

The Voice

Rhonda Johnson, President

www.ceaohio.org

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Columbus Education Association

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CEA wins \$1.25 million grant

On Monday, February 8, CEA President Rhonda Johnson announced that the Association along with the district

has received a \$1.25 million, five-year grant from the NEA Foundation to help us transform some of our most challenged schools into local and national models for teaching and learning.



Pictured at the press conference is CEA President Rhonda Johnson announcing the NEA Foundation's Closing the Achievement Gaps Grant. Also pictured are John Stanford (Governor's Office), Janet Jackson (United Way), Patricia Frost-Brooks (OEA), Carol Perkins (School Board President) and Supt. Gene Harris.

“Planning will begin in late spring,” said CEA President Rhonda Johnson.

The grant is one of only three NEA Foundation Closing the Achievement Gaps awards made nationally to help develop teacher-driven professional development and community partnership efforts. In Columbus, which competed against 14,000 school districts nationally for the funds, efforts will be directed at the schools feeding into Briggs and Linden-McKinley high schools.

In these schools, 7 out of 10 students qualify for free and reduced lunch. Eighty-five percent of the schools are not making federal Adequate Yearly Progress. Performance gaps are 12 percent in reading and 17 percent in math. The grant will create the opportunity for multiple strategies, including increased parent engagement, home visits and greater team efforts by teachers to address specific issues. It also will help teachers improve their ability to use student data to pinpoint needs and measure progress.

CEA and the district administration collaborated on the grant proposal, with CCS's Development Office Director John Farley drafting the text. “We understand the need to come together to improve student achievement,” said President Johnson. “This grant will allow us to work together, and to have access to research and best practices already collected by other participating school districts.”

Superintendent Gene Harris said the goal is to give students a leg up in life. “This is transformational work,” she said. “When we think about what we want our community to look like, it starts with our students.”

United Way of Central Ohio will serve as fiscal agent for the grant funds and provide vital linkages with community agencies and constituencies. United Way President & CEO Janet Jackson highlighted the agency's “Bold Goals” of improving kindergarten readiness and increasing high school graduation rates and said, “This is just another example of how we work together to solve community problems.”

CEA made the announcement on Monday at Linden

STEM Academy Elementary School. President Johnson was joined by several district and community leaders: Superintendent Gene Harris; President & CEO of United Way of Central Ohio Janet Jackson; CCS School Board President Carol Perkins; OEA President Patricia Frost-Brooks and the Ohio Governor's Executive Assistant for Education Policy John Stanford.

“Closing the gap is one of our most important issues,” said Stanford. “We see this as a promising initiative that is aligned with our broader educational reform effort. Transformation of a school is really built on the relationships in that school.”

Read Across America

NEA's Read Across America is coming. March 2, Dr. Seuss' birthday—is the perfect time to work with the community to promote the joys of reading. Every year, librarians, politicians, actors, athletes, parents, grandparents, and others develop activities to bring reading excitement to children of all ages.

Here are some ways you can celebrate:

- ☞ Involve your principal.

In our experience, principals love NEA's Read Across America. Most will not only support your efforts, they will become actively involved.

- ☞ Look at your school's calendar, and choose a date to celebrate. The official day is Mar. 2. If this conflicts with another event, feel free to pick a different day.

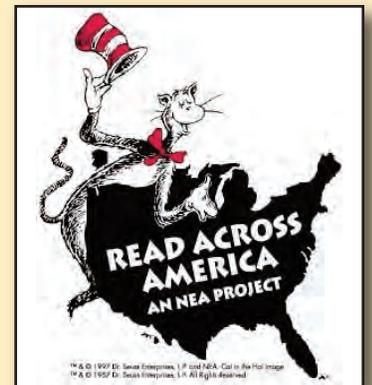
- ☞ Consult with your school librarian. It's likely that he or she is already familiar with Read Across America and may have ideas to offer. Reserve books in advance—there may be a run on Dr. Seuss titles.

- ☞ Ask other teachers if they are making plans. Consider coordinating your efforts for a school-wide event.

- ☞ Invite guest readers to come to your class on Mar. 2 and read to your students. There is something powerful about a policeman, firefighter, mayor, radio personality, pastor, high school quarterback, or grandmother sharing love for reading with the students. Afterwards, have your students write thank you notes.

- ☞ Get some hats! Everyone wants the famous *Cat in the Hat* hat, available at a discount from the *NEA Cat-alog*, or make your own from red and white construction paper. This makes a fun class project. Check out the pattern <http://bit.ly/aQzaSF>.

Want more ideas? Visit www.nea.org/readacross and keep reading!



CEA scholarships

Friday, May 7, at 5 p.m. is the deadline for applications for CEA scholarships. This 25-year-old program provides scholarships for children of CEA members who are graduating high school seniors or students already enrolled in an undergraduate program in a college or university. We finance the fund with interest earned from Association bank accounts.

Two scholarships are available: the \$1,500 Christa McAuliffe Scholarship awarded to an education student and the \$1,000 CEA General Scholarship. Both are renewable for up to four years but at a reduced level from the first-year award.

Go to <http://bit.ly/9EAOWy> to download an application. Return it to the CEA office.

This scholarship program is not to be confused with the CEA Members Scholarship Foundation awarded to college seniors from which funds were disbursed in December.

