

The Voice

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Columbus Education Association

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Hear Rev. Sharpton and honor our leaders

Get your tickets for the CEA Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Awards Dinner, to be held Thursday, Jan. 13, at the Hyatt Regency Columbus. The price is \$30. Call the CEA office at 253-4731. We expect the event to sell out.

Our keynote speaker, Rev. Al Sharpton, has been involved in numerous civil rights issues since the late 1960s. His stance, in his own words, has taken him “from the streets to the suites” and his views on national politics have been applauded by both supporters and non-supporters alike.



Each year at the annual King Dinner, two major awards are presented. The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Humanitarian Award goes to an individual who exemplifies the spirit of Dr. King’s work, recognizing distinguished service in community, education, social justice or human and civil rights. The Helen Davis Jenkins Award honors the first black teacher hired by the Columbus schools. This award goes to a CEA member who has promoted social justice, diversity and human and civil rights.

This year, we bestow the King Award on former City Councilman and former Ohio Treasurer, Kevin Boyce. A graduate of East HS, he has received many awards and honors, including *Ebony* magazine’s National “30 Leaders Under 30;” the 2009 Myrl H. Shoemaker Award for Integrity and Dedication in public service; and the National Council of Negro Women’s Community Service Award.

The Helen Jenkins Davis Award this year will go to teacher Barbara Yarborough. Now teaching at Columbus Africentric Early College ES, she began her career in Columbus 52 years ago. Since then, Yarborough has weathered many changes in our community, including desegregation and reform movements. She remains one of our district’s most beloved and popular educators.

Open houses to showcase your school

Columbus City Schools is a great school district with great people and it didn’t take the new Deputy Superintendent Keith Bell long to figure that out. “CCS has professionals that truly want the best for our students,” stated Mr. Bell. He has seen this firsthand during his many building visits, while speaking with teachers and administrators. This is in part the rationale behind requesting your support of open house visitations that began Dec. 13.

Parents and guardians are currently in the process of considering their specific educational options for the 2011–12 school year. “It is our belief that it is important we make sure our stakeholders truly understand what the Columbus

City School District has to offer,” said Bell. To provide that opportunity, the district established the concept of having an open house on Dec. 13 and on every Wednesday beginning in January 2011.

The district has asked every school to establish these opportunities during a set time in the morning and in the afternoon to help us keep our students in our schools. It is an opportunity to give our potential stakeholders a clear, real-life view of our buildings and the district. This is a chance for buildings to show what makes them special and why a Columbus City Schools education should be their first choice.

While the timing of the request and all the demands that are on our plates has caused some concerns, we do not want to lose another student to any of the many choices available without our potential stakeholders knowing what Columbus City Schools has to offer. This would be a travesty. Extending this open house opportunity could very well make the difference.

CEA and the district appreciate your flexibility and consideration in completing this request. We understand that we must do all that we can to inform the public that CCS is the best choice for educating our children.

CEA on Facebook and Flickr

The Columbus Education Association is leading the way in Internet-based Association member engagement. CEA maintains its own website, hosts a well-visited blog and conducts electronic surveys of its membership. CEA is the only teachers’ union in Ohio to offer text message alerts to its members.

CEA is proud to officially announce our two newest Internet outposts—Facebook and Flickr. Since August 2010, hundreds of CEA members have joined our Facebook

Page, located at www.facebook.com/columbusea. This past summer, we asked members what they wanted from a CEA Facebook Page. As a direct result of our members’ responses, CEA’s Facebook Page has become a vibrant, engaged online community of our colleagues.

OEA has a Facebook Page as well. While they have about 130,000 members and 280 Facebook friends, CEA has 4,500 members and 283 Facebook friends. CEA wants you to challenge OEA and to show them who’s in charge on Facebook. If you are on Facebook, please take a moment to join the CEA page. If you are not, consider joining so we can have more members on our Facebook Page than OEA.

You can also find CEA on Flickr, the most popular image-hosting site on the Internet. Go to www.flickr.com/photos/columbusea to see photos from the CEA Fall Fling, Capital Day, Making Strides and other events.


flickr
CEA Blog

Grievances update

CEA works hard to protect your rights and maintain the integrity of the negotiated contract. While we advise our members to try working out problems mutually first, we know this isn't always possible. Each month we will inform you of the grievances CEA is working on for you. This month's grievances are listed below.

Building/Unit/Administrator	Statement of Grievance	Relief Requested	Disposition
Employee Relations Dianne McLinn	Dianne McLinn, a district employee relations officer, issued a grievant a written reprimand without "just cause."	That the district administration rescinds the written reprimand issued to the district employee and remove any documentation from her personnel file.	Employees in docked status are AWOL. No violation of the contract has occurred; therefore, grievance and requested relief are denied.
Buckeye MS Marianne Minshall	The Administration at Buckeye MS failed to have a school-wide discipline plan specific for Buckeye MS on the first day of school as outlined in the <i>CEA Master Agreement</i> .	The administration will work with the school's ABC or Discipline Committee to develop a building-wide discipline plan that is specific for Buckeye MS and will use the Positive Behavior Supports program as a guide to developing discipline policies for the building.	The grievance is withdrawn. Administration finished a school-wide discipline plan on 11/1/10.

