

The CEA Voice

Rhonda Johnson, President

www.ceaohio.org

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Columbus Education Association

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Mayor briefed about education

Columbus Mayor Michael Coleman is knee-deep in data, and we are glad to see that he is gaining a real understanding of the characteristics of our school district. Coleman joined Eric Fingerhut, former Ohio Board of Regents chancellor, and Andrew Ginther, Columbus City Council President, for a briefing. His main concern: the future of our families and our community.



“More and more as the jobs come on line, too many of our young people are still not ready to enter the workforce upon graduating high school,” Coleman said.

Mark Real, CEO of KidsOhio.org, led the session with demographics, including these:

- ♦ Fewer than half of the 130,000 students living in Columbus attend CCS. Of these, 53,455 are in a suburban district; 49,616 are in Columbus; 13,028 are in public charter schools; 12,778 are in private schools; 2,424 are in voucher programs; and 500 are home schooled.
- ♦ Real said the suburbs themselves are changing drastically, with greater numbers of minority students and economically disadvantaged students.
- ♦ There are also more students in charter schools. In 2004, CCS enrolled 60,000 students, while charters had about 3,500. In 2012, CCS has about 48,500 students, and charters have almost 13,000, with 2,400 attending private schools with vouchers.

“These are choices that families are making, and as we think about schools for the future, we need to think about these options,” Real said.

Coleman asked pertinent questions about student movement and was concerned about the graduation numbers. For instance, during the 2009-2010 school year, Columbus enrolled 4,485 kindergarteners, but graduated 2,798 high school seniors.

CCS Deputy Superintendent John Stanford, who served as former Gov. Ted Strickland’s education adviser, spoke about graduation rates and innovative workforce training programs.

CEA President Rhonda Johnson is attending these sessions as well. “This is vital work,” she said. “It is heartening to see that our community leaders are interested, engaged and on board. That’s what it takes. CEA hopes to have its voice heard at this large and important table.”

We look forward to future briefings which will focus on career trends, education reform and community efforts to help teachers and families. Keep reading *The CEA Voice* for updates.

CEA technology survey

Get ready to tell it like it is. CEA is conducting a technology survey to document your complaints, challenges and issues to be presented to the CCS administration. The survey opened last week and will close at 11:59 p.m., on Sunday, Nov. 4. You should have received an email from CEA to your personal email address containing a link to the survey. If you did not get the email message, or if CEA does not have your current personal email address, please send it to tellcea@ceaohio.org to participate in the survey.

Take time to answer the questions. This is your opportunity to let the district know what’s going on at the ground level. We want to help resolve your issues. We will share the results with you (and the administration) when the survey has been completed and the data has been analyzed.

Save the date for MLK Awards Dinner

The Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Awards Dinner is set for Thursday, Jan. 17, at the Hyatt Regency Columbus. During the evening we honor the memory of Dr. King, and we also present awards to individuals who exemplify the spirit of his work. We are now accepting nominations for these awards:



- The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Humanitarian Award is given for distinguished service in the community in education, social justice or human and civil rights. Anyone is eligible, except current employees of the Columbus City Schools.
- The Helen Jenkins Davis Award is named in honor of the first black teacher hired by the Columbus schools. Mrs. Davis (who was hired in 1918) also was the first witness called in the 1976 school desegregation trial in Columbus. The Davis Award is presented annually to a CEA member who has promoted social justice, diversity and human and civil rights.

Last year, we honored both Pastor Dale Snyder and Priscilla Tyson with the King Humanitarian Award, as well as Jimmie K. Beall with the Davis Award.

The deadline for submitting nominations for both awards is Tuesday, Nov. 20. Nomination forms have been sent to each Senior Faculty Representative. You may also download forms at <http://bit.ly/QNdKHeMLKNomForms>.

This event is always well attended. Get your tickets early. They are \$30. Tables of eight are \$240. Watch for information about the dinner in upcoming issues of *The Voice*.

United Way campaigns completed

We would like to thank the staff members of Alpine ES, Burroughs ES, CAHS, CEA Office, Cassady ES, Centennial HS, Clinton ES, Colerain ES, Columbus City Prep. School for Boys, Eakin, East Columbus ES, Eastgate ES, Easthaven ES, Highland ES, Hiltonia MS, Huy ES, Johnson Park MS, Liberty ES, Linden-McKinley STEM 7-12, Maize ES, Marion-Franklin HS, Mifflin HS, North Linden ES, Northland HS, Northtowne ES, Olde Orchard ES, Salem ES, Shady Lane ES, Starling MS, Sullivant ES, Valley Forge ES, Watkins ES, Westmoor MS, Winterset ES, Woodward Park MS and Yorktown MS for being among the first to complete their United Way campaigns. Congratulations to the staff of Mifflin HS who won the Early Bird Prize. The winners will receive a celebratory breakfast provided by CEA President Rhonda Johnson and CCS Supt. Gene Harris.

