

The CEA Voice

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MLK award winners announced

This year, CEA is proud to announce the recipient of the 2013 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Humanitarian Award, Napoleon A. Bell. Sybil Yvonne Brown will receive the Helen Jenkins Davis Award.

Napoleon Bell's career has been about justice.

"I always hear about the things he did; his integrity," said his son, Napoleon Bell II, who heads the City of Columbus Community Relations Commission. "Some of the stuff I didn't know when I was growing up. I just knew he was always speaking somewhere, and he had a lot of plaques."



Mr. Bell grew up in Youngstown, the son of a coal miner and a teacher. In high school and at Mount Union College, he excelled at football and was offered a contract with the Los Angeles Rams. He decided on law school instead. After graduating from Western Reserve University, he worked for the State of Ohio and then began a full-time law practice that quickly grew.

Mr. Bell became involved in community issues, starting with housing discrimination in his own Eastgate neighborhood. To help black families who were denied bank loans, he helped found the self-funded Beneficial Acceptance Corporation. He continued to leverage his political involvement on other notable projects, including the Model Cities Program, the Whitney Young Housing Corporation and the Columbus Urban Renewal Commission. Bell later served as legal counsel to Ohio Gov. Richard Celeste.

Mr. Bell's close relationship with Federal Judge Robert M. Duncan led to his involvement in the Columbus City Schools' desegregation plan. In 2004, he and Duncan joined the national 50th Brown v. Board of Education celebration.

Napoleon II and his sister, Kay, say their dad has always emphasized education. In 1976 after receiving an NCAA Hall of Fame Silver Anniversary Award, Bell recorded a PSA that ran nationally during the Super Bowl, touting sports as an avenue to education and life success. "He always said education was the key to the world."

Sybil Yvonne Brown, Ph.D has always been inspired by science. She worked as an electrical engineer in the aerospace and defense industry for eight years. But she found her true calling, mentoring young people to share her passion. She returned to The Ohio State University—the first African-American woman to receive doctorate in math education—and became a high school teacher.

Dr. Brown teaches at Northland HS, where she serves as adviser of the largest STEM club in the school district, inspiring young people toward higher achievement in science, technology and math. In 2012, 25 of Dr. Brown's seniors in the STEM program said they were going on to major in sci-

ence, technology, engineering or math. Four of Northland's seven 2012 valedictorians were members of the STEM Club. Four Northland students won Gates Millennium Scholarships in 2012. Each year, only 15 students in Ohio receive these highly competitive, prestigious awards.

Dr. Brown's students also place at the top of national and international competitions in math and robotics.

Dr. Brown, who also teaches courses at OSU, received the Empowered Women's Award from Columbus City Schools in 2006 and was Northland HS Educator of the Year in 2009. She also helped write the CCS math curriculum.

We congratulate these outstanding community members who serve as role models for us all. Help us honor them on Jan. 17 at CEA's 34th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Awards Dinner at the Hyatt Regency. The event will feature keynote speaker Dr. Michael Eric Dyson. Get your tickets, \$30 each, by calling CEA at 253-4731.

The survey says...

CEA recently surveyed members about the state of district-provided technology. More than 800 members responded, representing every CEA building/unit. CEA and the administration reviewed the results of the survey at their Nov. 12 Joint Labor-Management Committee meeting. Some of the findings are given below:

- **Infinite Campus:** Nearly 90 percent of members surveyed use Infinite Campus. They overwhelmingly responded that the training was ineffective and that this new information system has made their jobs harder.
- **iPods:** Of the elementary members who responded that they used iPods to test their students, two-thirds indicated the training they received was ineffective. Nearly 90 percent responded that testing took longer than the CCS-estimated time of ten minutes per student. More than 50 percent indicated they were a week or more behind on the reading pacing guide. More than 98 percent experienced technical difficulties. Half of the users lost student testing data, and more than two-thirds were unable to recover what was lost.
- **Hardware:** Nearly 90 percent said CCS computers are slower to boot, login and launch an application than their own personal computers. More than two-thirds said it took six minutes or more to start a CCS-provided computer. Of the 2,640 student classroom workstations identified, a total of 505 were reported as non-functional. Twelve percent said they had no student workstations in their classrooms. One-third of those who contacted the district to replace or repair their hardware were still waiting for a response.
- **Software:** Respondents identified more than 40

improperly functioning software titles. Nearly half of the members experienced problems using CCS-provided software. Less than half of those members contacted CCS for help. Forty-three percent of those who contacted CCS for help said that their software issue was fixed.

At the Joint Labor-Management Committee meeting, CEA also presented members' responses to the survey's open-ended questions, which filled more than 140 pages. Superintendent Harris directed Interim Chief Information Officer Michelle Van Dyke to investigate the survey's findings. John Stanford, along with Van Dyke, will report back to the team at our next meeting, hopefully, with a response that fixes these long-standing problems.

