

# CCEA Record

NOV + DEC / 2018

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## FUND OUR SCHOOLS,

# NOW!

**+ 2019: WILL BE  
A LEGISLATIVE SESSION FOR EDUCATORS**

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VOLUME 1 / ISSUE 4

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## IMPORTANT DATES

<b>12/2/18 - 12/10/18</b>
Hanukkah
<b>12/5/18</b>
CCSD Board of Trustees Work Session
<b>12/13/18</b>
CCSD Board of Trustees Regular Meeting
<b>12/21/18</b>
Second Grading Period [ENDS]
First Semester [ENDS]
Winter Break [BEGINS]
<b>12/25/18</b>
Christmas Day
<b>12/26/18</b>
Kwanzaa [BEGINS]
<b>1/1/19</b>
New Years Day
Kwanzaa [ENDS]
<b>1/7/19</b>
Second Semester [BEGINS]
CCSD Board of Trustees Oath of Office
<b>1/10/19</b>
CCSD Board of Trustees Regular Meeting
<b>1/21/19</b>
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day [OBSERVED — NO SCHOOL]
<b>1/24/19</b>
CCSD Board of Trustees Regular Meeting

FROM THE

# PRESIDENT'S DESK

## REFLECTIONS ON THE ELECTION

Sunday, December 2, 2018  
Clark County Education Association  
4230 McLeod, Las Vegas, NV 89121



Dear Colleagues,

**We did it! We elected Steve Sisolak as our next governor!**

I know you have heard about this from me since January when CCEA first endorsed Sisolak as our candidate in the primary election, which he won handily. Then it was on to the general election that really started to heat up after Labor Day. We knew this was going to be a much tougher race. We prepared and focused on every possible avenue we could to support our candidate. Throughout this process educators stepped up on all fronts to make this win happen. Folks like Patricia Abeyta (counselor at Centennial HS), and Erica Jackson (4th grade educator at Cortez ES) gave time by voicing their choice through commercials supporting Sisolak. Adam Berger knocked doors for him. We had leaders like Cassandra Bell and Wanda Keith attend events to show support. Building leaders contacted the educators in their schools to talk about Sisolak and his goals to fund education and pass “dedicated funding” for educator salaries. The Executive Board spent hours texting educators, families, friends and community members urging them to vote for our champion for public education. Many of us volunteered to “poll watch” for 12 hours on election day to make that last minute push for voters to support Sisolak. On election night we watched with our candidate as returns came in. Finally in the wee hours of the morning, our hard work was rewarded, SISOLAK WON! We won!

**So now what? Why did we spend the last nine months working so hard to get our candidate elected?**

We did it to make sure that we have a seat at the table when it comes to advancing public education for educators and the students we educate. We have seventy days to prepare for the 2019 Legislative Session which begins on February 4th. We must continue to put ourselves front and center in the eyes of the governor and legislators who made campaign promises about education. They promised more funding for public education. They promised to insure that there is dedicated funding for our salaries and benefits. They promised to right size class size. They promised to support new to the profession educators. They promised...! Now we must hold them accountable for those promises. The first step you can take to help with that is to sign our petition and then share it with family, friends, colleagues and community members. Then read our newsletter to learn more about the work we want to accomplish in the upcoming Legislative Session. This session will take place over 120 days, a little over four months. You’ve already proved your tenacity and strength in winning the election. Let’s keep our focus and keep our winning streak going!

Yours Truly,

  
**Vikki Courtney, CCEA President**

# FUND OUR SCHOOLS, NOW!

—Linda Jones, Political Field Coordinator



Over the past year, we have seen educators across the nation stand up and fight back for the dignity and respect that they deserve and have earned. They've done so on the picket line as well as at the ballot box, and their communities have stood with them in solidarity. They sparked a movement and won concrete gains.

Now, in Nevada, we have the opportunity to create a #RedForEd movement unlike any the country has ever seen. But we have to do it together. Together, we can make sure the right things happen in Carson City in the months ahead. Together we can secure the funding, salaries, and benefits we need and deserve.