Know your CEA Governor

The CEA Constitution and Bylaws designate the Board of Governors (BOG) as the Association's executive arm. This week's *Voice* features Tai Hayden, Governor of District 7.

Tai currently teaches kindergarten at Moler ES. She has been involved in various CEA committees and is currently a member of the Reform Panel. Tai is the President of Capital District, one of ten regions of the Ohio Education Association. She is also a member of the STRS Board.



Tai Hayden

Hayden was elected Governor of District 7 in the spring of 2006. Schools in District 7 include: Columbus Downtown HS, Heyl ES, Livingston ES, Moler ES, Parsons ES, Siebert ES, South HS, Stewart Alt. ES @ Beck and Watkins ES.

Support our students

For 23 years, I Know I Can has worked directly with Columbus City Schools' students, providing more than 23,000 grants valued at nearly \$25 million. But in addition to its need-based grants, FAFSA workshops, and college advising services, I Know I Can also encourages, motivates and empowers Columbus City elementary and middle school students to achieve their full potential by making college a part of their future goals.



Tony, the father of 9th grade twins, participated in I Know I Can's Blueprint: College 2.0 workshops for middle school families last year. He now believes I Know I Can is as important for parents as it is for their children. I Know I Can's encouragement and support helps Tony and other parents like him guide their children's future. His twins agree that I Know I Can has inspired them to hone their organizational skills and take work seriously. Now, with I Know I Can's support, they are excited to work hard and do what it takes to get into college.

I Know I Can relies on individual donors to provide much needed financial support to carry out its mission. With help from donors, the organization is able to provide families with the college readiness services they deserve. Hundreds of CEA members donate to I Know I Can through payroll deduct, and together, their contributions make a substantial impact on I Know I Can. We hope you will consider joining the many others by donating to I Know I Can in 2011. Your dollars will directly benefit the students you are working so hard to educate.

If you are interested in making a donation, please see your CEA rep today. Or visit: www.iknowican.org.

STRS Board examines the health care landscape

At its meeting on Thursday, Nov. 18, 2010, the STRS Board continued review of the STRS health care program as part of its initial steps towards updating a strategic plan for retiree health care. Based on current projections, the health care plan is solvent until 2021.



Brent Greenwood, vice president of Actuarial Consulting for Ingenix Consulting, noted that the recent national election has created a "foggy future" for health care reform. While he noted that complete repeal of the federal health care law is unlikely, there could be specific repeals of certain sections and mandates, as well as a slowdown in implementation and appropriations. Further, the change in administration in Ohio could influence the state's strategy for health care exchanges, which are currently scheduled to begin in 2014. STRS Ohio staff reiterated that changes to the STRS Ohio Health Care Program are unavoidable because of its funding status but also concurred that the uncertainty about health care reform makes it even more challenging to develop a long-term strategic plan.

STRS staff stated a belief that the best approach would be to look first at changes for calendar year 2012, and possibly 2013, that would focus on how premium subsidies are determined and the number and type of health care plans offered to benefit recipients. The goal of any changes would be to help preserve the balance in the health care fund, as well as position the health care program for a future that could include the addition of competitively-priced health care exchanges in the marketplace and changes in Medicare Advantage programs. The board would also continue its work on the long-term strategic plan throughout 2011. This would allow time for some of the uncertainties about health care reform and its eventual impact on STRS Ohio's non-Medicare and Medicare enrollees to be resolved.

Special notes

- ❑ The declaration period for **CEA elections** begins on Jan. 3 and ends on Feb. 4. Contact CEA if you are interested in running for any of these open seats: 2011-2012 OEA Delegates; 2011 NEA Delegates; Governors for Districts 1, 4, 5 and 10 (formerly District 11); Middle School Governor At-Large; and Minority Governor At-Large. **Campaigning** is Feb. 7-18, with **voting** Feb. 22-Mar. 7 and **ballot tallying** Mar. 8.
- ❑ **Race to the Top funds** will provide Reading Recovery to elementary schools who need and want it. **Two Reading Recovery Teacher Leaders** will be hired and will leave their current assignments to begin training by mid January. Look for the posting after school reconvenes in 2011. If you have questions call Helena Dameron at 365-5253.
- ❑ The CEA Travel Group is planning a **trip to Egypt** with a tentative date of June 9-22, 2011. The trip includes eight nights at a five-star hotel in Cairo and four nights on a cruise on the Nile. The price is \$1,995 plus approximately \$1,500 for airfare. Contact **Carol Wagner** or **Ezetta Murray** at 253-4731 for further details.