

The CEA Voice

Rhonda Johnson, President

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Columbus Education Association

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31st Annual Awards & Retirement Banquet

More than 500 people attended this year's event held on May 18 in the Grand Ballroom of the Hyatt Regency Columbus. Retiring teachers were individually recognized for their outstanding careers and dedication to education.

The evening began with two very special awards. The first *Innovator in Education Award* was presented posthumously to **Tom Mooney**, former president of the Ohio Federation of Teachers and Cincinnati Federation of Teachers. Long before *new unionism* and *teacher quality* became the buzz words of the 90s, Cincinnati, thanks largely to Mooney, Cincinnati turned itself into a model of how to make teaching a real profession. Former State Senator C.J. Prentiss accepted the award.

The second award, not given every year, goes to a person or organization whose leadership, acts and support have contributed to the improvement of public education. This year's *Friend of Education Award* was presented to **C. J. Prentiss**, the Governor's Special Representative for Closing the Achievement Gap. C. J. has devoted many years to the pursuit of equitable, affordable and quality education for Ohioians.

Association leaders were also recognized for their work. **Bev Carter**, **Jeff Corbin** and **Dorothy G. Wilson** were recognized for their service on the CEA Board of Governors. All three received the *CEA Distinguished Service Award*.

Annually, CEA Faculty Representatives are honored for their work in their respective districts with the *Outstanding Faculty Representative Award*. They are: **Kriston Crombie**, Centennial HS; **Ernestine Creasey**, Northland HS; **Stephanie Zimmerman**, East Linden ES; **Dwayne Zimmerman**, Linden-McKinley HS; **Sheila Evans**, Champion MS; **Teresa Bombrys**, Hilltonia MS; **Shirley Cannon**, Stewart ES; **Robin Fielding**, Southwood @Reeb ES; **Julie DeGarmo**, Leawood ES; **Barry Stebbins**, Hudson Distribution Center.; and **Mary Kennett**, Elementary Physical Education.

An important award goes to the *Outstanding CEA Member*. This year's nominees were: **Maggie Burnes**, Whetstone HS; **Francis (Gerry) Curran**, Burroughs ES; **Thearesa Coursey-Conrad**, Yorktown MS; and **John Hank**, Walnut Ridge HS. The 2007 winner was **John Hank**.

The last award of the evening, Builder of the Association, was presented to **Jeff Corbin** and **Dorothy Gelane Wilson** for their tireless work on behalf of the Columbus Education Association. Their leadership and professional expertise have made the CEA a stronger organization.



From left to right: CEA Vice President Sally Oldham, former State Senator C.J. Prentiss and CEA President Rhonda Johnson

2007 retirees

The following retiring members were honored at the 31st Annual CEA Awards & Retirement Banquet:

Susan C. Arnold	Linda Gunther	Ida Sewell
Roxie Ball	Shannon Haberman	William K. Sizemore
Mary Ellen Binns	Dorothy Hicks	Bruce Smith
Martha Boling	James E. Hill, Sr.	Edward Smith
Patricia Bosh	Hanifah Kambon	Lillian D. Smith
Mildred Calig	Carolyn Kennedy	Spiros George Spantithos
Barbara Carraway	Stephen Kraynak	Barry Stebbins
Mary Carter Roberts	Mary Regina Lally	Jane D. Stolzenburg
Dianna Chambers	Rachel Little	Jan Stone
Marilyn Clowson	Carol Losinski	Linda Sweazy
Jewell H. Cole	Deborah Childs Macklin	Anne Sylvan
Jeff Corbin	Paula Macklin	Dorothy Turnbo
Cheryl Coury	Patricia McGhee	Catherine Joiner Wheeler
Emily Davidson	Cheryl Miller	Victoria E. White
Julie DeGarmo	Joanne Miller	Evelyn R. Whitted-Hill
Lucille Harris Duncan	Frank Moeckel	Linda D. Williams
Kathleen Ebersbach	Brigid Moriarty	Dorothy Gelane Wilson
Lavonne Fábregas	Barbara A. Morrison	Jennie Wilson
Marilyn Fais	Melanie Murnan	Mary Wingfield
Marilyn W. Floyd	Constance A. Oulanoff	Cynthia Wooten
Marla Gleason	Pat Pellerite	Bill Young
Roxie D. Goodlett	Marsha Perry-Packer	Sandra K. Young
Jackie Gregg	L. Faye Price	

Retiree recalls the ABCs of CPS

Special moments were shared during the CEA Awards & Retirement Banquet when brief biographies were read about each retiree. **Barbara Carraway**, a teacher with the school district since 1988, shared memories that many CPS teachers can call to mind. CEA President Rhonda Johnson read the following note from Barb:

My future plans do not include anything with the initials: PLC, AYP, ESL, MFE, ADD, ADHD, LED, LACES, GLI, DRA, ASIP (AKA SCIP), PAS, PAR, SLC, PEAK, IPDP, SIMS, SEMS, OAT, IAT, FEPP, ODD, QA, WOW, ABC & GWB's NCLB.

My plans do include: R&R, spending time with TPC (my grandson) and spending money with VISA.

Working together to make it work

CEA and the district administration are working together to make sure that the new schedules for the fourth- and fifth-grade math/science specialists meet the terms of the *Master Agreement*.

We have made great progress and came up with the following arrangement:

Each specialist is to share students with two classroom teachers—one in the morning and one in the afternoon. But the district will allow flexibility for every building, since each one has different needs.

The district will review each building's schedule to make sure that the program meets its intentions. CEA has pledged to work with administrators to address any issues that may arise.

We believe this collaborative effort will result in a successful program that will help students improve in all subjects.