**As Educators and Parents we call on our lawmakers to do the right thing in the 2019 Legislative Session. We believe:**

- **Funding must be increased based on the specific needs of students**
- **Funding must follow the student into the buildings for programs that support student learning**
- **Educators and staff need to be paid fair and just salaries**

**By signing the petition you are joining thousands of educators and parents demanding that legislators fund our schools, NOW!**

**SIGN THE PETITION** —————>

## **LEGISLATIVE ACTION TEAMS: BE A LEADER IN THE MOVEMENT**

**Are you politically inclined? Do you want to get more involved in the legislative process? Do you have a network or can you create a network within your school that could get politically involved? Then this is the role for you!**

Join a CCEA Legislative Action Team (LAT) for the 2019 Session and help lead our efforts to get additional funding and more! You'll attend monthly meetings throughout the Session, lobby in Carson City and at the Grant Sawyer Building in Las Vegas, and get your colleagues engaged in the legislative process!

**JOIN AN LAT** —————>





# 2019: A LEGISLATIVE SESSION FOR EDUCATORS

— John Vellardita, Executive Director

**Not quite a year ago, CCEA endorsed Steve Sisolak for Governor. We were one of his early supporters. We based that decision on three factors:**

He made education & teachers his number one priority; was the only candidate that could beat Laxalt, the Republican Candidate; and he was the only candidate with a track record for building consensus and get things accomplished, and would do the same as Governor. The Educator vote made a difference, and it was a historic victory!

Now we must make the 2019 Nevada Legislative Session a similarly historic one. We can accomplish this by doing the following: work with Governor-elect Sisolak to move his education agenda and work with Speaker Frierson and Majority Leader Atkinson to pass pro education bills.

## CCEA'S LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

**Securing additional funding is our top priority. We will focus on three key areas:**

- 1. STATE FUNDING:** More funding for the Clark County School District that goes to our schools by moving towards a weighted funding formula with more State funding. This will include the work done with SB 178 converting the funding allocation to be based on real costs with additional funding to the student per pupil funding base that takes into account English Language Learners (ELL), Free and Reduced Lunch (FRL), Gifted and Talented (GATE), Special Education (SPED), at-risk students, and Class Size Reduction (CSR).
- 2. LOCAL REVENUE:** Pass legislation that allows local governments to ask their communities to support local revenue options to fund our schools, because we know that the State Funding will not be enough. We believe there is a strategic solution in allowing Counties to find additional revenue sources to fund their school districts.
- 3. DEDICATED FUNDING:** Secure Dedicated Funding for educators' salary and benefits. Educators need to know that there is funding to provide for their salaries and benefits, as well as incentives to teach in at risk buildings that cannot be used by the District to pay for other things. Governor-elect Sisolak has promised to make this happen. Speaker Frierson has said he is committed to making this happen as well. And our contract with the District ensures that CCSD and CCEA will work together to gain additional funding for educators' salary and benefits, of which 70% goes directly to CCEA.

continued —→



In addition to Funding, the following are some of our other key legislative priorities:

- **EDUCATOR EVALUATION SYSTEM.** Change the teacher evaluation system to make it fairer to educators in today's challenging classroom and to provide support for educators to improve their practice. It should not simply serve as a disciplinary tool based on student test scores.
- **CLASS SIZE REDUCTION.** Provide additional funding as a weight for CCSD to reduce the size of our class rooms. This is a solution that will require funding from the State and Local revenue sources.
- **SCHOOL SAFETY.** Pass legislation to provides safer classrooms, schools, and campuses.
- **WRAP AROUND SERVICES.** Support educators, especially probationary classroom teachers, with professional development, mentoring, coaching etc.
- **SCHOOL CLIMATE ISSUES.** Pass effective legislation that enforces collaborative school climate.
- **OTHER LICENSED PROFESSIONALS.** Address the needs of social workers, school psychologists, librarians, speech pathologists, audiologists, counselors, occupational and physical therapists, and assistive technologists.
- **SCHOOL BOARD GOVERNANCE.** Pass legislation that ensures more effective School Board leadership.
- **COLLECTIVE BARGAINING.** Pass legislation that restores the evergreen provision that mandates school districts to pay negotiated step and column payments.
- **CHARTER SCHOOLS.** Pass legislation that has more accountability, regulations, and compliance enforcement for charter schools — as public schools have. Ensure that charter schools cannot open up in neighborhoods of newly built CCSD schools.

continued —→

## **WINNING IN 2019**

**We are going to build a movement coalition of parent, educators, students, and the community to FUND OUR SCHOOLS NOW! Already, over 10,000 educators, parents, supports staff, students, administrators, and community members have signed the petition to FUND OUR SCHOOLS NOW! When the Legislative Session opens up we hope to have over 50,000 signatures, but more importantly, a movement will have begun to make sure that Legislators and the Governor pass legislation to FUND OUR SCHOOLS NOW!**

CCEA will help lead this effort joining forces with members of the community. For the first time, we will be working with CCSD to secure more funding. And like the successful efforts launched in several 'red for ed' states last year, Nevada will see its own version of a grassroots movement to win for students, educators, and the community.

