

Make a commitment to UNCF

Many of us know firsthand the obstacles that face college students. At a recent CEA meeting, we asked UNCF-Columbus to share a brief overview of the organization and to highlight students from Columbus City Schools who have been impacted by UNCF support. One of the most profound moments beyond the wonderful student speakers was when UNCF Area Director Natalie Coles asked the crowd to raise a hand if they were the first in their families to attend college. It was overwhelming how many hands were raised. So many of our fellow staff have overcome the same challenges our children face today to reach their full potential. It was confirmation that participating in the UNCF campaign is critical to the long-term success of our students.



Hopefully, you have already received your pledge card. We encourage you to fill it out, as the campaign will close on Monday, Mar. 26. Once completed, turn it into your site coordinator. Remember, 50 percent of everything that we raise will be designated to provide scholarships for Columbus City Schools students.

With your help, together we can change the destiny of the children we serve. Please make your donation today, because, "A mind is a terrible thing to waste."

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 Kevin Jackson, Governor of District 5.

Kevin graduated from Northland HS and currently teaches math at Champion MS. He has also worked at Northland HS and Africentric Early College HS. Jackson was first elected as the Governor of District 5 in the spring of 2011.

Jackson has participated in the Fall OEA Representative Assembly and the NEA Mid-Atlantic Regional Leadership Academy, held in Washington, D.C., in January.



Kevin Jackson

Schools in District 5 include: Alum Crest HS, Beatty Park ES, Berwick K-8, Champion MS, Clearbrook MS, Columbus Africentric EC ES, Columbus Africentric EC SS, Columbus City Prep. School for Boys, Columbus City Prep. School for Girls, East HS, Eastgate ES, Eastmoor Academy HS, Juvenile Detention Center, Monroe MS, Ohio Ave. ES, St. Vincent Center and Trevitt ES.

March for premature babies

Join all of us concerned with the health of babies for the annual March of Dimes March for Babies, Sunday, Apr. 29, at the Sports Barn at Easton. The fundraising event consists of a 3-mile walk, a 1-mile Buggy Brigade, a Kid Zone with kid-friendly activities and information tents about the March of Dimes' mission, saving premature and sick babies.

Premature birth is the #1 cause of newborn death and is the biggest threat to babies' health today. Through the March for Babies, the March of Dimes is funding important research to find out why premature birth happens and what can be done to prevent it.

If you would like to volunteer as an organizer, contact



modvolunteerscolumbus@gmail.com. To join the walk, register online at www.marchforbabies.org/.

A call to action for veterans and military family members

The Ohio Democratic Party will be hosting a day-long training for members of Ohio's military community on how to recruit and organize itself to help elect candidates in 2012. The training will teach people on topics ranging from grassroots organizing and messaging to how to speak with the media and voters comfortably and confidently.

The training will feature pro-veteran and military family legislator U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown.

Individuals who attend the training will work alongside trainers from both the Truman National Security Project and Vote Vets, nationally known veterans and foreign policy advocacy organizations based in Washington, D.C. The training will take place on Saturday, Mar. 24, from 9 a.m.-5 p.m., at the Ohio Democratic Party Headquarters (340 E. Fulton St., Columbus, OH 43215)

This is a first of its kind training in the country with high interest and limited space available. Please *RSVP* at: <http://action.ohiodems.org/march24-veterans> as soon as possible to reserve your seat. Lunch and drinks will be provided for all individuals who attend.

Deduct your educator expenses

As you file your tax return, keep this in mind: You may be able to deduct personal expenses related to your teaching job. Qualifying expenses include books, supplies, computers and software. A maximum deduction of \$250 is allowed, but additional deductions may qualify.

To learn more, see IRS *Publication 529 Miscellaneous Deductions* available at <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p529.pdf>.

Special notes

- The **CEA Spring Run-Off Election** will be held according to the following schedule: Formal campaigning, March 19-Apr. 16; voting, Mar. 26-Apr. 16; and tallying of votes by the Elections Committee, Tuesday, Apr. 17.
- The **CEA Reach Out and Read Book Drive** has ended. FRs can drop off donations to the CEA Office between the hours of 9 a.m.-5 p.m. this week. If there is problem getting your books to the office by Friday, March 23, contact **Tracey Johnson** at 253-4731; or email her at tjohnson@ceaohio.org.
- Fee waiver applications for Summer 2012** should be in mailboxes on **Monday, Mar. 19**. Completed applications are due back to Northgate by **Friday, Mar. 30, at 5 p.m.** If you have **Priority I** or **Priority II** status, include the proper documentation. **Your priority status will change to Priority III without proper documentation.**
- 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 since the last edition of *The Voice: Africentric EC ES, Arts Impact MS, Binns ES, Clearbrook MS, Clinton ES, Colerain ES, Dominion MS, Hilltonia MS, Lindbergh ES, Oakland Park ES, Oakmont ES, Speech & Language, Valley Forge ES, Wedgewood MS and **West HS**.*
- The **online teacher application for Summer School 2012** is now available. This application is **open only to CCS certificated full-time teachers**. Contact the Office of Supplemental Services at 365-5010 with any questions. Go to: <http://www.columbus.k12.oh.us/summerschool> to download an application. The **deadline to apply** is **Monday, Apr. 16**.