

The CEA Voice

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Columbus Education Association

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Congratulations, MLK Awardees

Communication is his strength. Reaching people and partnering for community betterment is his talent. CEA will honor **Dr. C. Dexter Wise III**, Pastor of Faith Ministries Interdenominational Church, as the recipient of the CEA Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Humanitarian Award.

Receiving the Helen Jenkins Davis Award is **Cora Miller**, retired CCS librarian and CEA administrative assistant.

This year's MLK Awards Banquet is set for Thursday, Jan. 15, 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.

Rev. Wise rose from the "hood" of Baltimore to the top of his class at Harvard Divinity School, and his reputation as a speaker rapidly spread. Many call him "The Rappin' Reverend," and he has written rap as a transformative outlet for his messages about resisting peer pressure. His first rap song, "I Ain't Into That!" hit No. 1 on a blues station in Detroit and later scored in the top 20 on charts in England. His book of the same title details his journey. Wise's music has touched many young people, including more than 18,000 Columbus students, who then committed to live drug free, crime free and alcohol free.



Dr. C. Dexter Wise III

Pastor Wise has written several other books including, *The ABC's of Effective Parenting*; *Stand: Seven Sermons for Saints in a Red Sea Situation*; and *No Place for A Prophet: An Unconventional Preacher Trapped in A Traditional Church*.

Dr. Wise became a minister in 1978. He served as pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church, Providence, R.I., and then as pastor of Columbus' historic Shiloh Baptist Church. He founded Faith Ministries Interdenominational Church in 1991, now one of central Ohio's largest churches. He received his Doctor of Ministry degree from United Theological Seminary in Dayton.

During the recent Reynoldsburg Education Association strike, Dr. Wise organized a food drive to support the teachers, who had lost pay. His International Institute on Government and Democracy draws participants from across the globe to learn about U.S. government and democracy. The institute was recognized by Columbus City Council and the Ohio House of Representatives.

Dr. Wise and his wife, Shirley, have three daughters, one son and nine grandchildren.

Cora Miller has worked for the past 10 years as a part-time administrative assistant at the CEA office. Her work there has included administering the Members' Scholarship—a program she helped start.

Miller retired in 2004 after 34 years as a business education teacher, then a librarian, serving at Franklin and Clinton junior high schools, Brookhaven HS and Ft.



Cora Miller

Hayes HS and Indianola MS. Miller began her career in 1970 after graduating from The Ohio State University. She saw major changes in the district, including the mandated disbursement of minority teachers to schools throughout the district (a precursor to court-ordered desegregation), and a Columbus teachers strike that paved the way for many of the negotiated benefits CEA members today enjoy.

During her tenure, Miller served 20 years on the CEA Board of Governors. She began during her years at Clinton, feeling moved to represent the school where most of the teachers were black, yet largely uninvolved in association matters. Miller served as a north-side district governor, and later as a minority governor at-large. Sitting at the table with John Grossman, who led the association for more than 26 years, Miller joined the planning of the Minority Involvement Program, which encouraged and trained minority CEA members to take part in union governance. Her efforts paved the way for the election of CEA's first two minority presidents, Rhonda Johnson and our current president, Tracey D. Johnson.

Miller also helped start the CEA Members Scholarship Program, which uses a dues contribution to provide college assistance to eligible graduating seniors. Miller has proudly watched the scholarship amount grow from \$500 to \$1,250 during the past decade.

Miller, who along with husband Curtis, has two children and two grandchildren, earned her school library certificate from Ohio Dominican University before becoming a school librarian—her last CCS assignment. She fondly remembers the library at Indianola, which contained a working fireplace where students could read, and before which many staff dinners were held. She notes that retiring from Indianola in some ways closed the circle. Miller attended Indianola as a student, and worked in the library as a helper.

The King dinner is always well attended, so make sure you purchase your tickets early. Tickets are \$30 each with tables of eight at \$240. Contact CEA to reserve your seat(s).

