

The Voice

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You've come a long way

It's easy to forget the days when women did not have a voice. They endured harsh working conditions. They were denied a higher education. They were not given a voice in politics. Teachers, in particular, were subject to strict rules that limited their abilities to express themselves and to have their own families. Until the 1980s, women were virtually excluded from history textbooks. Their many accomplishments in politics, science, the arts and other areas remained relatively obscure.

This month, National Women's History Month, we can reflect on the progress we've made. For instance, this month marks the anniversary of the 1857 demonstration of New York textile and garment workers against low wages and twelve-hour workdays. This passion fed the zeal of other professionals, including teachers. In 1901, Margaret Haley resigned from her teaching position and went to Chicago, where she helped found the precursor to the American Federation of Teachers—though she lost control of the organization to a male teacher. In New York, Grace Strachan and the Interborough Association of Women Teachers fought for Equal Pay for Equal Work.

Women also stood at the forefront of many reform movements throughout the United States, leading to improved educational opportunities for people from all backgrounds.

During March, we have a unique opportunity to teach our students about the achievements of women throughout American history.

The 2012 Honorees of the National Women's History Project are:

- ♦ Emma Hart Willard, Higher Education Pioneer
- ♦ Charlotte Forten Grimke, Freedman Bureau Educator
- ♦ Annie Sullivan, Disability Education Architect
- ♦ Gracia Molina Enriquez de Pick, Feminist Educational Reformer
- ♦ Okolo Rashid, Community Development Activist and Historical Preservation Advocate
- ♦ Brenda Flyswithawks, American Indian Advocate and Educator

For more information, visit <http://www.nwhp.org/>.

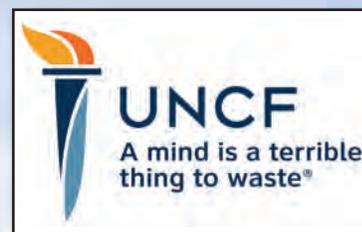
UNCF drive begins today

The 2012 UNCF-Columbus City Schools workplace campaign begins Monday, Mar. 5, and runs until Monday, Mar. 26.

Did you know that UNCF annually helps more than 60,000 students from all ethnic backgrounds reach

their dreams of obtaining a college degree? More than 60 percent of students who receive support from UNCF are the first in their families to attend college, and over 65 percent of them come from homes with annual incomes of less than \$35,000. Together we can make a difference. Together we can change the course of a student's life.

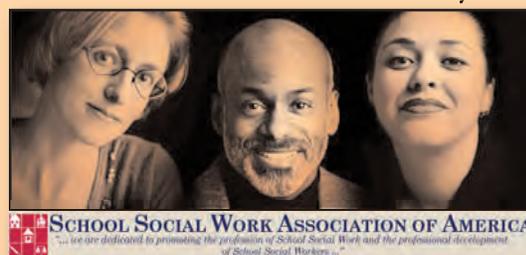
Please make a meaningful donation to the UNCF campaign. This year, UNCF has recognized the needs Columbus City School students face. Fifty percent of all the money raised will be applied to the Columbus City Schools UNCF Scholarship. Don't delay, donate today... "because a mind is a terrible thing to waste."



Thank your school social worker

While enjoying an unusual break in the beauty parlor five years ago, school social worker Olivia Benford had a mysterious note placed in her hand by one of the stylists.

"It said, 'Do you remember me? You helped



me with my medical problem.' And I did remember her. I asked the girl why her friend didn't come over herself, and she said the woman would be embarrassed if I didn't remember her," Benford remembers:

The woman was working at the parlor as a beautician, but she had been a student at Buell Central High School, where Benford works to help students with behavioral problems and those simply moving at a slower pace than regular high schools allow for.

Years earlier, the woman had suffered from a cleft palate, a genetic deformity that a botched surgery had failed to correct in her childhood. After watching the girl endure endless teasing, Benford had located a foundation willing to pay for the girl's surgery. The procedure was a success, and the girl went on to graduate and get married, eventually having children, before she ran into Benford at the beauty parlor.

This story, quoted here from www.helpstartshere.org, is but one example of the invaluable role school social workers

play in students' lives. Today we begin School Social Work Week. It's a great time to acknowledge these people.

School social workers are our link to a child's life outside the classroom. School social workers are student advocates. They provide support systems for students and their families, working with parents, grandparents, school officials and other individuals in the community to address issues that may impede student success.

This work includes helping provide access to needed services, such as public health programs or job training, and helping to address family problems such as truancy, neglect, or substance abuse and issues surrounding divorce or loss. School social workers sometimes teach parents ways to help their children be successful in school.