This means everyone must get involved. CCEA has set up a special Advocacy and Defense fund to help provide resources for this fight. We know it takes resources to win and we're not holding back for this Session. With so much at stake, we can't afford to. The Association Representative Council recently voted to implement a dues increase of \$5 per pay period. This money will be set aside and put into this fund. Join the fight now. If you have not signed the petition, please do so! Encourage your colleagues in your building to do the same.

**SIGN THE PETITION** —————>

**And if you know of an educator who is not a member of CCEA, encourage them to consider joining CCEA today. After all, it is CCEA — and CCEA only — that will win for educators on their pay, benefits, and working conditions.**

**JOIN CCEA TODAY** —————>

# OUR FIGHT FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION

— Jessie Padua, Assistant Editor

*“It was with that first class that I became aware that a teacher was subservient to a higher authority. I became increasingly aware of this subservience to an ever growing number of authorities with each succeeding year, until there is danger today of becoming aware of little else.”*

— Marian Dogherty, Teacher, Boston, 1899

At the turn of the 20th century, industrialization took the United States, and the world, by storm. Urbanization, families migrating to cities in hopes of factory jobs, and immigrants in search of opportunity arriving at the nation’s shores, all bursted at the seams. Everyday life was increasingly becoming more regulated and controlled, while workers toiled for hours for little pay in dangerous, intolerable working conditions. It seemed as if communities themselves began to imitate the workings of a factory, or an assembly line.

The schoolhouse was not spared from the changes of society. Modern American public schools began to morph into the shape it is in now, developing many of the problems we still find, and suffer from, today. These problems include a lack of resources for classroom activities, overcrowded classrooms (students filling schoolhouses to the brim), dismal pay, and teachers feeling like they had no freedom of movement in the curriculum they would teach their students. Students had to learn within dilapidated building structures, many of them, because of the many new immigrants, did not speak English, and couldn’t communicate with their teacher or peers.



North Carolina — A segregated early American schoolhouse  
Early 1900s  
(North Carolina State Archives)

continued —→



But our problems today and the problems faced a century ago aren't completely the same. In the beginning of the 1900s, teachers were regularly the target of city and county corruption, as people in authority would give out jobs in the form of political patronage. The members of the Boards of Education that would control these schools were out of touch, and were not prepared or knowledgeable enough of the circumstances to serve the interests of students and teachers. There was also mass discrimination when it came to women, even more so African American teachers. The starvation wages they were paid were justified by their gender and race, which was an incentive to hire them over white male educators.

It was all of these developments in such a short period of time that led public school educators to organize and demonstrate en masse. The beginning of the educators' labor movement did not start with a single individual or hero. The beginning of the movement started with a groundswell of public school teachers throughout the nation that would strike, picket, demand that they receive decent pay and decent working conditions.

Teachers as a whole felt like they were being taken advantage of, and felt as though they were expected to do extraordinary work with very little support from local governments. It is what eventually convinced them to form unions, although unions were traditionally associated with more hard-labor jobs. The agonizing conditions of their employment are what convinced them that teachers needed to band together in order to gain leverage when it came to negotiating better working situations. The organization of unions took place in urban cities, but grew over the years to represent teachers nationwide.



Florida — **Teacher Walkout**  
1968  
(State Archives of Florida)

continued —→

Throughout the 20th century, the United States witnessed thousands of teacher-led demonstrations and strikes, big and small. These protests had to do with a lack of funding from school districts, increasingly low wages for educators and support staff, lack of healthcare, pensions, too much administrative oversight, and all else that prevented teachers from performing their jobs at the best of their ability. Every small luxury American teachers have today had to be fought for by past generations of educators, sometimes with their union, sometimes without.

