

Union Pulse

Colorado Springs Education Association
October 15, 2020

District COVID-19 Dashboard

The District has launched a dashboard, which is available [here](#), to report the status of COVID-19 cases within the District and how schools are impacted.

Facilities Master Plan Survey

We encourage you to participate in the District's Facilities Master Plan survey and to share the link so that others can participate as well. It is fine if you post the link on Next Door, Facebook, Instagram, etc. The survey is available [here](#).

CSEA Election Recommendations

CSEA and the Pikes Peak Education Association, our sister association representing the educators in the districts surrounding District 11, have made recommendations for candidates and on ballot proposals. You should have received a postcard with that information recently. If you did not, or if you would like to review our recommendations, please visit the member section of our [website](#).



Thumbs Up!

Thumbs Up to Kevin Coughlin (Twain) and Connie Rogers (North) for being reappointed to the CEA School Safety Committee, and to **Johnny Yates (Swigert)** for being appointed to the CEA Awards Committee. Thank you for making sure that we have voices in the room on these important committees.

Crystal Apple Award Recipient

This week we have the opportunity to learn about **Becky Marsh (Sabin)**, who was one of the 2020 Crystal Apple Award winners:

It was a teacher, my grandma, who taught me to be honest, strong, and steadfast, and how to love unconditionally. It was a teacher, my mother, who dressed in suits and high heels to teach third graders in Omaha, NE who made teaching seem magical. It was a fifth grade teacher who talked to me after school the day after my grandpa's fatal heart attack who encouraged me that it would all be okay and that I would feel better someday. It was a teacher and a school counselor who helped me and my best friend after her suicide attempt our senior year. It was a teacher that made my daughter feel loved on her first day of preschool and turned the scary experience of leaving home into something that she looked forward to everyday. It was teachers on my teams at West, Irving, and Sabin who taught me how to be a better teacher by constantly sharing ideas and techniques that made us all better. Steel sharpens steel. It was a teacher, my former partner and best of friends, who taught the value of play, challenge by choice, and risk taking on the ropes course and in the classroom. It was a mama, that's a grandma who lives in Texas, who reminded me regularly to, "Be sweet!" who taught me so much about kindness, gentleness, and believing in the best in others. It was a farmer, my husband, a builder, my father, and my son who

always reminded me that teaching was the noblest of crafts. That I had the ability to touch kids' lives and to inspire; that my words and actions made a difference every single day. I always feel like so much more than "just a teacher" when I see myself through their eyes. Teachers have always been there for my big moments. They are my family, my mentors, and my friends. The best thing that I can do in life is to continue that tradition knowing that there is no such thing as "just a teacher."

Announcements

Fall Forum Opportunity

If you couldn't make last week's CEA Fall Forum for southern Colorado, feel free to attend another forum at: <https://coloea.org/forum> If you can't attend but still want to have a voice, take this survey: <https://coloea.org/forum-notes>

Let's Get Out The Vote!

On Friday, October 16th at 5:00 PM, join members across Colorado for a virtual rally to get out the vote for this upcoming election! We'll hear from candidates and speakers and talk about what's at stake in this election as we fight for the public schools our students and educators deserve. CEA President Amie Baca-Oehlert and Vice President Kevin Vick will host the event. [RSVP for the rally.](#) This event is intended for CEA members only.

Voting Resources And Reminders

- Visit www.cea.yourvoter.guide for voting information and candidate and ballot initiative recommendations.
- Check out [CEA's statewide ballot measure recommendations.](#)
- Visit www.justvotecolorado.org for information on voter service centers, ballot drop boxes, and other voting FAQs.
- Visit www.govotecolorado.com for voting information from Colorado's Secretary of State.
- Ballots will be mailed to all registered voters in Colorado starting October 9.

The last day to register to vote and still receive a ballot in the mail is October 26.

Looking For A Fun Way To Connect Virtually Across Generations? Start A Family Dinner Book Club!

Children, parents, and grandparents can virtually share stories, crafts, a service project, and a meal monthly by participating in this Book Club. It's a great way to connect generations, and everything is planned for you. It is designed for children ages 4-8, but can be modified to be appropriate for younger and older children. Learn more [here.](#)

Do You Know A Rock Star Bilingual Educator?

TEACH Colorado is looking for one bilingual, Spanish-speaking coach to advise potential future teachers. The [TEACH Colorado](#) initiative provides prospective teachers with free resources and tools to make informed decisions about the path they take in teaching. The coach will earn \$20 per conversation and work during their free time (from any location). Do you know a rock star bilingual educator who would be interested in participating in 1-on-1 coaching calls (with people who have likely decided to pursue a teaching career and are trying to determine which program is best for them)? If so, please encourage them to complete [this application](#) by Monday, October 19th. Please direct any questions to Annette Konoske-Graf: akonoskegraf@teachcolorado.org.

For more information about CEA's partnership with TEACH Colorado, feel free to contact Joshua Quick at jquick@coloradoea.org.

Articles Of Note

[Helping ESPs Cope Through SEL](#)

[Tools For Social and Emotional Development In Online Learning](#)

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