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. “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 bring reading excitement to children of all ages. 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:

☞ 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 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:

☞ 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.

☞ 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/aQza5F.

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

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/aQza5F.

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

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 to full-time professional staff. All submitted IPDPs and individual CEU requests (Recertification Requests) will be reviewed at that meeting.

☐ 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: 2010–2011 OEA/CEA members are invited to the Region 1 New Teacher Forum on Mar. 22 in 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.