

The CEA Voice

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Columbus Education Association

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CEC update: Students, teachers and the skill gap

The most effective teachers have community support and excellent principals. Two of our teachers joined a panel before the Columbus Education Commission and said



that their buildings have superior leadership, allowing for active PLCs, teacher participation in implementing the state standards and the freedom for innovation.

Representing CEA on Feb. 8 were Thomas Trang, science teacher at Columbus International HS, and Elizabeth McNally, ESL teacher at Easthaven ES.

The commission, formed by Mayor Michael Coleman, has convened the education, business and general community for ideas to improve student success. Recommendations will be made in the spring. CEA President Rhonda Johnson, CSEA President Lois Carson and school board President Carol Perkins are commission members. The last meeting focused on preparing students for jobs available as they graduate.

The meeting at Columbus State Community College featured speakers from industry and higher education, including Rocky Parker, head of recruiting at Nationwide Insurance; Jim Mahoney, Executive Director of Battelle for Kids; and Jack Heinzman, Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the Columbus/Central Ohio Building and Construction Trades Council.

Key questions for the day centered on partnerships between business and the educational system and improvements for teacher recruitment and retention efforts. The commission heard about some of the nation's innovative career pathway programs described by Nancy Hoffman, Vice President and Senior Advisor to Jobs for the Future, headquartered in Boston.

Meeting highlights

Technology gaps still exist within the K-12 system. We must make sure teachers have the equipment and training they need.

Students need to be connected to the working world and to college-level academic rigors with internships and job experiences, improved vocational programs and access to college courses while they are still in high school. High school students in some states already earn college-level certificates developed in cooperation with business.

We already have programs in place, including the Central Ohio Compact between secondary schools and colleges, Nationwide's efforts to recruit and train entry-level employees and trade apprenticeships offered to graduating high school students. However, these programs have unfilled slots because many students lack the required skills when they graduate from high school.

Excellent teachers often leave the city for suburban jobs, and the answer may lie in better training for principals. Schools can improve their overall recruiting efforts by using techniques of industry, including offering incentives, building cultures of mutual respect and accountability, providing opportunities for professional development, improving processes and devising more informative performance metrics.

The next commission meeting is Feb. 18 at the Columbus Metropolitan Library and will focus on best practices of charter schools and use of school facilities for community learning. You can read more about the commission's work at www.reimaginecolumbuseducation.org.

The commission is asking for public comment at a series of public hearings and is taking special recommendations from teachers. CEA urges you to participate in a Ten-Minute Meeting at your school to review the commission's goals and then fill out a comment card. Your FR has more information. We are holding a special briefing for you at 4:30 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 28, at East HS. Come be part of the exciting discussions happening all over the city.

Third Grade guarantee teaching regs

Policymakers have added teacher qualifications to the Third Grade Reading Guarantee, effective for the 2013-14 school year. These are for teachers with any third-grade students who were retained or placed on reading improvement and monitoring plans. If a district doesn't meet the qualifications, it must submit a teacher staffing to ODE by June 30, 2013. The CCS administration has not yet determined the staffing plan.

Next school year teachers must have accomplished one of the following:

- A reading endorsement on their teaching licenses and a passing score on the test required for that endorsement
- A master's degree with a major in reading
- Instruction of students in reading for the previous three years
- A rating of "above value-added" for the last two school years
- A credential from a program on the ODE-approved list of scientifically research-based reading instruction programs (slated for release by ODE in the spring of 2013)

In 2014-15, teachers with students in kindergarten through grade three who were retained or on a reading improvement plan and monitoring must have the above qualifications, plus:

- A passing score on a rigorous test of scientifically based reading instruction principles (slated for bid-



ding in spring of 2014).

The state has not released all of the instructions for following the law. It still must develop the test for, and finalize its list of, approved reading instruction programs.

The credential earned from the ODE list is not required beginning with the 2014–2015 year.

Help our kids attend college

Education is powerful. You have that power to help our students go on to college and dream big about their lives. It's called the United Negro College Fund, and you can support this financial assistance program right now by signing up for payroll deduction at any level. The fund has helped thousands of disadvantaged students afford higher education. We heard from two of them at the Feb. 8 FR meeting.

Damon Gilbert, a Beechcroft HS graduate, told us he was directionless as he approached 12th grade. But his guidance counselor saw how well he did on the OGT and directed him to apply to UNCF. Now Gilbert is a junior at Wilberforce University, on his way to a psychology degree with plans to attend divinity school. An occasional leader at his Columbus church, he's also an evangelist for the UNCF, preaching to other young people, "You are more than your circumstances."