Possible Records Day Coming

We heard you. We communicated your concerns. Association Leaders and the Superintendent have agreed that we all need more time to complete all district- and state-mandated data collection and reporting efforts. The school board will vote on Tuesday, Dec. 16, to create the first district-wide records day after the second semester on Wed., Jan. 14. This is a small step in the right direction. Because of your participation in the recent CEA survey, your voice has been heard.

PAS 2013–2014

Article 910 of the *CEA Master Agreement* details the Performance Advancement System (PAS). PAS participants can earn \$2,500 each if their mean student achievement gain exceeds the overall district gain by three Normal Curve Equivalents (NCE). Value-added data is also used in the determination.

The PAS Committee is now announcing the awardees for the



2013–2014 school year. They include:

Joseph Begeny, Jeff Bernardi, Louis Bernard, Stacey Blackstone, Christian Blackwell, Beth Boyd, Christine Burgess-Marrell, Jeanne Byrer, Kathleen Camerucci, Jessica Corder, Julie Crosby, Zachary Dean, Jennifer Edgington, Christy Ellis, Keith Emrick, Patrick Fath, John Fox, Debra Gill, Ashley Goode, Erin Guttridge, Erica Harris, Marcie Hatfield, Scott Heiss, Laurie Hewitt, Danielle Hittle, Megan Hinz, Christine Hoell, John Hoell, Carrie Hoover, Carl Hopple, Donna Jarrett, Peggy Jenkins, Patricia Johnson, Angelia Kipfer, Nicol Kuhl, Michael Kuhnell, Fian Kunesh, Kenneth Lacure, Deborah Leopold, Christie Lukasik, Tracy Magnuson, Susan Marcus, Brooke Martin, Edna McCambridge, William Mitchell, Heather Mullenax, Carol Neague, Amy Novak, Luann Oliver, Jennifer Ozebek, Amy Page, Tad Page, April Pendery, Charles Ratliff, Stacy Rhodes, Amy Roush, Richard Roth, Angela Rybicki-Place, Pamela Scott, Micheolle Smith, Steven Stefanick, Lori Sutton, Lori Swope, Kelly Telzrow, Heather Thompson, Thomas Trang, Brooklynne Uppole, Beth Von Blon, Vernell Washington, Melissa Wendt and Marilyn Wilcox.

HB 343: Tell ‘em no

On Monday, November 17, 2014, the House Education Committee passed HB 343 (R-Stebelton) on a party line vote, with all Democrats voting “No”. This last-minute amendment to the bill would eliminate the minimum teacher salary schedule in Ohio law, as well as the requirement for a single salary schedule for teachers and school employees (which requires equal base pay for individuals with the same experience and training).

CEA and OEA testified before the House Education Committee expressing strong opposition to the elimination of the salary schedule provisions in Ohio law. Ohio needs to focus on ways to pay our committed educators more, not make it easier to pay them less.

HB 343 was initially expected to be passed on the House floor on Thursday, November 20, 2014. However, the bill did not go to the House floor on Thursday due to “ongoing discussions” among House Republicans regarding the removal of the salary schedule provisions.

Earlier this week, the State Superintendent and Governor expressed opposition to including the salary schedule removal language in HB 343. In addition, there appears to be a solid block of opposition in the Senate to removing the salary schedule language from law.

Bill on Reducing Testing Clears Ohio House

On Thursday, November 20, the Ohio House passed HB 228 by a vote of 83–4. The bill, sponsored by Representative Andy Brenner (R-Delaware), proposes a number of changes dealing with standardized tests. CEA supports this legislation as part of the effort to reduce the over-emphasis on testing and test preparation in our schools.