If you still need to return your pledge form, or didn't receive one, call CEA Vice President Phil Hayes at 253-4731.

Capital Day full of insights

Lavonna Roth wants CCS teachers to twist and shout and to rock-n-roll—and then get students to do the same. “Movement,” she says, “equals brain development.”

“When the bum is numb, the brain is the same,” she said. Roth shared her mantra along with tips for helping students learn, remember and apply information. Her morning keynote presentation at Capital Day had teachers tearing paper, shouting, standing, stretching and wiggling their fingers and toes.

More than 1,600 members attended this year's professional development event Oct. 19 at the Columbus Convention Center. Attendees received valuable information and enjoyed a great lunch, and the atmosphere buzzed with conversation. Many of our members told us they enjoy getting out of their buildings and meeting with colleagues they don't often see. They had a chance to shop at our trade show and collect innovative classroom materials and fun T-shirts.

At lunchtime, we heard from keynote speaker Cornel West. A Princeton religion and African-American studies professor, Dr. West is an outspoken proponent of positive race relations and access to educational opportunities. He spoke movingly about the power of teachers to influence young lives. “Teachers,” he said, “can stir the soul and save our children from weapons of mass distraction.”

“What you do is a calling,” West said. “You are a professional, but your vocation is about your life mission.” He addressed the siege on educators and inspired us to continue working to improve our classroom conditions.

The breakout sessions covered topics such as:

- ➔ Service learning: How does it fit in with the curriculum?
- ➔ ELL students: How to assess and work with struggling readers
- ➔ The Student Assistance and Intervention for Learning (SAIL) Program: Compassion for our children with academic, health and socio-economic difficulties



Lavonna Roth



Cornel West

- ➔ Reading strategies: Charting comprehension and fluency
- ➔ Your school is cool: Ten ways to create a great environment

Supt. Gene Harris, who recently announced she will retire next year, also addressed our members, assuring us that she is doing her best to address our concerns as she completes her tenure.

CEA President Rhonda Johnson expressed the desire for everyone to attend the event next year. “This is one of the most inspiring activities of our school year,” Johnson said. “You can feel the excitement as teachers share ideas. You can almost feel the brain energy as new ideas develop. We are truly blessed to have such a great group of educators with access to these terrific resources.”

To see photos from Capital Day, click on the Flickr button on the CEA homepage, or go to <http://bit.ly/capday12>.

Retired? There's a lot to do!

CEA-R, our Association's retired educators organization, have a lot going on. Join your former colleagues and travel, learn and share their fellowship. Just because you have left the classroom doesn't mean you can't enjoy the camaraderie of your fellow teachers. Here's a sampling of the activities CEA-R has planned this school year:

- ⊙ Nov. 8: Have lunch at TAT and visit Franklin Art Glass. Reservations are due by Nov. 1.
- ⊙ Nov. 29: Participate in a silent auction and have lunch at the Berwick Party House. Proceeds benefit the Head-to-Toe program for Columbus school children. Reservations are due by Nov. 21.
- ⊙ Dec. 13: Attend the Christmas concert at the Boat House at Confluence Park with music by The Signs of Christmas, promoting awareness of the deaf community. Reservations are due by Dec. 6.

Trips this year include the Panama Canal, the White Mountains of New Hampshire and the Maine Coast. Ongoing local activities include a book club and computer classes.

To get the full scoop and to find out how to join, visit www.cea-retired.com.

Special notes

- ❑ Three high school teachers, **Gerry Curran** (Independence HS), **John Coneglio** (Independence HS) and **Cindy Love** (Northland HS) are running for **CEA High School Governor-At-Large**. Watch for literature on these candidates, and get ready to vote in our special election between Oct. 30 and Nov. 12.
- ❑ **Open enrollment for health insurance benefits ends Thursday, Nov. 1.** All employees enrolling in insurance benefits or continuing coverage must meet with a benefits counselor and provide documentation verifying dependents' eligibility.
- ❑ **Fee waiver applications for Spring Semester 2013** are due back to Northgate by **Friday, Nov. 9, 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.** Call **Norma Oldham**, Northgate Center, **365-8993** if you have any questions.
- ❑ **Join CEA for a journey through the Holy Land.** Some of the sights include Capernaum, Nazareth, the room of the Last Supper, the Garden Tomb, Masada and the Dead Sea. There are only 24 spaces available. The cost, excluding air fare (TBD), is \$2,495. To hold your spot, send a deposit of \$100 to Bexley Travel, 2719 E. Main St., Columbus, OH 43209, or call Marty at 235-8813. If you have questions, contact Carol, Ezetta or Rick at the CEA office.

CEA Pre-Paid Legal Services Plan OEA/NEA Attorney Referral Program

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