

The CEA Voice

Tracey D. Johnson, President

Volume XLV, No. 24

Columbus Education Association

February 9, 2015

Join Mayor Coleman

Columbus Mayor Michael Coleman has invited CEA to celebrate all the great things about the City of Columbus with him. Coleman will deliver his sixteenth, and last, State of The City address, 6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 19, at The Palace Theatre. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. If you want to attend, you must *RSVP* online at: columbus.gov/SOC2015 or by phone at 645-7787.

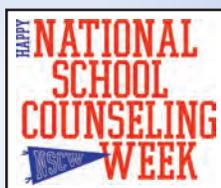


Coleman, who is the longest-serving incumbent African-American mayor among major U.S. cities, has been lauded by organizations across the country for putting Columbus onto the proverbial map. *Time* magazine stated: "After taking a dive during the recession, Columbus has roared back, with the metro area creating more new jobs than any other city in Ohio over the past two years. In many ways, it's a model for what an economy can do when you admit that growth isn't about tax cuts and austerity but about both streamlining government and investing public money in the right things." Among Coleman's accomplishments are:

- Capital Kids: Four pilot after-school programs providing safe places for kids to learn and play
- Get Green: A program with the Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio to save resources
- Neighborhood Pride: A local program to clean alleys, mow high grass, replace burned-out street light bulbs and establish block watch and fire prevention outreach
- Coalition for a Nonviolent Columbus: A forum for studying and improving neighborhood safety through seed grants to apply national best practices
- MyColumbus: This mobile app puts residents in touch with city departments and resources

Thank a counselor

We missed National School Counseling Week. Please forgive us! Celebrated Feb. 2–6, this national recognition period focuses on the unique contributions of professional school counselors. Counselors work in professional partnerships with school staff, business and industry, parents/families and the community to focus on positive ways to enhance students' social/personal, academic and career development. It is frequently a counselor who can make a positive difference in a child's life. For instance, professional school counselors help students set goals, explore career plans for college, select appropriate courses for post-secondary options, develop skills in decision making, manage conflicts and problem solving. At



CEA, we would like to recognize our counselors who engage students in examining and improving their abilities, strengths, interests and talents. They also work in partnership with parents and support teachers and other educators in providing an educational system where students can realize their potential. National School Counseling Week is sponsored by the American School Counselor Association. For more information, visit schoolcounselor.org.

When you see your school counselor, tell him or her thanks. From all of us at CEA to all CCS counselors: A great big cheer of appreciation for all you do.

PAR (and your colleagues) need you

The Peer Assistance & Review (PAR) program needs Consulting Teachers. Consider applying for this important position. PAR is a nationally recognized program in which a fellow teacher mentors his or her colleagues. There is no better way to work on skills than with a fellow educator who has been there. Consulting Teachers (CTs) are privileged to share their knowledge, but they also grow in the position through further training. CTs are trained and credentialed in the Ohio Teacher Evaluation System (OTES) and the Resident Educator Program and help evaluate other teachers through the OTES process.



Eligible teachers must hold a bachelor's degree in education, an active Ohio teaching license and have a minimum of five years of teaching experience, with at least three years of experience with CCS. They also must have strong skills in technology, leadership, planning and instruction.

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. Send 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 in the pool for up to five years.

Support Our Third Graders

The CEA book drive kicked off Feb. 2 and will end on Feb. 27. We want to put a new book in the hands of every third grader in our district. Support our campaign by donating at least two new books appropriate for third grade. A suggested book list has been given to your FR.

At the conclusion of the campaign, a drawing will be held for an iPad Mini for members who donate at least three new books. Give your books to your FR or building campaign chairperson, and ask for an entry form for every three books you donate. Send your completed forms to Teri Mullins at the CEA office (Rt. #1) no later than Thursday, Mar. 5. The drawing will take place on Friday, Mar. 6.

For more information about the campaign, call Teri Mullins at CEA (253-4731), or send her an email at tmullins@ceaohio.org.

UNCF: A Vision Worth Your Investment

“A mind is a terrible thing to waste.” For decades, this galvanizing principle has remained at the heart of the UNCF ideal.

And now, more than ever, a mind is also “a wonderful thing to invest in.” Please consider giving during our UNCF campaign



which runs until Feb. 27. Your faculty representative has all needed materials for you to contribute. Fifty percent of the money raised during our campaign will go towards scholarships for our students. We offer payroll deduction as an easy way to provide all-year support to students who need help to get to and through college.

