

The Voice

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Columbus Education Association

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MLK speaker announced

The keynote speaker for the 31st Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Awards Dinner is Emmy Award-winning news personality Ed Gordon. As a leading news anchor for the Black Entertainment Television (BET) Network, Gordon interviewed presidents, presidential candidates, important world figures such as South African leaders Nelson Mandela and Desmond Tutu, as well as figures as diverse as Nation of Islam Minister Louis Farrakhan and singer Whitney Houston.



Ed Gordon

Gordon joined NBC's news division in the late 1990s before returning to BET. In 2004, he joined the CBS news magazine, "60 Minutes," as a correspondent; and in 2005, he began hosting his own daily public affairs program on NPR Radio.

Ed Gordon was raised in Detroit and is the son of schoolteachers. After graduating from Western Michigan University in 1982 with a degree in communications and political science, Gordon accepted an unpaid internship at Detroit's public television station WTVS. He eventually won a paying job as host of the weekly *Detroit Black Journal*. To supplement his income, Gordon worked as a freelance reporter for the fledgling cable network BET, headquartered in Washington, D.C.

In 1988 Gordon joined BET as anchor of the weekly news show "BET News." He covered the 1991 Los Angeles riots, producing a report called *Black Men Speak Out: The Aftermath*.

In 2008, Gordon created Daddy's Promise, a nonprofit organization encouraging healthy relationships between African-American girls and their fathers, grandfathers and other father figures who help raise them.

Join us for this inspiring event. Get your tickets for the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Awards Dinner through the Minority Involvement Program (MIP) Committee members, Faculty Representatives or CEA. Tickets are \$25. The dinner will be held at the Hyatt Regency Columbus on Thursday, Jan. 14. For more information, call CEA at 253-4731.

I Know I Can drive

Since 1988, I Know I Can has partnered with Columbus City Schools to make higher education a reality for tens of thousands of CCS students who dream big and work hard. One of the largest and most successful college access programs in the nation, I Know I Can provides the inspiration to ignite ambition, the advice to excel in school and the financial sup-



port to enable students to earn a college degree.

Over the past 21 years, I Know I Can has awarded nearly \$23 million in the form of I Know I Can grants to CCS graduates attending college, including \$1.4 million last year alone. I Know I Can worked with nearly 5,500 CCS students, graduates and their families in the 2008–2009 school year, helping to provide the advice and counsel needed to successfully navigate the college-going process.

Ohio Treasurer of State Kevin Boyce, a Columbus City Schools graduate and I Know I Can grant recipient, recently stated: "High school for many young people can be a time of great destruction or great triumph. For me and so many others, I Know I Can is the bridge to triumph; and I feel a great sense of importance in giving back to the community that gave so much to me."

This month marks the launch of I Know I Can's 2009 Annual Giving Campaign. We kindly ask that you consider donating to I Know I Can this year. You already invest your time and talent in these promising students. See a return that pays dividends for everyone by generously contributing to I Know I Can. In doing so, you are investing not only in the future of these students but also in the future of Columbus.

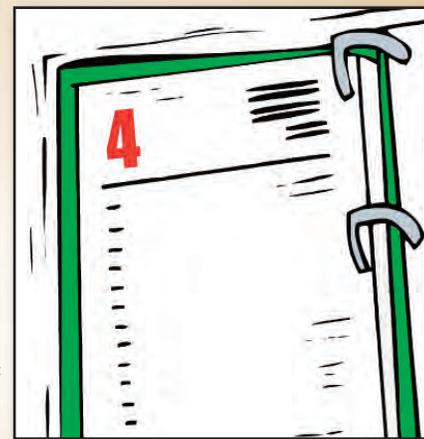
Thank you again to the hundreds of teachers who already give to I Know I Can. Your investment truly changes lives. I Know I Can is grateful for your commitment and dedication.

Complete the calendar survey

On Friday, Dec. 4, members should have received an e-mail containing a link to an online survey that will determine the calendar for the 2010–2011 school year. CEA did not finalize the calendar for the next school year in the last round of bargaining. This was due to potential conflicts with the Ohio Achievement Assessments and our traditional spring break in 2011.

This survey will close at midnight on Monday, Dec. 14. The link was sent to members' personal e-mail addresses and can only be completed on non-district computers. You cannot access this survey at a CCS computer or through the district computer network.

If CEA does not have your home e-mail address or if you have opted out of e-mail messages from CEA, you can get a paper version of the survey by contacting CEA at 253-4731. If you have not received the e-mail with the survey link, contact Phil Hayes at phayes@ceaohio.org.



License renewal update

By Jan. 1, 2010, updated licensure application forms will be posted on the ODE Web site to comply with new House Bill 1 criminal background check requirements. Under the new requirements, applicants for Ohio licensure need to establish whether they have lived continuously in Ohio for the past five years. The answer to this residency question will determine what background checks educators will need to complete as they renew licenses or apply for additional licenses. These updated licensure application forms are the only applications that will be accepted after Jan. 1, 2010. If any of the older applications are received after that date, they will be declined and applicants will be notified of the need to complete an updated application form.

