

The Voice

www.ceaohio.org

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Columbus Education Association

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CEA President Johnson to share ideas in Washington, D.C.

When U.S. education officials meet next month with educational leaders from throughout the country, CEA will have a seat at the table.

CEA President Rhonda Johnson and Supt. Gene Harris have been invited to attend a meeting with U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan in Washington, D.C. on Dec. 7.

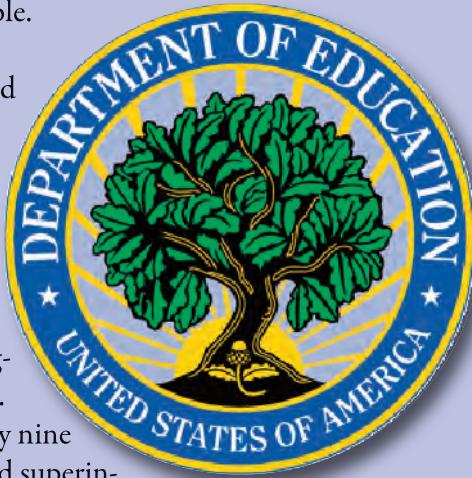
They are among only nine union presidents and superintendents invited to talk about the ways in which administrators, school boards and unions can work together to increase student achievement at underperforming schools, where current efforts aren't enough to close lingering gaps.

Johnson and Harris were invited because of our collaborative Association-Administration efforts. CEA has accomplished a great deal, including the PAR program and Gainsharing, and we look forward to sharing our processes and results with government officials and with our peers nationally.

Duncan's major effort has been on gathering best practices surrounding teacher training, management, the use of student data and sharing them nationally. He also believes strongly that school district and teacher leaders hold the keys. In a recent speech at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Education and Workforce Summit, Duncan said, "We need to change the frame around reform and recognize that the crisis in education goes far beyond labor issues. Where we see academic failure, we need to get to the core of what is really preventing student achievement. When companies struggle, we don't start by firing the workers. We change leadership—and in many schools and districts—we have to look at leadership."

Educator license renewal update

All educators who hold an 8-year certificate or 5-year license that will expire June 30, 2010, should already have received a renewal packet from the CCS Human Resources Office. The deadline for renewal is Monday, Feb. 1, 2010, for educators who do not have a continuing contract with the district. Educators with continuing contracts have until June 21, 2010, to submit their renewal appli-



cations. If you have not received your renewal packet or have questions about a continuing contract, call Cheryl Creamer (Teacher Licensure) at 365-5658.

Because the Ohio Department of Education has completed all 2009 renewals ahead of schedule, they are renewing 2010 licenses early. Educators transitioning from an 8-year to a 5-year license or renewing a 5-year license may turn in their applications to the LPDC Office at Northgate Center now. However, on Jan. 1, 2010, ODE will release updated applications that reflect new standards surrounding the FBI/BCI background checks. This could save you some money if you have completed the fingerprinting procedures over the past two or three years. The language surrounding this new policy has not yet been completed, so specifics are not available at this time. You may wish to wait until after Jan. 1 to complete and turn in your application.

College credits are not recorded in PD Planner (only CEUs), so when using semester or quarter hours for renewal, you must attach an original transcript to your application. Please have the transcript sent to your home. It is permissible to open and attach it to your application. The LPDC has access to every educator's CEUs in PD Planner, so you do not need to print out and send that information along with your application. Questions about the renewal procedures should be e-mailed to Dean Fowls at dfowls@columbus.k12.oh.us.

Save the date: MLK Dinner

The annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Awards Dinner will be held on Thursday, Jan. 14, at the Hyatt Regency Columbus beginning at 6 p.m. This year, we are proud to present as keynote speaker Ed Gordon.

Join us to honor the recipients of The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Humanitarian Award and The Helen Jenkins Davis Award.

The King Award goes to an individual who exemplifies the spirit of Dr. King's work, recognizing distinguished service in the community, education, social justice or human and civil rights.

The Davis Award honors the first black teacher hired by the Columbus schools. Mrs. Davis (who was hired in 1918) also was the first witness called in the 1976 school desegregation trial in Columbus. The Davis Award goes to a CEA member who has promoted social justice, diversity and human and civil rights.

This is CEA's annual signature event. We look forward to seeing you there. Please reserve your tickets by calling CEA.



**Monday
February
1
2010**

Thanks and congratulations

We want to thank everyone who participated in this year's United Way drive. You can feel great about yourselves for taking that extra step to ensure that the community's needy families and neighborhoods receive vital services.