If the administration fails, they will continue to produce a digital divide between our students and their peers in surrounding school districts. While it is true that our students face many non-academic barriers that hinder their academic achievement, they should not have to face the barrier of not having the infrastructure and access to technology in the classroom. No business or corporation would tolerate the myriad of technical problems that we continue to endure; why must we?

To download a PDF version of the report presented at the Joint Labor-Management Meeting, enter the members-only download area of the CEA website at <http://bit.ly/cealogin>.

PLATO training

For the month of December, there are still seats available for PLATO courseware training.

→ If you are new to the system or need refresher training, PLATO Basic Training for Blended Learning is available.



→ If you are looking to create online learning resources for your students, then sign up for the PLATO Resource Customization Training.

→ If you are running ELO tutoring, preparing for Third Grade Reading Guarantee resources or just need supplemental assessments with prescriptions, register for the PLATO Test Prep Resources Training for Elementary and Middle Schools.

The training sessions are posted in PD Planner. For questions, contact Quentin Briggs at 365-5485, or email him at qbriggs9999@columbus.k12.oh.us.

New high school tests are coming

Goodbye, OGT; hello, college readiness exam. The Ohio Board of Regents and ODE are looking for a contractor to write new tests that will measure student preparation for higher education and the work force. Instead of one exam, students will take 10. Specifically, this means English I, II and III; Algebra I; Geometry; Algebra II; Biology; Physical Science; American History; and American Government. We will be using the more rigorous Common Core Standards to help students prepare for these tests.

State law calls for this year's eighth graders to take the new tests beginning in the 2014-15 school year, but if the materials are ready, this could happen one year earlier.

Our policymakers hope that preparing for these exams will mean more Ohio students will be ready for college or a job. All students will have access to their scores and related data so they can determine where they need additional help. They point out that 42 percent of college freshmen in Ohio need to take remedial coursework.

eTech survey

Every two years eTech Ohio, a Commission of the Ohio Department of Education, requires all Ohio school districts to participate in the Biennial Educational Technology Assessment (BETA) Survey.

The FY12-13 BETA Survey collects data on technology accessibility and usage in all of Ohio's public schools.

Completion of the BETA Building and Teacher/Educator Surveys are required for districts to be eligible for eTech Ohio Grant opportunities.

The BETA data is available to aid districts with:

- ✦ Technology Planning
- ✦ Monitoring the progress of local technology plan implementation
- ✦ Raw data from which reports can be created
- ✦ Communicating about educational technology to your community and stakeholders
- ✦ Pre-assessment of technology needs for E-Rate compliance or school facility projects
- ✦ Serves as a state-wide resource for policymakers as consideration is made for progress and future needs of educational technology initiatives within the State of Ohio Educator/Administrator Survey

This year all educators in the District are asked to complete the Educator Survey. (eTech Ohio is also making this survey available to educators, parents, students and groups.) Use the access word "ohio" to complete the educator survey. Go to <http://www.speakup4schools.org/speakup2012/> to access the survey.

The educator survey is to be completed on or before Dec. 21. If you have any questions, please call Dr. Paul Lucas at 365-5276, or email plucas@columbus.k12.oh.us.

CEA needs your contact information

There are approximately 700 members who have not given CEA their personal email addresses. We want all members to be kept abreast of Association business and events. Contract negotiations will start soon after the first semester, and we want to make sure every member has input into this process.

Being able to communicate by email is much less costly, and we are able to communicate in real time as events happen. Please give us your personal contact information by completing a contact card, sending an email message to tell-cea@ceaohio.org or calling CEA at 253-4731.

Special notes

- ❑ The **Staff Development Dept.** is **accepting applications** for individuals interested in becoming **trainers for the district's new teacher evaluation system**. Check your CCS email. For information, go to the *CCS homepage*, click on "Staff," "Professional Learning," "I LEAD" and "Evaluation."
- ❑ **CEA thanks** the following buildings/units that have **recently completed** their **United Way campaigns**: East Linden ES, Parkmoor ES, Parsons ES, Scottwood ES, South Mifflin STEM Academy K-6, South HS and Stewart ES.
- ❑ Open positions in the CEA Spring Elections are as follows: Governors in District 3 (unexpired term ending July 31, 2015), Districts 2, 7, 8 and 9 (three-year terms beginning August 1, 2013); delegates to the 2013 NEA RA; and the 2013-14 OEA RAs. The declaration period ends Jan. 18. The formal campaign period is Jan. 19-Mar. 4. Voting is Feb. 19-Mar. 4. Votes will be tabulated on Mar. 5. Declaration forms are available at the CEA office. Call CEA Elections Committee Chairperson Michele Mays at 253-4731 with questions.