The Columbus City Schools' Department of Human Resources sent out licensure applications in October and November. You cannot submit this form to the LPDC for renewal after Wednesday, Dec. 16, 2009. The LPDC advises all CCS educators to wait until after Jan. 1, 2010, when they can obtain and submit the new license renewal form. To obtain the new form, go to the Ohio Department of Education at <http://www.ode.state.oh.us> and search for Educator Licensure Applications. Click on the link entitled, "ODE-Educator Licensure Applications." Download and print the 5-Year License Renewal or Transition form.

More graduates = a better local economy

Nearly 600,000 students across the country dropped out of the high school class of 2008. That includes 5,930 students in Columbus and the surrounding area. Who pays? We all do.

Imagine if half of those students were to graduate. The economic impact of that group alone translates into \$39 million in lost taxable wages.

The Alliance for Excellent Education, a national policy and advocacy organization, has released *Teaching for a New World: Preparing High School Educators to Deliver College- and Career-Ready Instruction*. The report offers a new vision for secondary teacher preparation ensuring that teacher candidates possess the critical skills necessary to help all high school students graduate ready for college, careers and life.

The economic model uses U.S. Census data covering 97 Ohio high schools in eight counties and graduation rates defined by the education-news publisher Editorial Projects in Education. The Alliance has calculated that reducing the number of dropouts by 50 percent for the Columbus metropolitan class of 2008 alone also would have resulted in tax growth by nearly \$6 million during the average year as the result of increased spending and higher salaries. It also would increase the capacity of the community to contribute through higher-paying careers. An estimated 57 percent of these students probably would continue their education after high school, some earning as high as a Ph.D. or other professional degree.

We are part of this solution. The Alliance identifies critical educational competency areas:

- ◆ The ability to work with diverse learners
- ◆ The capacity to teach adolescent literacy skills, regardless of the content area
- ◆ The ability to effectively use assessment and data to impact teaching and learning
- ◆ The ability to teach in specialized teaching environments

Federal education policy can help us get there. The Alliance endorses:

- ◆ A focus on teacher performance instead of teacher education coursework
- ◆ The creation of performance-based assessments
- ◆ Support of effective teaching programs
- ◆ Building of robust data systems
- ◆ More dollars for research

Read more at <http://www.all4ed.org/>.

Common math & English standards

Over the past year, the Council of Chief State School Officers and the National Governors Association have been overseeing a national push for common academic standards. The Common Core State Standards Initiative (CCSSI) released a draft version of college and career readiness standards for math and English/language arts earlier in the fall.

CCSSI is expected to release K-12 grade-level standards for English language arts and math in early 2010. A total of 48 states have agreed to adopt the entire package of standards, including Ohio. Only Alaska and Texas have not signed on to the Common Core Initiative.

While CCSSI has worked on their grade-level standards, the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) has been simultaneously revising the state's academic standards. The new state budget directs the State Board of Education to adopt revised academic standards for English language arts, math, science and social studies by June 30, 2010.

Ohio Supt. Deborah Delisle has gone on record as supporting more rigorous academic standards for the state's students. Timing is the biggest challenge facing the state's efforts to incorporate the national standards package into its own standards revision efforts. Due to CCSSI's planned release of the national standards in early 2010, ODE may have to ask state legislators to extend the academic standards revision deadline.

In your opinion as an education professional, what effect will adopting national English language arts and math academic standards have on teaching and learning in the Columbus City Schools? Go to <http://bit.ly/6duJf2> to join other members in conversation on The CEA Blog.

Study conservation in Africa and Asia

Miami University's Project Dragonfly is accepting applications for its 2010 graduate field courses and master's programs offering international field and conservation studies in Africa, Asia and the Americas.

The program unites graduate students, scientists, educators and community leaders at critical conservation field sites in Belize, Costa Rica, Baja, Trinidad, Mongolia, Thailand, Kenya and Namibia. New in 2010 are courses in Borneo and the Amazon.

The award provides a scholarship equivalent to \$3,100 in-state and \$7,100 out-of-state tuition. Award recipients are responsible for travel and field costs.

The program is open to educators from all settings and disciplines. Learn more at www.EarthExpeditions.org and www.MastersGFP.org. The application deadline is Jan. 28, 2010.

Spring 2010 CEA elections

The following positions will be open in the CEA Spring 2010 election: CEA President; CEA Vice President; Governors for Districts 2, 7, 9 and 10; 2010 NEA delegates; and 2010-11 OEA delegates.

Members may declare their candidacy for these positions from Jan. 4-Feb. 4 and conduct campaigns from Feb. 5-19. Voting will take place from Feb. 22-Mar. 8. The Elections Committee will tabulate votes on Mar. 9.

Special notes

- ❑ Thanks to these schools that have turned in the completed **United Way** envelopes during the past week: Columbus Global Academy and Scottwood ES.
- ❑ **I Know I Can** needs your help. **JPMorgan Chase** has just launched a **new Community Giving Program on Facebook** so you can vote for your favorite charity. By voting for **I Know I Can**, you can help the organization win \$25,000 and perhaps as much as \$1 million. Make a difference in the lives of our students. Go to www.facebook.com/chasecommunitygiving to vote. **Voting is open until Dec. 11.**