Without the UNCF, Whitney White, a Mifflin HS graduate, also would have struggled to pay for college. Now she's a senior at Wilberforce. She told our FRs, "I found professors who wanted to mold me and set me on the path to the right career." White has become part of Teach For America and will work in Indianapolis next year. She said, "One of the biggest wrongs I see is Columbus City students not finishing their education because they don't have the financial resources."

Please help us meet our \$100,000 goal for the UNCF. It's easy. The fund supports students to attend any college. One-half of all the dollars raised here stays in Columbus for our kids. We ask every building/unit to hold a campaign and to come up with creative ways to raise dollars. Payroll deduction is the preferred method, but checks are acceptable. This is a district-wide effort. Several CCS principals attended our FR meeting to show their support. We thank them, and we thank you. If you have questions, please contact Ezetta Murray at 253-4731.

Columbus Area Writing Project

The Columbus Area Writing Project (CAWP) Summer Institute is designed for teachers from all disciplines and all levels of instruction, kindergarten through college. The CAWP Summer Institute is based on the philosophy of *teachers teaching teachers* and on the importance of teachers writing as a part of improving the teaching of writing.

Participants will have the opportunity to collaborate and to learn from each other, to study writing theory and research, to write their own compositions and participate in writing workshops and to develop leadership and professional development skills in the teaching of writing. The CAWP is an affiliate of the National Writing Project.

The CAWP begins with a three-day/two-night retreat at Kenyon College (June 12–14), followed by sessions from 8:30 a.m.–4 p.m. on June 17–21 and June 24–28 on the OSU main campus.

If accepted, you can receive from two to four graduate semester credit hours from OSU, which you pay for yourself or by a tuition waiver. The three-day retreat at Kenyon Col-



lege and any required books will be provided at no cost to participants. Go to <http://cawp.ehe.osu.edu/summer-programs/summer-institute> for more information. You also may contact Melissa Wilson at: mwilson@ehe.osu.edu or Robin Holland at rhol10554@aol.com.

CEA-R on the move

Our retired members are preparing for an active spring with plenty of activities. Get in touch with CEA-R to find out more about how to join this dynamic organization. Read more at www.cea-retired.com about the trips, clubs and charitable projects. Here are some upcoming events:



Feb. 19: A Day of Culture at the Cultural Arts Center

Mar. 7: "Reynar, the Fox" at Ridgeview MS

Mar. 22: "The Rite of Spring" ballet; deadline, Friday, Feb. 22

Apr. 6: "Vaud-Villities"

Apr. 23: Make It and Take It tour and art activity

July 21–26: The White Mountains of New Hampshire & the Maine Coast

Article 211 update

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**Still wondering about 211? So are we. The CCS administration is wrangling with a \$26 million cut to the budget and has not decided what they are going to present to the Board of Education for approval. We will keep you updated.*

Special notes

- The link for the **CEA calendar survey** was sent to members' personal, non-CCS email addresses. The window to complete the survey will **close Sunday, Feb. 24, at 11:59 p.m.** If CEA does not have your home email address, send an email to telcea@ceaohio.org.
- Applications for Summer School 2013** are available on the CCS Intranet home page. The deadline is **Monday, Mar. 4**. Contact **Cheryl Watson** at Northgate at **365-5025** with questions.
- Mar. 2 is the deadline to apply for continuing contracts.** Eligibility requirements can be found in Section 401.16 of the *CEA Master Agreement*.
- 2012 dues deductions** for CEA members: **Full Dues, Plan A** (21 Pays) **\$824.33**, **Plan B** (26 Pays) **\$825.83**. **If you switched from Plan A to B: \$765.83** or went from **Plan B to A: \$884.33**. **Half Dues** are **\$460.42** and **Quarter Dues** are **\$250.71**.
- The **CEA summer trip** to the Holy Lands has been changed. A trip to **Germany** is being planned instead. **Berlin, Potsdam, Dresden, Leipzig, Meissen** and **Nuremberg** are on the agenda. We will have private coaches, guides and top-rated hotels. The itinerary and pricing are being finalized. We have space for 24. Join Rick, Ezetta and Carol on this historic trip. Call **Bexley Travel (235-8813)** to make arrangements.
- Campaigning for **2013–14 OEA delegates** and **2013 NEA delegates** ends **Mar. 4**. **Voting** is **Feb. 19–Mar. 4**. Votes will be **tabulated** on **Mar. 5**. Call CEA at 253-4731 if you have questions.