UNCF has made a real difference in the lives of many CCS graduates, current staff members and local community leaders. Some of our students will be the first generation in their families to attend college. Many CCS students who have believed college to be an unachievable goal are now attending and graduating with distinction from institutions of higher learning throughout the United States. UNCF applies to all schools, not just historically black colleges and universities.

You can give by cash, check, money order or payroll deduction. 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).

Go Green

GreenSpot for Kids is offering free resources designed to supplement science curriculum for your first-grade students. The materials are also appropriate for kindergarten and second graders. GreenSpot, a character inspired by Central Ohio students, leads friends on a journey with stops at several Columbus locations to discover what it means to be green. Resources include:



- A classroom set of the book, *GreenSpot and the Dots*
- Laminated poster-sized charts to track students' accomplishments
- Activities and worksheets
- Classroom presentations from environmental professionals

To obtain materials for your classroom, visit www.GreenKids.Columbus.gov or e-mail GreenSpot@Columbus.gov.

‘Tell Your Story’ Empowers The Teachers

Columbus City Schools' teachers have a new tool to empower self-directed professional development in their classrooms. ‘Tell Your Story’ is a tool teachers use to showcase authentic classroom best practices for parents and the community. Teachers can earn graduate credit in two days without having to travel to a university campus or meet after school. Meaningful professional development is about what teacher and students accomplish in the classroom during the school day.

In only two days, teachers will be able to digitally capture and showcase their teaching methods while earning graduate credit for professional development. “Great teaching and learning is occurring in classrooms across our district. ‘Tell Your Story’ empowers teachers to share a snapshot of the great Columbus City Schools learning experience,” says CEA President Tracey D. Johnson. Parents and community also benefit from a transparent showcase of authentic classroom best practices.

‘Tell Your Story’ self-directed professional development is affordably priced and helps teachers earn credit toward professional license renewal. Teachers may enroll anytime by visiting <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/personalized-pd-section-1-tickets-13581002143?aff=TYS>.

For more information about ‘Tell Your Story,’ watch a video at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ve_t2eBc3GY.

Alternative 211 panels

We have completed training for the Article 211 process. Round 1 opens Tuesday, Mar. 3. Round 1 interviews will take place Mar. 10–16.

The 211 manual defines the interview panel as the principal, the Senior Faculty Representative, one elected member of the Association Building Council and two parents/members of the school community. However, as noted in the 211 manual, buildings may convene an alternately constructed panel. To request an alternative interview panel, a request must be made in writing to the CEA President signed by both the Senior FR and administrator by Friday, Feb. 27. Fax requests to 253-5052. The following schools have submitted alternative interview panels: Columbus Downtown HS, Maize ES, Parkmoor ES, Scottwood ES and Woodward Park MS.

Join CEA-R as an Active Educator

CEA-Retired's (CEA-R) mission is to provide current and retired teachers of Columbus City Schools with activities, experiences and knowledge that will keep them aware of what is happening in the community, around Ohio, in the legislature, with the Columbus Education Association and with the Columbus City Schools.

It is a highly organized group that works diligently to provide members with rewarding activities and useful information. To explore membership in this organization, go to www.cea-retired.com. Call CEA-R President Judy Valentine at (614) 235-4572 for more information or go to www.cea-retired.com. Go to <http://bit.ly/CEARMemForm> to download a membership application. A lifetime membership is only \$100, or you can maintain a yearly membership for \$10 (per year).

Special Notes

- ❑ **CCS has extended the date for voluntary staff reductions to 5 p.m., Friday, Feb. 13.** All known principal assignments will be announced by that time. In buildings that have principal vacancies during Article 211 interviews, the current administrator will be responsible for facilitating the interview and selection process. CCS does not anticipate opening another window in the calendar for additional voluntary staff reductions after the Feb. 13 deadline. Submit signed written requests for voluntary staff reductions with specific reasons for the requests to **Victoria Frye, Human Resources**, Columbus City Schools, 270 E. State St., Columbus, OH 43215. **Emails and faxes will not be accepted. CEA strongly suggests you hand deliver your letter and request a time-stamped copy.**
- ❑ **The Summer 2015 Fee Waiver applications** arrived 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.
- ❑ **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 Mar. 31.** In the event of run-offs, voting will take place from **Apr. 21–May 4**, with votes tallied on **May 5.**
*OEA should have received NEA State Delegates At-Large forms by 5 p.m. on Jan. 30 to be included in the 2015 CEA Spring Elections.
- ❑ **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.**
- ❑ **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/141Scontinue>. For questions on eligibility requirements, contact **Nancy Young** at **365-5658.**