

MLK Award Winners

The Columbus Education Association's 40th Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Awards Dinner is quickly approaching. CEA is very pleased to announce this year's award recipients: **Dr. Joshua Joseph** will receive the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Humanitarian Award. This award is given for distinguished service in the community in the areas of education, social justice or human and civil rights.

Dr. Joseph is an endocrinologist in Columbus, Ohio and is affiliated with The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center. He graduated from Columbus Alternative High School in 1999, attended Morehouse College and graduated *magna cum laude*. Dr. Joseph earned his Doctor of Medicine at the Boston University School of Medicine. He completed his internship and residency in the Department of Medicine at the Yale School of Medicine. Upon the completion of his residency, Dr. Joseph went on to teach at the Yale School of Medicine. In 2012, he also founded and was the first Director of the Yale Primary Care Center Weight Management and Wellness Clinic. After completing a three-year diabetes research fellowship at Johns Hopkins University, he joined The Ohio State University's Wexner Medical Center as an Assistant Professor of Medicine in the Division of Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism.

Since joining the Wexner Medical Center staff, Dr. Joseph's clinical focus has been on Endocrinology with an even more specific focus on Diabetes and Obesity. According to the American Diabetes Association, the disease was listed as the seventh leading cause of death in the United States. Nearly ten percent of all American adults—30 million—had diabetes. More than 7 million of those adults were undiagnosed. Furthermore, diagnosed diabetes rates are higher in minority populations when compared to the diagnosis rate in non-Hispanic whites.

A recent study, co-authored by Joseph, was published in the fall of 2018 in the Journal of the American Heart Association. In short, the study found that a hormone secreted by the adrenal gland, aldosterone, when present in high levels more than doubled a person's risk for developing type 2 diabetes. The study also found that in certain ethnic groups, high levels of aldosterone further increased the diabetes risk for African Americans and Chinese Americans.

"I looked into this as a promise to my father. He had high levels of aldosterone that contributed to his hypertension, and he thought it also might be linked to his diabetes. As my career progressed, I had the opportunity to research it, and we did find a link to diabetes," Joseph said. Joseph is currently leading a federally funded clinical trial to further evaluate the impact of aldosterone in patients with prediabetes.

Jennifer La Place, a social studies teacher at Centennial HS will receive the Helen Jenkins Davis Award, named in honor of the first black teacher hired by Columbus City Schools. La Place



Dr. Joshua Joseph



Jennifer La Place

grew up in St. Thomas in the U.S. Virgin Islands and her island lilt comes through from time to time when she speaks. Initially, La Place thought she would transform her long-standing love of history into a career as an elected official.

La Place enrolled at Southern Illinois University and studied political science and history with the original intent of becoming a lawyer. After graduating from college, La Place moved back to the Virgin Islands in search of a job. Upon her return to St. Thomas, she was approached by her alma mater about a job opportunity—her old high school was in need of a government teacher. La Place agreed, thinking it would be a short-term job. Instead, she ended up staying for two years. "I was hooked week one," she said, "I knew I could do this for the rest of my life".

La Place had a friend in Columbus, moved and enrolled at Ohio Dominican University. She was hired by Columbus City Schools in 1998, and officially began her teaching career at Mifflin HS. Since La Place started in CCS, she has continued to grow as both a learner and an educator. She was awarded a Fulbright-Hays Grant and spent six weeks in the southern African nations of South Africa, Lesotho and Botswana studying globalization. La Place also spent time in the southern delta researching music, culture and civil rights for the National Endowment for the Humanities.

In 2018, she was nominated by Centennial HS Principal Stephanie Porta (where she has taught since 2009) for the Teacher of the Year for District 6. State Board of Education member Antoinette Miranda worked with a committee of educators, parents and business leaders to select La Place.

"It's clear she is dedicated to her craft of teaching," said Miranda, "as indicated by her many professional development activities and her work to bring history alive through innovative lessons."

La Place's response to this award and other accolades bestowed upon her is the same. "I'm just doing my job," she explains. "My principal at Mifflin HS, Ed Johnson, always said that the kids we get are the greatest things their parents have. That is my motto every single day I walk into Centennial HS."



LPDC Support Sessions

The LPDC will be hosting support sessions for those needing assistance in creating an Individual Professional Development Plan (IPDP). All educators with 5-year Professional Licenses in Ohio must have an approved IPDP on file in order to earn credits toward the renewal of that license.

You can find upcoming training dates in the CCS professional development system by going to <https://ccsob.truenorthlogic.com> and entering the course number (32867 for PDS Course Requester Training and 34405 for IPDP Support Sessions) into the search bar under the *Course* tab in the title bar. If you have further questions, please contact Greg Mild at (614) 365-5039 or email him at gmild@columbus.k12.oh.us.

Article 211: Voluntary Staff Reduction Requests

The deadline for teachers to submit their request for a voluntary staff reduction from HR based on Philosophical Differences or Health and Safety is 5 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 17. Individuals who are requesting a voluntary staff reduction must provide specific reasons for requesting a voluntary staff reduction. There are only two ways to submit your request:

- 1) Signed, hard-copy written requests are preferred by HR and should be submitted to Rhonda Rice, Human Resources, Columbus City Schools, 270 E. State St., Columbus, OH 43215. Your Association strongly suggests you hand deliver your letter and obtain a timestamped copy for your records.
- 2) Requests can be submitted via email using your CCS email to article211@columbus.k12.oh.us. Include in the subject line "Voluntary Staff Reduction Request" followed by your first and last name and employee ID number. **Faxed letters will not be accepted.**

Additionally, you are not required to provide your administrator with a copy of your staff reduction request, nor are you required to notify them of your request. Members who submit a request for a voluntary staff reduction will be notified by HR in late January, however that date has not yet been confirmed.