It's easy to take this important work for granted, so take a few moments to say, "I appreciate you," to the social worker who serves your building.

Vote YES in your district

On Tuesday, Mar. 6, the South-Western City Schools and Westerville City Schools are asking voters for tax increases to support their school districts. Teachers for Better Schools, CEA's political action arm, supports these efforts and encourages you to get behind them, too. Here are some good reasons why:

- ☑ Property taxes remain the chief way we pay for our schools.
- ☑ Unfortunately, the amount of taxes collected for school districts does not increase when property values increase, nor do they increase to cover the rising costs of education services. It takes approval from the voters to collect taxes at a higher rate.
- ☑ More is expected of us in the classroom every year; but, without the funds, that will make these mandates impossible.

Not all the programs we cherish are funded by the state. It is up to us to maintain the high quality of art and music programs, to address classroom overcrowding and to provide additional supplies and experiences that give our kids the education that prepares them for life.

Show you care about the future: Vote YES on Issue 8 for South-Western City Schools and YES on Issue 10 for Westerville City Schools. Remember, education is the means through which our children and grandchildren (ours and our neighbors') will grow into productive citizens.

Testing with integrity

On Feb. 7, the Board approved changes to two policies which address test integrity and the use of technology by students. Policy 5173: Testing and Assessment states that students and staff are required to follow test administration procedures established by the state board of education and the district superintendent. It lists examples of breaches of test security and states that penalties shall be enforced if violations of these procedures are substantiated. Policy 5143.1: Use of Electronic Communication Devices by Students states that devices, such as cell phones, cameras and iPods are to be turned off and removed from the students' possession during testing.

Additionally, two supporting documents were approved by the Superintendent. The Test Security Procedures document describes the roles and responsibilities of staff and students. It includes statutory requirements, security of test materials, security of the test environment, and describes three types of test incidents: test irregularities, standardized administration irregularities and test security violations. It

designates all staff in a school as mandated reporters of any perceived incidents of alleged violations of policies and procedures. The *Student Code of Conduct* must be read by, or to, every student prior to each mandated test. It outlines what is expected of students in terms of their behavior during test administration.

After Building Test Coordinators (BTCs) are trained by staff from the Office of Accountability and Testing, they are then required to conduct building-level training of staff. Special Education, ESL and central office staff who will assist during a test administration are also trained. All staff who, in any way, participate in the testing process, are held accountable for being familiar with the information concerning that process. They are also held accountable for following the mandated procedures. This includes, but is not limited to, turning off their own cell phones or other devices during the test, engaging in no other activities than administering or proctoring the test or providing specific services to students (such as scribing or escorting them to the restroom or lunch). During the test, no staff members should use their cell phones to talk, text or have access to the internet. Staff may not look at the content of the test (unless a read-aloud accommodation is required and no CD or script is provided)

Staff should circulate through the test room to ensure that students are in the correct section of the test, are using the correct writing tool, are marking the answer document as specified and are provided additional pencils and erasers as required. Determine if a short "stretch" break would be beneficial. Report any perceived test irregularity or violation of test procedures in person, by fax, by school or by U.S. Mail, but not by email.

If all staff and students abide by the rules and procedures laid down by the state and the district, participating in the testing process legally, morally and ethically, the test results of our students and of the schools and of the district will be held to be credible and our successes can be celebrated without question.

Special notes

- ☐ Senior FRs must submit requests by fax (253-0465) for **alternative interview panels** to the CEA President **prior to interviewing**. These are the buildings/units that have been approved: **Beatty Park ES, Early Childhood, Indianola K-8, Ohio Ave. ES, OT/PT, Walnut Ridge HS and Yorktown MS.**
- ☐ **2011 dues deductions** for CEA members: **Full Dues, Plan A (21 Pays) \$752.41, Plan B (26 Pays) \$747.07. If you switched from: Plan A to B: \$692.41 or went from Plan B to A: \$807.07. Half Dues are \$474.32 and Quarter Dues are \$243.37.**
- ☐ The application **deadline** for **CEA scholarships for graduating high school seniors** is **Wednesday, May 2, 5 p.m.** 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/eSj3rJ> to download the application form.
- ☐ Make sure no one has to choose between getting well and having a paycheck. **Donate days to the catastrophic sick leave bank.** Use a sick leave form to make your donation. Be sure that you and your principal/supervisor sign the form.
- ☐ CEA is **accepting classified ads for the c.e.a.list** section of the webpage. Selling something? Looking for something? Place an ad. Go to www.ceaohio.org, and click on *c.e.a.list* at the left-hand side of the homepage.