Teacher evaluation
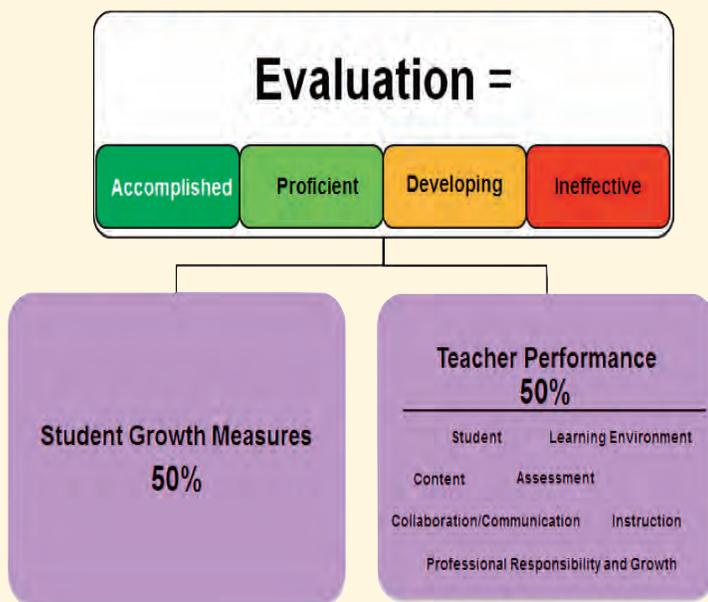
An effective educator evaluation system plays a significant role in the improvement of teaching and learning. For many years, CEA and CCS have agreed that the current evaluation system needs to be changed to one that promotes collaborative support for professionals and leads to improved practice and student growth. The combination of current Ohio legislation and Race to the Top funding has created the opportunity for our district's educators to move forward with this work.

House Bill 153 (the budget bill) requires that beginning in 2013–2014 all districts must adopt an evaluation system that is aligned with the state-adopted evaluation framework. The State Board of Education passed the framework, shown below, on Nov. 15, 2011.

Evaluation Framework

Evaluation =

Accomplished	Proficient	Developing	Ineffective

Student Growth Measures 50%

Teacher Performance 50%

Student   Learning Environment

Content   Assessment

Collaboration/Communication   Instruction

Professional Responsibility and Growth

This framework provides adequate space for our district to create an evaluation system that works for us. The Teacher Performance will be determined based upon the Ohio Standards for Teachers rubric of Elements and Indicators. Student Growth Measures have not yet been fully identified by the Ohio Department of Education. In the Columbus City Schools' "Scope of Work" for the Race to the Top grant, we have accepted the responsibility of identifying multiple measures of student growth for teachers that include, but are not limited to, value-added measures.

The Race to the Top Evaluation Committee's plan is to have teams of our own educators develop specific rubrics for the multiple measures that align to the professional field. Teams will include representatives from all grade levels, subject areas and service-related professions. All CCS educators will then have the opportunity to provide feedback on the measures of student growth by which they will be evaluated under the new system in 2014. More information on this process will be distributed in upcoming weeks.

Record number at King dinner

Rev. Jesse Jackson told attendees at the CEA 33rd Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Awards Dinner that teachers are among the most important members of society. "Strong minds break strong chains," he said.

As the keynote speaker at the Jan. 12 event held at the Hyatt Regency, Jackson addressed a record crowd of more than 800 attendees. Jackson reminisced about his days of traveling with King, leading up to the message that education is the key to success. He spoke of teachers who influenced his life, and of his grandmother, who sacrificed her own comforts to ensure that her grandchildren had every educational advantage she could muster.

Emceed by Tracy Townsend of WBNS-TV, the event honored two community members and a CEA member who have lived Dr. King's ideals. The Rev. Dale Snyder, Senior Pastor of Bethel AME Church, received the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Humanitarian Award for his efforts toward sustainable change throughout Columbus' urban neighborhoods. Snyder recalled the tradition of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, rooted in civil rights struggles since 1787.

Priscilla Tyson, member of Columbus City Council, also received the King Award. Tyson, an Eastmoor HS graduate, has never stopped giving back to the community, serving in a number of public capacities, including as founding executive director of City Year Columbus.

Jimmie K. Beall, a guidance counselor at Monroe MS was also honored. She received the Helen Jenkins Davis Award. Beall filed what would be a landmark discrimination lawsuit against London City Schools in which a federal judge ruled that gay men and women are entitled to fundamental rights and protections in the workplace. She has continued her work in CCS, educating staff about tolerance and helping gain acceptance and equality for GLBT staff and students.

Early voting

The Mar. 6 primary is quickly approaching. Early voting begins Tuesday, Jan. 31. The last day to register to vote in the primary election is Feb. 6. You may now request an absentee ballot from your local board of elections. You can vote in person at your local county board of elections. When you request your ballot, you can declare a party or you can vote nonpartisan or on issues only. To learn more, visit *www.ohvotes.org* or *www.sos.state.oh.us*.

