

The CEA Voice

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Columbus Education Association

February 10, 2014

Black History Month: Educators were key

During February, we remember the contributions of countless Americans who were left out of the history books for many decades. It's a unique yearly opportunity to share the accomplishments of those American heroes and to emphasize that American history doesn't belong to any one group of people.



Black History Month began in 1926 when historian Carter G. Woodson urged fraternity brothers at Omega Psi Phi 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.

He chose the second week of February because it marked the birthdays of the two Americans, Fredrick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln, who perhaps most greatly influenced the lives and social conditions of African Americans.

In 1976, fifty years after the first celebration, the Association for the Study of African-American Life and History held the first Black History Month. Ohio has no shortage of notable black individuals. We honor such notable people as Rosa Parks, but many academic leaders have made impacts on society by breaking barriers or creating opportunities for children. The long list of other leading black educators includes these:

- Cornel West, who spoke at the CEA King Dinner last month, is a political activist who continues to encourage his colleagues to lead by example, participate in civic discourse and protest unjust policies.
- 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 during the Civil War. She later worked for the Treasury Department recruiting black teachers.
- Maxine Smith worked with the NAACP to desegregate Memphis schools in the early 1960s. Smith escorted the first black children to attend a desegregated schoolhouse in Memphis.
- Nathan Hare protested with his students for five months when his university attempted to cut funding for his program, which was the first university black studies program in the country.

Each year at our Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Awards Dinner we give the Helen Jenkins Davis Award. She was the first black teacher hired by the Columbus Schools. Davis (who was hired in 1918) also was the first witness called in the 1976 school desegregation trial in Columbus. This year's award went to our own history maker: our CEA President Rhonda Johnson, who has advanced our agenda of collaboration and reform and strengthened our relationships within the administration and the community.

Give our students hope with UNCF

The Columbus City Schools United Negro College Fund (UNCF) campaign begins on Monday, Feb. 10. Faculty Representatives will provide you with materials. The UNCF organization serves many minority students—not just



African Americans. UNCF provides operating funds for its 39-member colleges, all of them small, liberal arts institutions, making it possible for them to offer their students 21st Century academic programs while keeping their tuitions to less than half the average of other private colleges.

The program administers 400 scholarship and internship programs, allowing students from low- and moderate-income families to afford college tuition, books, room and board. Serving as a national advocate for the importance of minority higher education, UNCF represents the public policy interests of its students and member colleges, through its annual television program, "An Evening of Stars."

UNCF has made a real difference in the lives of many CCS graduates, current staff members and local community leaders. Many 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 scholarships apply to all schools, not just historically black colleges and universities.

This drive is very important. We are preparing our students for jobs in the global community. UNCF makes the difference for many students seeking to further their education. Please give generously. For more information, call Ezetta Murray at CEA, 253-4731. You may spread out your payments by participating in payroll deduction for one year.

SB 229 helps us

In December, the Ohio Senate unanimously passed Senate Bill 229. This vital piece of legislation would reduce value-added evaluation weight from 50 percent to 35 percent of the student growth component in the Ohio Teacher Evaluation System. Further, the bill would provide school districts with more flexibility regarding the frequency of evaluations for teachers rated "Accomplished" or "Skilled."

It has been nearly two months since the bill was introduced into the Ohio House, and it has yet to receive a single hearing in the House Education Committee. In fact, insiders expect at least several weeks to elapse before SB 229 receives its first hearing in the House Education Committee.

Your help is needed to pass SB 229 in the Ohio House. Go to www.legislature.state.oh.us to email your state representative urging support of SB 229.

Don't fall for the okey-doke

You might remember four years ago when the governor, feeling serious political pressure from his two young twin daughters, publicly called snow days “cool” and signed a bill to bring back all five days. Teachers around the state were excited and happy. Just a few weeks later, that same governor championed SB 5; and many misguided teachers’ love affair with the governor was over.

Last year, the governor championed a biennial budget that proposed to get rid of calamity days in the 2014–2015 school year by changing how the school year is measured (from days to hours). The Ohio legislature voted to approve the budget, making this year the last for calamity days.

Now, as school districts feel the cold, the governor is feeling the heat and apparently wants to be remembered as the “calamity day governor.” He has called on the legislature to add additional calamity days for school districts this school year. HB 416 seeks to add four calamity days to the current maximum of five currently allowed by state law. Passed out of the House Education Committee after just one hearing, the bill should receive a vote soon.

Help our third graders

The CEA book drive kicked off Feb. 3 and will end on Feb. 28. This year, 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 students. 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 completed forms to Tracey Johnson at the CEA office (Rt. #1) no later than Thursday, Mar. 6. The drawing will take place on Friday, Mar. 7.

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

Apply for a continuing contract

If you are eligible to receive a continuing contract beginning with the 2014–2015 school year, you must fill out and submit an application form by Mar. 1. While a limited contract is renewable from year to year upon recommendation of the superintendent, a continuing contract remains in effect until you resign, retire or are terminated or suspended.