**By applying pressure into the political system, calling out state and local politicians, having their presence be felt in their communities, teachers collectively attained the much needed advancement in their profession.**

This rich history of organizing throughout the 20th century have prepared the teachers of the 21st century to continue the fight for all those small “luxuries.” It prepared us to fight for those luxuries until eventually they become rights, and we don’t have to fight for them anymore. And it is a good thing that we have had a whole century of learning how to stand up and get what we deserve, because to this day, teachers are demanding a better deal. We see that in West Virginia, Arizona, Oklahoma, and Nevada. Although characterized by popular media as neutral and poised, teachers are experienced fighters.

The point of our history is to learn from it. Since the beginning, teachers always had to deal with enormous barriers in the classroom, whether it be funding or oversight, and it would affect their personal lives and the success of their students. But every time, teachers not only continued their work despite hazards and adversity, but they demanded for more, for better, for them, and their students. That is our history, and it continues.

Los Angeles, CA — **Los Angeles teachers protesting large class sizes, budget cuts, and privatization**  
2018  
(David McNew/ Getty Images)



# SCHOOL ORGANIZATION TEAM TRAINING

## STRATEGIC BUDGETS & PLANNING

School funding is a blend of federal, state, and local dollars, and each group of funds targets a specific population or category. The CCSD utilizes a strategic budget plan, which enable fiscal allocations to meet student needs while simultaneously supporting CCSD strategies and policies. CCEA welcomes CCSD's Jason Goudie and Dr. Jeff Halsell for a deep dive into the strategic budgets and the role our SOT members play in the development and support of these plans.

If you are serving on your school's SOT, you are about to make very important decisions based on funding in the 2019 Legislative Session. Come learn about the decision making process moving forward. Last year, budgets were set, but had to be modified twice. This year, we can avoid that with proper preparation, and this training will set you and your team up for success. You'll know better than anyone what kind of funding your school needs, which is exactly why you need to know and understand how the process works. Don't miss out!

**WED., 12/5**

5:00—7:00pm

**Cashman  
Middle School**  
4622 W Desert Inn Rd  
Las Vegas, NV 89102

**TUES., 12/11**

5:00—7:00pm

**Lewis E. Rowe  
Elementary School**  
4338 S Bruce St  
Las Vegas, NV 89119



[CLICK TO RSVP →](#)

\* Translation Services Available



# EDUCATORS DO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

— Keenan Korth, Editor

In the months and weeks leading up to the election, through Early Voting and Election Day, CCEA ran strategic voter contact, persuasion, and “Get Out The Vote” (GOTV) campaigns, targeting educators and their networks. It worked! Our candidate won, and educators had a big impact. You can see so in the numbers.

During this election cycle, we targeted Clark County educators, as well as members of their households and their neighbors that were registered to vote. Our target population of 111,805 total voters included Democrats, Republicans, and those registered with no party preference.

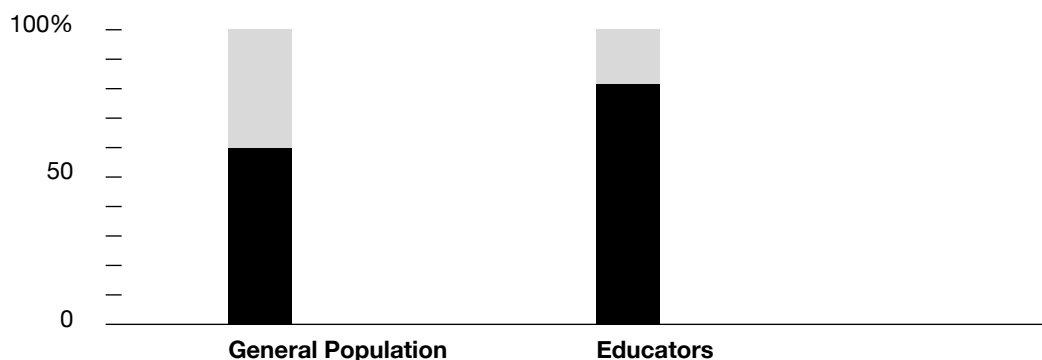
- **Educators: 14,401**
- **Households: 13,127**
- **Neighbors: 84,277**

## SURROUND SOUND GOTV

Our outreach and voter contact efforts included traditional methods like canvassing and phone banking, but we also incorporated newer methods like peer-to-peer texting, and targeted digital advertising.

