

Union Pulse

Colorado Springs Education Association
October 1, 2020

Special Service Providers

For many SSPs, this past week was filled with additional anxiety and confusion. CSEA acted quickly and worked efficiently with D11 to restore rights for SSPs. These rights were engrained practice, yet not written in the Master Agreement. Part of CSEA's commitment to justice includes equal rights for staff and a clear and fair process to address any concerns that might emerge. The agreements we reached with the district focus on ensuring justice for staff and acknowledging the essential function SSP members play in the success of students. These types of issues are learning experiences for the district, the organization, and members. This particular issue ended well and reminds all of us that we are stronger together.

Yes on 2A and 4A

Ballots will be arriving in a short time, and voters will be asked to allow School District 11 and the City of Colorado Springs to retain money that otherwise would be refunded under the Colorado Taxpayer's Bill of Rights (Tabor) **without raising taxes**. **Voting yes on 2A** will allow Colorado Springs to recover more quickly from the financial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on our community. **Voting yes on 4A** will allow District 11 to protect its grant funding, protect our schools, provide the best education, and more effectively recover from the economic challenges related to the pandemic. All voters in Colorado Springs will have the opportunity to **support 2A**, and all voters in District 11 will be able to **vote in favor of 4A**.

The homepage of our website at www.cseateacher.org has a document prepared by District 11 that explains Tabor's relationship to D11, a document that gives examples of the types of grants affected by TABOR, and a video run-through of the TABOR explanation that should be viewable to D11 employees. Since these are politically oriented pieces, please view them outside of school and do not share them from school or during school hours. [Here](#) is a website that gives more information on the two ballot issues. Do take the time to check these out so you can make an informed vote.



Thumbs Up!

Thumbs Up to Holly Haverkorn (Mitchell), who is one of seven finalists for the 2021 Colorado Teacher of the Year! In the announcement yesterday, the Colorado Department of Education stated that they are recognizing, "an exceptionally dedicated, knowledgeable and skilled K-12 classroom teacher to represent the entire profession in Colorado." You can learn more about the award and the nominees [here](#).

Honoring The 2020 Crystal Apple Award Recipients

Richelle Gittens (Queen Palmer) is this week's *Union Pulse* Crystal Apple Award honoree. Here are a few things Richelle shared with us:

- *Homegrown in D11 - Hunt, Adams. South Jr, Mitchell*
- *22nd year in teaching*
- *Lincoln Elementary and Queen Palmer Elementary*
- *Catamount Institute YES Club Teacher for over 10 years*
- *Kids on Bikes 3 years*
- *Believe in the power of relationships and my students*

- *“Ms. Gittens prepared me for the real world in ways no other teacher could and I am forever grateful!” Zion Bernard*

Announcements

Let’s Tackle The Challenges Colorado’s Public Schools Are Facing!

You should have received an invitation from CEA to participate in the CEA Fall Forum on Monday, October 5 from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. This will be your opportunity to share your thoughts and ideas about how we can tackle the challenges Colorado’s public schools are facing. Together, let’s discuss how we’d like to re-envision public education, what we can do to win the funding and resources that we need, and what our union’s focus should be in the coming years. These discussions will help the CEA Executive Committee and CEA Board of Directors create the 2021-2024 strategic plan for our union. The invitation included information on how to RSVP, and you must RSVP to attend.

Join The Community Conversation

You should have received an email from Devra Ashby yesterday regarding the D11 Facilities Master Plan Community Conversations that are scheduled for October 12 and 13. There are instructions in that email for how you can schedule to attend a conversation either in person or virtually. Please take this opportunity to get your voice in the room.

A Study To Gauge The Effects Of Returning To Instruction On Educators

A study “designed to contribute to the understanding of this pandemic as it pertains to the experience of educators as they return to in-person or remote instruction” is being conducted by the City University of New York Institute for Implementation Science in Population Health (CUNY ISPH). Study details and a link to participate are available [here](#).

National Mental Health Week

Next week (October 4-10) is National Mental Health Week. Mental Health America, a community-based nonprofit dedicated to promoting mental health for all, has resources on actions we can all take, a schedule of digital events supporting mental health, many resources, and more available [here](#).

Articles Of Note

[With Thousands Of Students Missing, Colorado Officials Call On Parents To Enroll Their Children In School](#)

[25 Super Cool Podcasts For Teens](#)

[New Denver Principals Union Wins Recognition, Allowing For Contract Negotiations](#)

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