

# The CEA Voice

Tracey D. Johnson, President

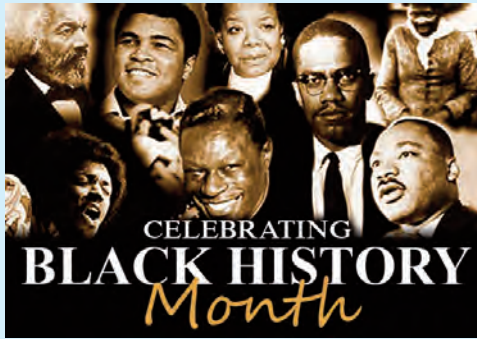
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Columbus Education Association

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## Honoring Black Americans

This month, we remember the contributions of many Americans who were left out of the history books for many decades. It is our opportunity to share the accomplishments of many American heroes and to emphasize that American history isn't the purview of any one group of people.



Black History Month began in 1926 when historian Carter G. Woodson urged fraternity brothers of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. to help promote a "Negro History Week." Woodson, a Harvard-trained historian, believed that promoting the achievements of black people would help to combat prejudice and build a sense of pride among his people.

Since 1976, every U.S. president has officially designated the month of February as Black History Month. Other countries around the world, including Canada and the United Kingdom, also devote a month to celebrating black history.

This year's theme is "A Century of Black Life, History and Culture." During the month, we usually honor such notable people as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Rosa Parks, but many others have impacted society by breaking barriers or creating opportunities for children that they never had before. Here are some writers who dared to speak out, sharing the great accomplishments of black Americans and revealing what it means to be part of this community:

- ♦ James Weldon Johnson was an early civil rights activist who wrote the Black National Anthem, "Lift Every Voice and Sing."
- ♦ Anthropologist and novelist Zora Neale Hurston's most famous work is *Their Eyes Were Watching God* (1937). Her critically acclaimed autobiography, *Dust Tracks on a Road* (1942), was well-received by critics.
- ♦ Charlotte Forten's book, *Life on the Sea Island*, was the story of Forten's time as the first black teacher at a famous mission in the Civil War. She later worked for the Treasury Department recruiting black teachers.
- ♦ Writer Rita Dove was the youngest person and the first African American to be appointed Poet Laureate Consultant by the Library of Congress. She has also won the Pulitzer for her book, *Thomas and Beulah*.

You can find more information about famous black

Americans at a variety of sites, including <http://www.on-linecollege.org/50-african-americans-who-forever-changed-academia> and <http://www.biography.com/people/groups/black-writers>. Other Black history resources can be found at [www.asalhb.org](http://www.asalhb.org), [www.nea.org](http://www.nea.org) and [www.pbs.org](http://www.pbs.org).

## CEA Annual Book Drive

Can you imagine roughly thirty-six percent of our third-grade students being retained in third-grade reading? That is exactly what will happen if those, roughly, 1,600 third graders do not meet the standard on the spring admission of the third-grade reading assessment.



The district has responded by implementing changes in the elementary schedule, offering a professional development portal for teachers and sponsoring a Third Grade Literacy Institute. CEA has decided to join the district in this effort to improve student achievement. The focus of our annual book drive will be putting a new book in the hands of every third grader in the district.

CEA's campaign kicks off on Monday, Feb. 2, and ends on Friday, Feb. 27. Support our campaign by donating two new books appropriate for children reading on the 2nd or 3rd grade reading level. A suggested book list has been given to your FR.

When the campaign concludes, there will be a drawing for an iPad Mini. To be eligible for the drawing, donate at least three new books to the campaign. Give the books to your FR or building campaign chair and ask for an entry form. You should receive an entry form for every three books donated. The more you give, the more chances you have to win. Complete the form and send it to Teri Mullins at the CEA office by 5 p.m., Thursday, Mar. 5. The drawing will take place on Friday, Mar. 6.

For more information regarding the campaign, contact Teri at CEA (253-4731); or email her at [tmullins@ceaohio.org](mailto:tmullins@ceaohio.org). Thank you for your support of our third graders. Together we can help our students meet the standard.

## UNCF Gives Our Students Hope

Columbus City Schools kicks off the United Negro College Fund (UNCF) campaign on Monday, Feb. 9, and will run until Friday, Feb. 27. Your faculty representatives will provide you with all needed materials.

The UNCF provides operating funds for 39 colleges, all of them small, liberal arts institutions. That makes it possible for them to offer stu-



dents 21st Century academic programs while keeping their tuitions less than half the average of other private colleges.

African-American students are not the only minorities served by The UNCF organization. UNCF scholarships apply to all schools, not just historically black colleges and universities. The UNCF serves as a national advocate for the importance of minority higher education and has made a difference in the lives of many CCS graduates, staff members and local community members.

This drive is very important for our students. We are preparing them for jobs in the global community. UNCF makes a difference for many of them seeking to further their education. Half of the money raised through our campaign will go directly toward scholarships for CCS students. Please give generously.