Legislature Votes to Extend Alternative Graduation Pathways

(From the *OEA Legislative Watch*)

The Ohio House and Senate have approved a bill (HB 491) to extend the alternative graduation pathways to the classes of 2019 and 2020. The bill passed the Senate by a vote of 29–0 and the House concurred by a vote of 78–1.

Under current law, in addition to successfully completing required coursework, students are required to meet one of three graduation "pathways" each of which is dependent on the results of high-stakes testing.

For the class of 2018, the legislature provided alternative graduation pathways that would provide students with additional options such as completion of a capstone project, work experience and grade-point average.

The Ohio Department of Education estimated that 33,000 seniors were at risk of not graduating without action to extend the alternative graduation pathways. HB 491 extends the alternative pathways to the class of 2019 with no changes.

There are some adjustments for the Class of 2020 which include: a cumulative grade-point average of 2.5 for courses completed during the junior and senior year; the capstone project must comply with guidance developed by ODE and each project should be designed as a culmination of the student's high school experience; the work or community service shall comply with guidance from ODE on school approval and verification of the work.

ODE guidance for the Class of 2020 must be completed by May 31, 2019. The bill still needs to be signed by the governor.

Ohio Educational Foundation

The Ohio Education Association boasts its own foundation, the Ohio Educational Foundation. It's mission is to support causes related to advancing and supporting education professionals and public school students in Ohio.

The work of the Ohio Educational Foundation is to fund initiatives that enhance student learning, student achievement and well-being, as well as promote social justice. Two CEA members, Angel Dyer-Sanchez (Salem ES) and Cassandra Daniels (Champion MS) serve on the foundation's Board of Directors.

To that end, the Ohio Educational Foundation introduced four funding opportunities available to all OEA members.

Diversity Grants are to develop and pursue instructional programs or curriculum that promote an appreciation for diversity, equity, and respect for humankind within the classroom and educational environment. Three grants, up to \$3,000 each, will be awarded. Application deadline: Feb. 1, 2019.

Innovation Grants are offered to those who are in pursuit of innovative and creative practices where learning is being enriched by experiences or projects. Two grants, up to \$5,000 each, will be awarded. Application deadline: Feb. 1, 2019.

Whisper Grants provide direct assistance to improve a member's learning environment or academic performance through meeting basic needs such as eyeglasses, hygiene items, repairs to a broken wheelchair, etc. Applications are reviewed monthly with a \$200 maximum and an annual funding of \$5,000.

Make-A-Wish®/Kids For Wish Kids® are done in collaboration with Make-A-Wish®, the Foundation provides seed money for OEA Locals seeking to make a child's wish come true. The Kids For Wish Kids® program fosters the value of community service by providing students with hands-on experience in helping to grant local wishes through school fundraising.

For more information about these grants and a link to an online application, go to https://www.ohea.org/oea_foundation/.

Special Notes

- ❑ **Job sharing** provides a way for teachers who wish to continue their employment with Columbus City Schools in less than a full-time capacity. Most job shares are a 50/50 split, but other arrangements can take place. To download the job-share packet for the 2019–2020 school year, go to <https://bit.ly/2Bzfs0g>. CEA will compile a list of bargaining-unit members who are looking for jobshare partners. To add your name to the list, go to <http://bit.ly/2RgMKXd> and **fill out the online form no later than Thursday, Dec. 20**. On **Friday, Dec. 21**, a list of potential jobshare partners will be emailed to each person completing the online form to assist in finding a job-share partner. Each partner's completed job-share packet is due to **CCS Human Resources, ATTN: Employment and Staffing, no later than 5 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 15, 2019**. Your Association recommends **hand delivering** these documents and obtaining a **time-stamped copy** for your records. If you have further questions about job sharing, contact **Cindy Love** at CEA at (614) 253-4731. If you are planning to job share and to carry insurance through CCS, the rate you will pay will be significantly higher than what you would pay as a full-time teacher. **Contact CCS Human Resources Benefits Department to determine your cost.**
- ❑ The following CEA elective offices and delegate positions will **Governors for Districts 2, 7, 8, and 9; High School Governor At-Large; 2019 NEA Local Delegates; 2019 NEA State At-Large Delegates; and 2019–20 OEA Delegates. Declaration runs from Monday, Jan. 7, through Friday, Feb. 8, with voting from Wednesday, Mar. 6, through Tuesday, Mar. 19. Ballots will be collected and tallied by members of the Elections Committee on Wednesday, Mar. 20**. If necessary, a run-off vote will take place from Apr. 2–16, with votes tabulated on Apr. 17. **Declaration forms will be available at www.ceaohio.org** under the **Forms** tab starting Jan. 7. Members may also pick up a form in person or call the CEA Office to request that a form be sent through school mail. Contact Elections Chair Neil Moore at senyormoore@gmail.com or (614) 264-2188 if you have questions.

"A good teacher is like a candle—it consumes itself to light the way for others." —Author Unknown