During the primary, we will vote for presidential candidates, members of Congress and the Ohio General Assembly and county officials and judges.

STRS update

At its December meeting, the OEA Board of Directors voted to endorse Tim Myers for reelection to an active seat on the STRS Board. He is a teacher in Elida Local Schools and a current member of the STRS Board. The STRS Board election will begin this April.

Myers is serving the final year of his first term on the STRS Board. This valuable experience includes a year served as the Chair of the STRS Board. Throughout his time in this vital role, Myers has been a valuable voice in promoting the well-being of members, both active and retired, while addressing the critical issues that face the long-term funding of the pension system.

OEA members can assist in this election by signing or circulating nominating petitions for Myers. In order to qualify for the ballot, each candidate must collect signatures of at least 500 members with 20 or more signatures from at least 10 counties. Active teachers contributing to STRS are eligible to sign nomination petitions. To request petitions, please contact Robert Davis in OEA Governmental Services, davisr@ohea.org. Please provide your mailing address in your email as the petitions cannot be reproduced or sent electronically.

I Know I Can FAFSA workshops

With the new year having arrived and many deadlines approaching, I Know I Can has one question for CCS senior class teachers and counselors: Are your students on track and making plans to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)? If not, there's still time, and they're in luck because I Know I Can is excited to enter yet another year of FAFSA Workshops. These workshops have been designed to provide families and students with expert assistance for completing and submitting their FAFSAs in accordance with colleges' and universities' priority deadlines. By submitting early, students will not only check off one more task from their "college to-do lists," but they will also maximize their potential for state and federal financial aid.

This year, I Know I Can is also excited to offer families with four workshop dates that will include free tax assistance from trained tax professionals of the The Franklin County Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) Coalition.

In order to keep the process as seamless as possible, IKIC does ask families to come prepared with all of the proper documents and information. For preparation details and instructions, as well as a full workshop schedule, please visit *www.iknowican.org/fafsa2012.aspx*. Workshops will be held on weekday evenings beginning Jan. 28 and continuing throughout the month of February, including two Saturday workshop dates. Students are invited and encouraged to ask for one-on-one assistance from their IKIC College Advisors if they are unable to attend a workshop or have any questions regarding their FAFSA submission.

National Gallery teacher institute

The National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C., invites teachers of kindergarten through grade twelve to apply for a six-day seminar that explores impressionist and post-impressionist French art. Individual sessions will integrate art, social history, language arts and teaching strategies through examination of the collections of the National Gallery.

The seminar will be offered from July 16–21 and July 30–Aug. 4. The application deadline is Mar. 15. Visit *http://www.nga.gov/education/teacinst.htm* for information and an online application.

CEA elections

The following positions will be filled in the CEA Spring 2012 Elections: President and Vice President (two-year terms); Governors for Districts 2, (unexpired term ending July 31, 2013) 3 and 6; Elementary School Governor At-Large and two High School Governors At-Large (three-year terms); 2012 NEA Delegates; and 2012–13 OEA Delegates. Members may declare candidacy for these positions until Feb. 3. The formal campaign period is from Feb. 4–Mar. 5.

Voting will take place from Feb. 21–Mar. 5. The Elections Committee will tabulate votes on Mar. 6.

Special notes

☐ **Feb. 1 is the deadline for notifying HR of your intent to retire in order to receive "super" severance pay**. See the Jan. 9 *Voice* and Article 810 of the contract for more details. Early notification of retirement means more money for your accrued sick leave.

☐ **Kindergarten teachers, kindergarten instructional assistants and LLI tutors:** Please meet from 4:30–6:30 p.m. at the **Columbus Downtown HS** on Tuesday, Jan. 24, for Regions 1, 2 and 3 and on Tuesday, Jan. 31, for Regions 4 and 5 to discuss your concerns about the LLI program in kindergarten. You may attend either session.

☐ **Teachers may express their preferences related to their teaching assignment for next school year.** Preferences must be submitted in writing to building principals **prior to Feb. 1**. See Section 211.05 (B) of the contract.

☐ **Mar. 2 is the deadline to apply for continuing contracts.** Eligibility requirements can be found in Section 401.16 of the *CEA Master Agreement*.

☐ Join the Central Ohio Labor Council AFL-CIO and the **Columbus Blue Jackets** for a fun night with your family and other union families on **Feb. 24**, **7 p.m.,** at the **Nationwide Arena**. Call **Tom Johnson** at **246-4241** or send an email to **tjohnson@bluejackets.com** to purchase tickets. Tickets sell for $30 or $65 each.

☐ **Save the date** for one of our best-loved events. **The CEA Awards & Retirement Dinner** is **Friday, May 18**, at the Hilton Columbus Easton. Social hour is at 6 p.m., with dinner at 7 p.m. There is no cost for retirees, honorees and Senior Faculty Representatives to attend.