This “surround sound” method, paired with an excellent data operation, led to efficient and effective voter engagement rates, and, ultimately, voting rates, especially among our targeted educator population. This election saw historically high voter turnout across the board, but those numbers climbed even higher among educators. 59.7% of the eligible voters turned out among the general population. Among educators in our targeted universe, that rate was 81.2%!

### 2018 General Election Voter Turnout: Percent of Eligible Voters







# DonorsChoose.org

— Ron Lopez, A&R Coordinator



**As a CCEA Partner, Horace Mann has set aside funds that CCEA can designate toward DonorsChoose.org projects submitted by members.**

As you can see from the list below, projects range from books to equipment, and are submitted by members at every level. If you are a CCEA member and you have a Donors Choose project, then send the link to the project to Ron Lopez at [rlopez@ccea-nv.org](mailto:rlopez@ccea-nv.org) so it can be considered for funding. If you want to find out how to start a project, then go to [DonorsChoose.org](http://DonorsChoose.org) for step by step instructions. Please keep in mind that the funds that are available to CCEA are limited.

**The following were the most recent projects that were designated for funding in partnership with Horace Mann:**

- \$403 — **BRIGHTEN OUR WORLD!** — Jaquelyn Gibson, D. Cox ES
- \$243 — **WE LOVE STEM** — Jennifer Barrickman, Tanaka ES
- \$191 — **TOOLS FOR LITTLE MATHEMATICIANS** — Rissell Whitt, Herr ES
- \$197 — **IGNITE OUR SENSES!** — Kimberly Ernst, D. Cox ES
- \$336 — **WINNING, ENDER'S GAME!** — Michael Langager, Canyon Springs HS
- \$545 — **PRE-K ROCKSTARS** — Dianne Acero, Moore ES
- \$221 — **WIGGLE WHILE WE WORK** — Kelli Akes, McCaw ES
- \$423 — **HEADING TOWARDS SUCCESS WITH HEADPHONES** — Nicole Calubaquib, Petersen ES
- \$187 — **DIVERSE, DIFFERENT, DELIGHTFUL!** — Lisa Jenez, Diaz ES
- \$169 — **HEADPHONES HELP!** — Jillian Vokral, JD Smith MS
- \$190 — **WORK, BREAK, LEARN, REPEAT!** — Emma Diestro, Schorr ES
- \$180 — **SEQUEIRA'S SECOND GRADE TOY STORY TAKEOVER!** — Amy Sequeira, Iverson ES
- \$935 — **MICROPHONE CHECK 1,2,1,2** — Michelle Joyce, Dearing ES
- \$428 — **BOOK SETS TO INCREASE INTEREST IN READING** — Joyce McDonald, Bennett ES
- \$579 — **LET IT GLOW** — Jana Essary, Morrow ES
- \$392 — **INSTILLING A LOVE FOR READING!** — Sheila Taggart, C. Cox ES
- \$111 — **AS OUR FEET ARE MOVING, SO ARE OUR BRAINS!** — Suzanne Padgett, Mojave HS
- \$182 — **ALPHABET PUZZLES FOR KINDER KIDDOS** — Kristyn Poleski, Barber ES

**SUBMIT A PROJECT** →

# CCEA HERO OF THE MONTH

# PAIGE MYERS

## SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST

— Jessie Padua, Assistant Editor

**School Psychologist, and CCEA December Hero of the Month, Paige Myers is not afraid of challenges. She has spent most of her life elsewhere in the country, living in Texas and West Virginia in different times in her life, but the almost-decade she's called Clark County home has been spent making concrete positive change for OLP representation within the teachers' union and the District! We asked Paige how she got her start in Clark County, the work she does now for her school and the union, and what she sees as the serious barriers that effect OLPs, and their consequences on schools and students:**

*How long have you been a member of CCEA? Why is being a CCEA member important to you? What benefits of membership do you value the most now?*

I've been a member since the year the PGS was developed and SBCT came out. It felt as though the unique needs of Other Licensed Professionals (OLPs) were not considered in these two major changes. I was challenged by Linda Jones to become a member so OLP voices could be heard and supported by the union. The more I've learned about the union, the more I've realized how it serves all educators. However, it is unrealistic to expect CCEA employees to do their best work without active involvement from the vast aware of educators. I also realized the importance of politics on educators' daily lives, so I am incredibly grateful for the CCEA's political advocacy to improve education in southern Nevada.