House Bill 228 includes the following provisions:

- ◆ Limits the duration of each state-required standardized test and end-of-course exam to four hours per subject area (beginning next school year).
- ◆ Permits districts to administer the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment up to two weeks prior to the start of school and administer in parts.
- ◆ Prohibits ODE from requiring online administration of tests for the 2015–16 school year.
- ◆ Requires ODE to report to districts appropriate uses for state-approved assessments and create a model assessment schedule that demonstrates multiple uses for assessments.
- ◆ Requires ODE to conduct a thorough study of readiness to administer assessments online.
- ◆ Requires ODE to study impact of online assessments on student performance.
- ◆ Excuses career technical students from ODE’s online exams when the students are earning an acceptable industry recognized credential or license.

The bill will now progress to the Ohio Senate, and OEA will continue to work with Ohio’s public policymakers to address this important issue.

CEA Spring Elections

The following positions will be open in the CEA 2015 Spring Elections: Governors for Districts 3, 6 and one High School At-Large (three-year terms); 2015 NEA Delegates and 2015–2016 OEA Delegates. Voting will take place from Mar. 17–30, 2015. Votes will be tabulated on Mar. 31. In the event of run-offs, voting will take place from Apr. 21–May 4, with votes tallied on May 5.

Additional information on these elections will be published in *The CEA Voice* and on the CEA website.

Math Textbook Adoption Committee

On Dec. 15, the Joint Textbook Committee will meet to review nominations for the Math Textbook Adoption Committee. The Math Textbook Adoption Committee will review the current adoption process and develop a plan for moving forward. Let your principal know if you are interested in participating on this committee by Dec. 10.

I Know I Can

I Know I Can (IKIC) recently completed its fall series of Blueprint: College Middle School workshops with 240 families attending sessions at Linden-McKinley STEM 7–12, Starling K–8 and Woodward Park MS. The Blueprint: College program continues to grow since its 2009 inception by promoting and educating students and their families on how to address the factors that will lead to college preparation. The success of this program is a direct reflection of its many supporters that include: Huntington Banks, Donatos, White Castle, Bob Evans, Panera Bread, Columbus City Schools administrators and staff, the Capital University baseball team, I Know I Can staff and board members, and students from an The Ohio State University service learning course led by instructors Dan Thomas and Tai Cornute. This commitment from outside groups and individuals reinforces the I Know I Can mission of helping students dream big and work hard. Future Blueprint programs will include a high school version for 9th, 10th and 11th graders on Saturday, Dec. 13, at OSU and middle school versions at additional CCS middle school locations in February and April. Visit www.iknowican.org for more information.

Let It Snow

We have already had our first day of significant snow. Welcome to winter. Here is the CCS snow removal policy. Parking lots won’t always be plowed. Please take extra care to be aware of our surroundings as you move to and from your vehicles at our work sites. CCS lots will be plowed only when they are empty and snow accumulation reaches three inches at Port Columbus. When appropriate, internal landscaping staff will salt entrances, exits, and stopping points. Custodial Services takes care of entranceways, landings, steps, and other necessary areas. Playgrounds are not cleared because they cannot support heavy equipment.

Special Note

- ❑ **Gainsharing Service Plan Deadline Approaching:** Teachers who are on **special assignment** and **itinerant teachers** who rotate to more than one school may opt into the Gainsharing building goals by **preparing Gainsharing Service Plans**. The **deadline for submission** for the 2014–2015 school year is **Wednesday, Dec. 3**, for members not assigned to schools on a full-time basis. This form is available on the CCS intranet and the CEA website in the “Forms” section.
- ❑ **CEA Run-off election: Voting begins Tuesday, Dec. 2 through Monday, Dec. 15** for **Middle School Governor At-Large**. Competing for the seat are **Angela M. Stokes** (Columbus City Schools Prep. School for Girls) and **Kimberly A. Jones** (Mifflin MS). The Elections Committee will **collect ballots** from buildings and **tally votes** at the CEA office on **Tuesday, Dec. 16**.
- ❑ If you are not receiving *The CEA Voice* or other communications by email, send a message to Bob Hern at bhern@ceahio.org.