Your voice: The Legislative Assembly

The CEA Legislative Assembly (LA) consists of Faculty Representatives, Governors and CEA officers. Meeting attendance is important to ensure effective representation. More than 300 elected governors and faculty representatives meet monthly during the school year. All CEA members are welcome to attend these meetings. The following buildings/units were represented at the Feb. 4 LA: 6th St. Annex, A.G. Bell ES, Alpine ES, Alum Crest HS, Art, Avalon ES, Beechcroft HS, Beery MS, Berwick K-8, Broadleigh ES, Brookhaven HS, Buckeye MS, Burroughs ES, CAHS, CEA, Cedarwood ES, Champion MS, Clinton MS, Colerain ES, Cols. Africentric EC ES, Cols. Africentric EC SS, Columbus Spanish Immersion, Como ES, Dana ES, East Columbus ES, East HS, Easthaven ES, Eastmoor MS, École Kenwood, Fairmoor ES, Forest Park ES, Franklin MS, Ft. Hayes CC, Ft. Hayes MEC, Gables ES, Guidance Counselors, Heyl ES, Highland ES, Hilltonia MS, Hudson Comm. Ed. Ctr., Hudson St. Warehouse, Huy ES, Indian Springs ES, Innis ES, I-PASS @ Mifflin MS, Johnson Park MS, Juvenile Detention Center, Kingswood Center, Liberty ES, Lincoln Park ES, Lindbergh ES, Linden ES, Linden-McKinley HS on Arcadia, Maize ES, Marion-Franklin HS, Maybury ES, Medina MS, Mifflin HS, Music, Neil Avenue Center, North Linden ES, Northgate Center, Northtowne ES, Nurses, Oakmont ES, OT/PT, PAR, Parkmoor ES, Phys. Ed., Salem ES, Shepard Center, South HS, Southwood ES, Starling MS, Stewart ES, Sullivant ES, Trevitt ES, Tutors, Valley Forge ES, Walnut Ridge HS, Watkins ES, Wedgewood MS, Weinland Park ES, West HS, West Broad ES, West Mound ES, Westgate ES, Westmoor MS, Whetstone HS, Windsor ES, Winterset ES, Woodcrest ES, Work Study and Yorktown MS.

Please call the CEA office if your building/unit was in attendance but not in the above list.

Nervous about interviewing? We can help

CEA and the CCS Human Resources Department will hold a workshop on Wednesday, Mar. 3, at Northgate to help teachers prepare for the Article 211 interview process.

We know that many teachers have not interviewed in a number of years, and we want them to be prepared. We also know that many teachers displaced from closed schools have not updated their resumés for many years. Many of you are probably quite nervous about the prospect of interviewing for a job you know well and are passionate about—but that



you haven't had to explain or define lately, possibly since you were first hired.

This workshop is a valuable opportunity for any CEA member who wants to stay up to date in some key job-search techniques. We can help you overcome your anxiety. We also can give you pointers: How you present yourself and how you answer questions are important factors in determining whether you "fit in" at a particular school.

Reach Out and Read book drive

The Columbus Education Association's Reach Out and Read Community Book Drive kicked off Feb. 8. Members can continue to donate new books through Mar. 5. Faculty Representatives in each building are asked to designate a location to collect books in your building.



Bidding for the novel *Midnight on the Moon* autographed by former astronaut and U.S. Senator John Glenn ends Feb. 19. We encourage everyone to participate in this worthwhile campaign. If you have questions or would like to bid on the auction item, contact Tracey Johnson at 253-4731 or e-mail her at tjohnson@ceaohio.org.

Corrections:

- ✦ We misspelled the name of one of our new NBCTs in the last issue of *The Voice*. Congratulations to **Erika Payne** (Eastgate ES) *Early Childhood Generalist*. We apologize for the error.
- ✦ The **first parent-teacher conference** date for next school year is **Wednesday, Nov. 24, 2010**.

Special notes

- ❑ CEA District Meetings are scheduled as follows: **Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4**, Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2010, 4:30 p.m., Buca di Beppo Worthington (60 E. Wilson Bridge Rd.); **Districts 5, 6, 10 and 11**, Wednesday, Feb. 17, 2010, 4:30 p.m., Spaghetti Warehouse (397 W. Broad St.); **Districts 7, 8 and 9**, Thursday, Feb. 18, 2010, 4:30 p.m., Plank's Café & Pizzeria (743 Parsons Ave.). Faculty Reps who cannot attend their assigned district meeting should feel free to go to one of the other district meetings. These meetings are open to all CEA members. Call your District Governor if you have questions.
- ❑ **Art. 211 note:** The **CCS Human Resources Department** must **notify** any staff member of an **administrative staff reduction** by **Feb. 22**.
- ❑ Due to the cancellation of school on Wednesday, Feb. 10, the **LPDC meeting** has been **rescheduled** for **Tuesday, Feb. 16**. All submitted IPDPs and individual CEU requests (Recertification Requests) will be reviewed at that meeting.
- ❑ **The 2010 Professional Staff Survey** arrived in buildings in January. Senior Faculty Representatives should administer the survey now until Feb. 26. Return all survey forms (including unused forms) to **Doris Mitchell, Evaluation Services/Kingswood Data Center**.
- ❑ **CEA election campaigns** are in full swing until **Feb. 19**. **Voting** will take place from **Feb. 22–Mar. 8**. CEA members are running for CEA President; CEA Vice President; Governors for Districts 2, 7, 9 and 10; 2010 NEA delegates; and 2010–11 OEA delegates. Votes will be tabulated on **Mar. 9**.
- ❑ **OEA New Teacher Forums: Early-career OEA/CEA members** are invited to the **Region 1 New Teacher Forum** on **Mar. 22** at the **Crowne Plaza North**. Join us for a fun, informative evening with food, gifts and valuable membership information. Contact **Debbie Roberts** at (800) 282-1500, Ext. 3116, or robertsd@ohea.org.