We drew the names of gift-card winners who donated at the levels listed below. Congratulations go out to:



\$500+ Leadership Grand Prizes—\$150 Target Gift Card (2)

Jo Hill (Teacher, Valley View ES)
Marianne Minshall (Principal, Buckeye MS)

\$60 Payroll Deduction Level Prize—\$100 Target Gift Card

Cynthia Price (Teacher, Marion-Franklin HS)

\$250 Level Prizes—\$50 Best Buy Gift Card (2)

Anthony Alston (Principal, Beechcroft HS)
Charlene Gomer (Teacher, Alum Crest HS)

\$250 Level Prizes—\$50 Lowe's Gift Card (2)

Brian Hamilton (Teacher, Centennial HS)
Dwayne Zimmerman (Teacher, Linden-McKinley HS)

\$125 Level Prizes—\$30 Target Gift Card (8)

Michael Buziewicz (Teacher, Marion-Franklin HS)
Barb Carraway (CEA-R)
Donna Davis (Teacher, Valley Forge ES)
Mike Grote (Director, Northgate Center)
John Hank (Teacher, Walnut Ridge HS)
Michael Hicks (Teacher, East HS)
Jean Smythe (CEA-R)
Tiffany Malone (Instructional Assistant, Huy/A.G. Bell)

\$60 Level Prizes—\$10 Gas Card (5)

Elizabeth Courtney (Teacher, Valley Forge ES)
Julie Crosby (Teacher, Literature Based @Hubbard ES)
Jana Eschner (Teacher, West Mound ES)
Bonnie Frazier (Brailist, Neil Ave. Center)
Mary Lager (Secretary, 17th Ave./Energy Management)

Remember, it is never too late to contribute to United Way. The need is constant and many of the programs benefit our students and their families. You can make a difference.

The middle school turnaround

CEA has received numerous calls from members who want to know about "middle school turnaround" and what middle school principals did when they recently went out of town for professional development. The paragraphs below are designed to answer some of your inquiries.

CCS middle school principals have been identified by the Superintendent to participate in "The Turnaround Challenge" for middle schools. Middle schools around the country, including Columbus, are faced with similar challenges around student achievement. "The Turnaround Challenge" represents a documented, dynamic, dramatic and sustained change in the performance of specific organizations including schools.

Dr. Harris has challenged the middle school principals to become "Turnaround Specialists" for their schools and for their students.

This process began with 22 middle school principals taking an active part in a week long learning institute, "Partnership for Leaders in Education," sponsored by the Darden School of Business and the Curry School of Education located at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville. During the course of this intensive week, middle school principals engaged in facilitated and interactive workshops and discussions around topics such as the following:

- *Expanding leadership capacity to build a guiding coalition at each school*
- *Developing and communicating a clear and com-*

elling vision

- *Developing instructional and operational strategies to support the vision*
- *Transforming learning that results in higher student engagement and performance*
- *Transforming schools into high performing learning communities*

Each principal was challenged to implement a "Quick Win" for his or her building climate and/or culture. "Quick Wins" represent visible, dramatic and sustained changes in programmatic features of the school curriculum and/or school operations.

In addition to the "Quick Wins," middle school principals will meet with the Superintendent and members of the CCS Senior Leadership Team to continue the dialogue and conversation on turnaround strategies. The expectation is that school leadership teams will also have conversations on a regular basis in order to further refine the strategies that will be implemented at their respective schools.

All middle school teachers, support staff members and selected parent consultants are being interviewed by Community Research Partners in order to provide further insight into middle school challenges, areas of concern and opportunities for improvement and successes. These interviews and focus groups have already begun and will be concluded by the end of this month.

CEA and the administration will continue to update you on middle school reform as developments occur.

World AIDS Day

World AIDS Day is observed every year on Dec. 1. The World Health Organization established World AIDS Day in 1988. World AIDS Day provides governments, national AIDS programs, faith organizations, community organizations and individuals with an opportunity to raise awareness and focus attention on the global AIDS epidemic.



HIV is a global issue, and in the United States, more and more young people are becoming infected. HIV is on the rise in Central Ohio and you can help stop this trend. From 1985 to 2002, the proportion of adolescent AIDS cases in the U.S. reported in women increased from 7 percent to 26 percent. That number has grown to about 30 percent in recent studies. According to more recent estimates, approximately 56,000 new HIV infections occur each year in the United States. Of these newly infected people, half are younger than 25 years of age.

You can be a part of the fight. Participate in "A Reason To Dine," a fundraiser for the Columbus AIDS Task Force. "A Reason to Dine" helps to increase funds to continue providing services to those infected with and affected by HIV. Go to www.ReasonToDine.com to help fight HIV here in Central Ohio on World AIDS Day.

Special notes

- ❑ Correction: The following units were also represented at the Nov. 5 FR Workshop: **Psychologists** and **Speech & Language**. Please accept our apology for the omission.
- ❑ **Dec. 5 is Educator Appreciation Day at Barnes & Noble.** Receive **25 percent off the list price** on most books. Give them bookfair number **486472**, and Barnes & Noble will donate a percentage of the sales to **CEA's Reach Out and Read book drive.**
- ❑ Thanks to these schools that have turned in the completed **United Way** envelopes during the past week: **Beechcroft HS, Buckeye MS, Eakin ES, Eastgate ES, Eastmoor Academy, Linden ES, Livingston ES and Maybury ES.**