Section 401.16 of the *CEA Master Agreement* explains more about the process. To be eligible, a teacher must have a five-year professional license, eight-year professional certificate or a permanent certificate on file in Human Resources.

In addition, an eligible teacher must, by the conclusion of this school year, have completed three years of successful Columbus teaching experience within the last five years. Those with previous continuing contracts in Columbus or another Ohio district must have completed two successful years of experience in Columbus City Schools.

There also are education requirements:

- If you have a master's degree: Six semester hours of graduate coursework in your licensing or a related area beyond your master's degree
- If you do not hold a masters degree: Thirty semester hours of 300-level (or above) coursework in your licensure or related area

If you have questions on eligibility requirements, please contact Nancy Young, Teacher Certification/Licensure at 365-5658.

Our candidates want your vote

Get ready to cast your ballot. Here is the list of candidates (in random order) who want to represent you. Our election is Mar. 4:

President Tracey D. Johnson **Vice President** Phil Hayes
Beth Stevenson Dewey Chaffin

NEA Local Delegates (nine delegates to be elected)

Lori A. Jackson, Dale Rucker, Greg Mild, Faye Love, Carol M. Dixon, Ezetta Murray, Angel Dyer, Phil Hayes, Ruth H. Colwell-Ennis, Gerry Curran, Tracie L. Helmbrecht, Melanie Garvin, Jeannette Johnson, Shamelle Warfield, Alan Schmiedebusch, Bob Hern, Tayana Jones-Patterson, Paula J. Garfield, Angela Stokes, Catherine Cincione, Megan Hinz, Claudia Eschelbach, Marty Flood, Jr., Jenny Plemel, Traci L. Arway, Julie Didlick, Susan Guisinger, Kristy Leigh, Amanda Blake, Jennifer Angelcyk, Courtney Johnson, Marlena Holt, Julie A. Meyer, Kriston Crombie Stotik, Rita Hinz, Bev Carter, Lisa R. Straughter, Atanya Brown, Kimberly A. Jones, Thomas W. Gibson, Deliana Soto, Kimberly Allbaugh Ogilbee, Jo Annette Byas-Marston, James Keller, Andrew Merritt, Kari Pietrangelo-Yates, Lovelee Lawanda Kirk, Amy Morris, Cheryl I. Cooper, Aaron Moore, Tracey D. Johnson, Gary Metzenbacher, Rodney W. Grist, Judy L. Wright, Eric L. Stone, Michelle Stasa Coleman, Kenya Davis, Daria DeNoia, D. Keith Adams and Jeanette Kuschill

Members of the CEA Board of Governors serve as OEA and NEA delegates by virtue of office.

NEA State Delegates (four delegates to be elected):

Faye Love, Gerry Curran, Melanie Garvin, Jennifer Angelcyk, Cheryl I. Cooper, Lisa R. Straughter, Susan Guisinger/Azad, Alan Schmiedebusch, Courtney Johnson, Aaron Moore, Deliana Soto, Marty Flood, Jr., Rodney Grist, Tayana Jones-Patterson, Marlena Holt, D. Keith Adams, Kari Yates, Jenny Plemel, Angel Dyer, Angela Stokes, Michelle Stasa-Coleman, Atanya Brown, Julie A. Meyer, Kenya Davis, Kimberly A. Jones, Dale Rucker, Lovelee Lawanda Kirk, Shamelle Warfield, Traci (Ganim) Arway, Julie Didlick, Gary Metzenbacher, Daria DeNoia, Lori A. Jackson, Claudia Eschelbach, Tracie L. Helmbrecht and Catherine Cincione

Correction: The Feb. 3 *Voice* article, “Our candidates want your vote,” inaccurately printed the names of the candidates for CEA President as they appeared on the candidacy declaration forms. **Beth Stevenson** was incorrectly listed as Beth Stevens, and **Tracey D. Johnson** was incorrectly listed as Tracey Johnson. We apologize for the error.

Special notes

- ❑ Completed **fee waiver applications** are due back to Northgate by **Friday, Feb. 14, at 5 p.m.** If you have **Priority I** or **Priority II status**, include the proper documentation. **Your priority status will change to Priority III without proper documentation.** Call Norma Oldham at Northgate, 365-8993, if you have any questions.
- ❑ **Help members campaign:** The **formal campaign period** for the CEA **spring elections ends on Mar. 3.** (Faculty Representatives are asked to distribute and post campaign materials from candidates.) **Voting is Feb. 18–Mar. 3. Votes will be tabulated on Mar. 4.** Call CEA Elections Committee Chairperson Michele Mays at 253-4731 with questions.
- ❑ The Joint Evaluation Panel has **extended the deadline for SLO submission through Feb. 14.**