On the right track, but not there yet

It's not a new message: All children can achieve at high academic levels if given the right tools and exposed to high expectations.

But the lip service hasn't paid off yet in the way it should, according to Kati Haycock, director of the Education Trust.

On May 9, she spent an hour telling 400 community members, policy makers and educators gathered at the Columbus Metropolitan Club forum that they must change their thinking if students from all backgrounds are to be successful as adults.

Her talk was sponsored by KidsOhio.org.

Haycock started with a hopeful message: Ohio's academic picture is improving. For instance, the state's fourth- and eighth-graders have moved up the scale to rank in the top third on the periodic National Assessment of Educational Progress.

The state has changed the way it thinks about preparing teachers for the classroom, strengthening requirements and creating mentoring programs. And it has created a more stringent set of core requirements for high school students.

But there her tone changed. Only 41 percent of high school freshman in Ohio end up enrolling in college, she said. And of that group, 56 percent take the standard four years to finish their degrees.

Nationally, that figure is 67 percent.

High school, she said, is the point of decrease for most of the nation. Generally, U.S. high school students don't stack up favorably among the list of nations.

Perhaps most critically, she said, the gap in achievement between white students and black and Latino students remains.

Haycock presented a striking statistic: Many Latino and black high school students end up achieving only middle-school competency in reading and math.

The reason? Low expectations and a lack of drive to replicate what works.

Haycock focused some of the blame on legislators, who tend to spend less on schools with concentrations of poor children and fail to direct budget increases toward schools where they are most needed.

But blaming the government is all too convenient, she said. "It somehow makes the achievement gap somehow not about (educators)," she said. "The most devastating effects are not from policy makers but from the choices educators make."

Haycock stressed that Ohio can turn it around by:

- Providing opportunities for advanced courses to all students and have the same high expectations for all.
- Placing the most experienced and best teachers in schools with high concentrations of poor children.
- Resolving curricular inequities by creating the same rigorous course content for students from all backgrounds.
- Replicating what works, over and over, instead of making parents wait for slots in the most excellent schools.
- Getting out of the way of success, no matter where it comes from—even if it comes from a charter school. ("We ought to be open to any strategy," she said.)
- Create clear goals and apply them consistently.
- Provide supports for teachers to get better at teaching.

Some local parents responded with questions.

Q. Columbus recently let 300 teachers go and shortened the school day. Without study time built into the day, how can students be helped to learn better study habits?

A. Time can be built into the day by staggering teachers' schedules. Community programs also can involve local volunteers in after-school programs to help students with their homework and with additional projects.

Q. Can community organizations and leaders look at national data and use it constructively?

A. Data is plentiful: The Ohio Department of Education, Justforkids.org, Greatschools.net, Schoolmatch.com and KidsOhio.org are examples. "And when you see something that works, you've got to push and prod for change."

Q. Some school districts receive very low millage and have low teacher salaries. Are there places where school funding is working better than in Ohio?

A. Take a look at Massachusetts. "There is a fairly creative strategy and a record of impact worth emulating. There is also very interesting work on weighted student funding going on in New York City."

Special notes

- ❑ **Hanifah Kambon** will retire after 30 years of service to CPS. There will be a reception for Hanifah and other South HS retirees at Berwick Party House on May 30. The cost for the reception is \$15. Contact South HS for details.
- ❑ **The 2007 job fair dates have been changed.** All job fairs will be held at Northgate in Room G, and the new dates are listed as follows: **Tuesday, May 29**—Subject Certificates (7–12 and 4–9) at 4:30 p.m.; **Thursday, May 31**—Elementary Certificates (K–8, 1–8, and PreK–3) at 4:30 p.m.; and **Tuesday, June 5**—Special K–12 Certificates (Special Ed., Art, Music, Phys. Ed., etc.) at 4:30 p.m.
- ❑ There will be a **meeting for laid-off teachers on Wednesday, June 6, at 4 p.m.** at **Central Ohio Workforce Investment Corporation**, 1111 East Broad Street, Second Floor, Columbus, OH 43205, (614) 559-5071. Teachers in layoff status should receive a personal letter from the CPS Human Resources Department. CEA staff will be available at the meeting to accompany you through the process.
- ❑ **James McShane** (West HS) and **Fred Erfurt** (Centennial HS) have been selected for the **Summer Educator Program** to study at the **National Constitution Center in Philadelphia**. McShane and Erfurt are the first Columbus teachers to have ever been awarded this honor to this prestigious program.
- ❑ **The SuccessWorks Academy** admission procedure is posted at [http://www.columbus.k12.oh.us/website.nsf/\(DOCID2\)/7395B3AE2916601685257220007039EB?OpenDocument](http://www.columbus.k12.oh.us/website.nsf/(DOCID2)/7395B3AE2916601685257220007039EB?OpenDocument). The school is **currently accepting 3rd graders** for the 2007–08 school year (second graders ready to go to third grade or repeat third graders). Students at fourth and fifth grades will be admitted on an individual staffing basis. Students considered for this program must have completed the SAIL process with documented interventions. Referrals can be made by the SAIL coordinator or the building principal.
- ❑ **The National Underground Railroad Freedom Center** in Cincinnati will hold an open house for educators on May 30 from 5:30–8 p.m. More than 120,000 K–12 teachers have visited the museum, which features hundreds of family-oriented exhibits and displays. It's a great place to get classroom ideas and materials. For reservations, call Valdasia Merrick at (513) 333-7559.
- ❑ **NEA Member Benefits** announces that one of the **winners of the April NEA MB Website Giveaway** (\$100 Target Gift Cards) was **Carlene Wymer** (Centennial HS). There were 14,018 online entries for this giveaway.