Those donating at least \$100 will be entered into a drawing for one of three \$100 gift cards. Those donating \$50–\$99 will be entered into a drawing for one of four \$50 gift cards.

For more information, call Ezetta Murray at CEA (253-4731). You may spread out your donation by participating in payroll deduction for one year.

## Help Wanted: PAR Consulting Teacher

CCS is opening the pool for Peer Assistance & Review (PAR) Consulting Teachers (CTs). Current certificated CEA members who want to grow as teacher leaders are encouraged to apply. PAR CTs provide consulting, coaching/feedback and support services to intern and intervention teachers who enter the CCS PAR Program.

PAR is a nationally recognized model, highly thought of as one of the best mentoring programs for teachers. Consulting Teachers' responsibilities include serving as evaluators for the Ohio Teacher Evaluation System (OTES). CTs must complete the OTES and Resident Educator training through the Ohio Department of Education. Eligible teachers must hold a bachelor's degree in education, an active Ohio teaching license and have a minimum of five years teaching experience, with at least three years of experience with CCS. They also must have:

- Strong technology skills
- Excellent oral and written communications skills
- Demonstrated leadership skills at both building and district levels
- Demonstrated ability to work cooperatively, effectively and objectively with other professional staff members while maintaining confidentiality
- Demonstrated understanding of adult developmental characteristics
- Extensive knowledge of multiple classroom management and instructional techniques
- Demonstrated flexibility, adaptability and strong organizational skills
- Strong work ethics and integrity
- Strong knowledge and understanding of the CCS District and the urban school setting

Submit a letter of interest, a résumé and three letters of reference from your current building administrator, a current CEA member and one other professional reference. Submit all documentation to CEA President Tracey D. Johnson at 929 E. Broad Street, Columbus, OH 43205. The filing period is Feb. 2–23. This is a selective interviewing process with interviews taking place in March. Selection to be in the PAR Pool does not mean an immediate placement. Those selected to be in the pool will remain active for up to five years.



## Go Red for Women



One in three women die of heart disease and stroke each year. Celebrate National Wear Red Day with Go Red For Women by wearing red every Friday during the month of February to help save women's lives. You can also support the cause by "liking" Go Red For Women on Facebook and Twitter to get daily inspiration, photos, quotes, heart disease news, healthy living tips and more. Take the Go Red Heart CheckUp to get tailored advice and information to understand your heart health and live heart healthy.

Learn more at <https://www.goredforwomen.org/home/get-involved/national-wear-red-day/>.

## Special Notes

- ❑ The **Summer 2015 Fee Waivers** will be in all buildings on **Monday, Feb. 2**. The completed fee waiver is due back to the **Sixth Street Annex by Friday, Feb. 13, 5 p.m.** If you are a **Priority I** or a **Priority II** status, **include the proper documentation with your completed fee waiver.** Documentation is required with each fee waiver process. Your priority status will change without the proper documentation. Call **Norma Oldham**, Sixth Street Annex, at **365-5039** with questions.
- ❑ **2014 dues deductions** for CEA members: **Full Dues, Plan A (21 Pays) \$831.53, Plan B (26 Pays) \$831.79. If you switched from: Plan A to B: \$774.63** or went from **Plan B to A: \$888.79. Half Dues** are **\$466.49** and **Quarter Dues** are **\$275.19.**
- ❑ **Running for a CEA office in the spring?** You have until **5 p.m., Feb. 20** to declare your candidacy for one of these: **Governors for Districts 3, 6, and two High School At-Large** (three-year terms), **Governor for District 10** (to fill the unexpired term ending on July 31, 2017), **2015 NEA Delegates, 2015 NEA State Delegates At-Large\*** and **2015–2016 OEA Delegates.** The campaign period ends **Mar. 30.** Voting will take place from **Mar. 17–30.** 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.**
  - \*OEA must receive NEA State Delegates At-Large forms by 5 p.m. on Jan. 30 to be included in the 2015 CEA Spring Elections.
- ❑ **Eligible for a continuing contract** for the **2015–2016 school year?** You must **fill out and submit the paperwork by Mar. 6.** The form is located on the **CCS Intranet** under **Human Resources/HR Administration/Mira Wright** or can be downloaded from the CEA website at <http://bit.ly/1415continue>. For questions on eligibility requirements, contact **Nancy Young** at **365-5658.**
- ❑ **'Fitness Frenzy' Testimonial Contest:** The CCS Wellness Initiative Team would love to hear your fitness story. Have you made substantial progress towards your health and fitness goals? Perhaps you have started exercising regularly or lost weight. Are you eating more fruits and vegetables? Send your story to: [kmccabe@columbus.k12.oh.us](mailto:kmccabe@columbus.k12.oh.us). All testimonials submitted between Feb. 1 and Apr. 1 will be considered for prizes!
- ❑ If you are not receiving *The CEA Voice* or other communications by email, contact Bob Hern at [bhern@ceaohio.org](mailto:bhern@ceaohio.org) to have your information added.