension account: Diversify your investment portfolio to weather a volatile market. You may use a traditional or Roth IRA to add greater investment variety up to a prescribed limit. A traditional IRA is not taxed until you remove the funds. A Roth IRA allows you to pay your taxes up front with no penalty for removing them when you're eligible.

You may leave your money in either IRA indefinitely.

For more information, we advise consulting a professional. You can learn more about these options by visiting: [www.neamb.com/memsrvcr/communications/articles/0105\\_ps.jsp](http://www.neamb.com/memsrvcr/communications/articles/0105_ps.jsp).

## Assignments to the PAR pool

The Peer Assistance and Review (PAR) Panel, in collaboration with the Columbus Education Association and the Columbus City Schools Department of Human Resources congratulates the following teachers who were recently selected for the PAR pool: Joyce Auer (Wedgewood MS), Christopher Boyd (Devonshire ES), Jacquenette Brown (Livingston ES), Teari Buari (Walnut Ridge HS), Kristan Crosby (Beechcroft HS), Marcia Davis (Marion-Franklin HS), Michael Ann Effron (Starling MS), Dawn Hasselbach (Eastmoor Academy), Matthew Hawkins (Northland HS), Tomeka Hewlett (Yorktown MS), Patricia Hickman (Whetstone HS), Robin Jeffries (Fairwood ES), Susan Kulisek (Eastmoor MS), Cynthia Love (Northland HS), Faye Love (Linden ES), Tiffini Pannell (Windsor ES), Eimy Torres-Sifuentes (Beatty Park ES) and Constance Workman (Monroe MS).

Selection for the PAR pool was based on district staffing projections and areas of certification. Newly selected candidates for the pool are eligible to be called by the PAR Panel at a later date. We would also like to thank all of those who submitted credentials for consideration.

Please note that the following teachers were selected to the PAR pool prior to the most recent posting for PAR Consulting Teachers. These teachers may also be activated when a need exists. They are Linda Baker (Hilltonia MS), Eileen Bartlett (SuccessWorks Academy), Stephanie Baumgarten (Indianola ES), Deborah Downey (Northgate Ctr.), Angela Eddings (Africentric EC), Patrick Fath (Indian Springs ES), Barbara Flu-Allen (East HS), Tara Fox (Beechcroft HS), Julie

Freeman (Devonshire ES), Cheryl Gulling (SuccessWorks Academy), Deborah Harris (Linden ES), Anissa Holtsberry (Eastgate ES), Jada Jackson (Dominion MS), Tracy James (Yorktown MS), Janice Kabealo (Long-term Sick Leave), Connie Kristoff (Long-term Sick Leave), Fian Kunesh (Dominion MS), William Lehman (AIMS), Beth Masters (West HS), Wendy Mattucci (Shepard Ctr.), Charlene McChesney (Mifflin MS), Marie McPherson (Hilltonia MS), Kari Pietrangelo (Centennial HS), Donna Rioux (Champion MS), Toia Robinson (Shepard Ctr.), Jacqueline Rowan (Salem ES), Cynthia Ryan (Northgate Ctr.), Amy Salem (Windsor ES), Elizabeth Shelley (Walnut Ridge HS), Benita Smith (Hamilton ES), Pamela Smith (Mifflin MS), John Taylor (West Mound ES), Doria Tobey (Woodward Park MS) and Paula Tome (Deshler ES).

## Gainsharing appeal results

The Gainsharing Committee met and approved 49 additional individual appeals. An additional \$24,638 was awarded to bargaining unit members for their efforts toward making AYP. This concludes the Gainsharing appeal process for the 2007-2008 school year.

Gainsharing is a type of alternative compensation that was negotiated more than a decade ago. For more information about Gainsharing, refer to Article 908 of the *CEA Master Agreement*.

## Thank a social worker

Last week was National School Social Worker Week (Mar. 1-7). But that doesn't mean we can't say *thanks* to these essential team members this week or at any time. We urge you to take some time and recognize their contributions.

You may not be aware that school social workers are specially trained to work in school districts across the country on crisis intervention, mental health assessment, counseling and linking and referring students and families to community agencies. School social workers collaborate with school staff and community agencies to reduce or minimize barriers to student achievement and attendance. Thanks for all you do.

## View proposed textbooks

Textbook adoption for physical education and career/technical education culminates Tuesday, Apr. 7, with School Board approval. The adoption includes books for the new Downtown HS. All the books are on public display from 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. weekdays until Mar. 31 at these locations:

- 📖 Lower-level hallway at CEC, 270 E. State St.
- 📖 CCS Professional Library, Schools Distribution Center, 737 E. Hudson St.

Question and comment sheets are provided. For more information, call Andrew Meilton at 365-5300.

## Special notes

- ❑ **Sharon Swanson** (Gables ES) has been approved for **catastrophic leave**. To assist Sharon, **fill out an absence form** indicating the number of days to be donated. Send forms to **Cathy Tysen, Labor Relations**.
- ❑ **Reminder:** The **deadline** to submit an application for the **CEA Scholarship** is **Friday, May 8, at 5 p.m.**
- ❑ **Alternative interview panels** have been approved for the following school: **Arts Impact MS, Briggs HS, Fifth Ave. ES and West HS**.
- ❑ **CEA's Reach Out and Read book campaign** ended Mar. 6. **FRs should bring collected books to the CEA office by Friday, Mar. 13.** If you have a large number of books, contact Tracey Johnson at 253-4731 to arrange a pick-up.