

Union Pulse

Colorado Springs Education Association
November 11, 2021

American Education Week 2021

Next week we officially celebrate American Education Week's centennial. A hundred years of recognizing the importance of Public Education in our country, a week specifically "for the purpose of informing the public of the accomplishments and needs of the public schools and to secure the cooperation and support of the public in meeting those needs."

The National Education Association and the American Legion were alarmed that 25% of returning World War 1 veterans were illiterate, and since 2/3 of our WW1 soldiers were conscripts, and 20% were immigrants, we know large numbers and groups of soldiers were not affluent. Even in the 1920s, then, attention turned to those in our country who needed help catching up to where others started. Even in an era of privilege and Individual Libertarianism, people recognized the justice in giving everyone a chance at real success and freedom.

It is essential that we sustain the promise of public education as the great equalizer, a vital instrument for moving past circumstance and toward that real success. Our system is more than a mechanism for producing laborers for the powerful and influential. It must be, if we actually believe in equality, not privilege and inheritance. To attain that lofty design of a more perfect Union—so our children rise above subjection to others' goals—our schools indeed require the support of the public in meeting education's needs.

The Colorado Springs Education Association is proud to represent the rights and aspirations of all the teachers of District 11, who work tirelessly to make an optimistic future a living reality for our students. I thank you, Board of Education and Dr. Thomas, for your courage in recognizing that true and actionable equality is a product of equity.

Announcements

Top 40- Retirement Incentive Program Deadline

If you are considering retirement at the end of 2021-2022 and want to apply for the Retirement Incentive Program (RIP), the deadline to submit [non-binding letters](#) for Teachers and ESP is 5:00 p.m. on *Tuesday, November 30, 2021*. The updated Seniority List is available under the member section of our [website](#). Scroll down to the 'Critical Dates and Seniority' section.

Learn Your Rights Speaker Series- Using LYRIC to Empower You and Your Students

CEA and Learn Your Rights in the Community (LYRIC) have partnered and leveraged their vast networks in order to bring the most qualified legal minds to CEA members so that you can learn from the experts who tackle these issues every day.

Today! Thursday, November 11, 2021 - 4:00 PM MT

Speakers: Ian Farrell, Associate Professor of Law, University of Denver and Ezra Aldern, Dance in the Rain Consulting

[Register here >>](#)

Educating Children of Color Summit

*"We are the ones we have been waiting for. We are the change that we seek." ~
President Barack Obama*

The 2022 Educating Children of Color Summit will be held on January 15, 2022, via Zoom. This year's summit theme is inspired by the words of President Barack Obama. Registration for the event is now open. For more information, visit their [website](#).

Teacher Voice: An Ignite Talk by Kimberly Ausman

"I know that you must act. You can't expect everyone else to do the job, so you have to step up and make it happen. You've got to find a way to get involved," said special education & English teacher Kimberly Ausman in her CEA Ambassador Fellowship Ignite Talk this past summer.

A member of the Aurora Education Association, Kimberly spoke about getting involved in her union and community to help address the issues she sees, especially when it comes to recruiting and retaining more educators of color. Watch Kimberly's presentation [here](#).

This past June, the CEA Ambassador Fellows hosted an evening of Ignite Talks, a series of speedy presentations where each of our fellows talks about their fellowship project and how they're fighting for the schools our students and educators deserve.

Stay tuned in the coming weeks as we share more of these Ignite Talks!

Quote of Note

"For more than 10 years [Rockefeller] has been a director of CF&I Co, vested with what is virtually the power of life and death over 12,000 men and their families."

~John Lawson, UMWA organizer during 1913-14 Ludlow strike

Last week our quotation from Rockefeller demonstrated the ability of even the harshest management to profess the need to treat employees well. Since Rockefeller also employed a private militia to fire machine guns indiscreetly into the family camps of striking mine workers, though, we need to stay alert to pretty words that have no substance!

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