*Why do you think it's important for educators to have/join their union?*

The union is what helps organize and support the continued improvement of our working conditions (e.g., contract, legislation), professional development, and social justice initiatives. A union is an important component of working in our field; however, a union without active members cannot be successful. I see CCEA working hard to support educators, but we have to join and become involved! There is power in numbers.

*You are on the CCEA Executive Board. What made you want to take on a leadership role in the organization? How has your experience been?*

As CCEA has worked to make adjustments to ensure OLPs have representation and a voice, I've realized that many OLPs are skeptical of the union and feel it hasn't done enough for our roles. Also, in the past, OLPs have not been a part of some drastic changes that impact our daily practices (e.g., SBCT) and we have had to ask for solutions and problem solve after these changes were adopted. I think the only way to improve that skepticism and to be proactive is to be an active voice for OLPs.

continued —→



Las Vegas, NV — Paige Myers (center), Jordan Wenger, and Jessica Shearin participate in a CCEA demonstration to support our educators November, 4 2018



*Tell us a little bit about the OLP Committee? Why do you think it's important for your fellow OLPs to be active in the association?*

The OLP Committee was started a few years ago to bring more OLP voices to the table. It allows for a space of open conversation amongst OLPs to discuss our concerns and needs. With the support of CCEA, the goal is to better organize ourselves around our self-identified needs. For example, at last month's OLP committee meeting, we discussed how school counselors are being cut from elementary schools. With the mental health needs of our school increasing, this ultimately has a negative impact on our students. I think part of the reason these problems exist is that OLPs are not sitting at the table and discussing our job duties with district and state political leaders. Therefore, they have no reason to think about how many students each of those professionals are expected to support. By becoming more active in the union, I feel as though I am doing my part to make sure our needs are discussed more often and I hope more of my colleagues will join in on the efforts and take a seat at the table with me.

**OLPs deserve as a strong of a voice as possible to make aware the unique problems that they deal with, and so far, Paige has been that voice. We're glad to have her in Clark County, as a member of CCEA, and a member of the community that makes such a big difference in the educator profession and the lives of our students. Thank you, and congratulations, Paige!**





Las Vegas, NV — **Rep. Dina Titus and Governor-elect Steve Sisolak attend the CCEA National Board screening of "Backpack Full of Cash"**

November, 4 2018

## CCEA Film Screening: **Backpack Full of Cash**

— Elizabeth Campbell, Director of CCEA National Board

**CCEA National Board believes that National Board Certified Teachers (NBCTs) should be powerful advocates for their students and the education profession.**

For this reason, on November 3, CCEA National Board partnered with CCEA Social Justice Caucus to offer a screening of the prize-winning documentary, "Backpack Full of Cash", narrated by Matt Damon. CCEA educators attending "Backpack" learned about the privatization of America's public schools, which will help them advocate for our district during the 2019 legislative session.

**Thank you to Governor-elect Steve Sisolak and Rep. Dina Titus, who came to show their support and spoke with CCEA educators about how privatization affects students and schools!**





– Theo Small, CCEA Vice President

**JOIN US AND OTHER OUTSTANDING EDUCATORS AT THE 5TH ANNUAL SOUTHERN NEVADA EDUCATOR LEADERSHIP SYMPOSIUM**

**As an exemplary educator or parent in Southern Nevada, we would like to invite you to join us at the Southern Nevada Educator Leadership Symposium (SNELS).**

**Saturday, January 26, 2019**

**8:00am – 5:00pm**

**Spring Valley High School  
3750 S Buffalo Drive  
Las Vegas, NV 89147**

**The mission and purpose of SNELS is to increase leadership opportunities for educators in their schools, focusing in the Southern Nevada area, and the greater community by supporting those seeking leadership roles and opportunities.**

This includes advancing the profession, taking responsibility for student learning, and collaborating with families, colleagues, other school professionals, and community members to ensure learner growth. This year's theme, "Elevating Education," focuses on the spectrum of education leadership opportunities available to educators, support staff and parents.

**Participants may earn 2 CUs for attending the entire conference and completing a brief reflection. Breakfast and lunch will be served at the conference. Childcare will also be available.**

**CLICK TO REGISTER →**



PRESENTS

# THE HEART OF EDUCATION AWARDS FOR CLARK COUNTY TEACHERS

AT THE SMITH CENTER

## 1. NOMINATE AN EDUCATOR

Do you know a local CCSD educator who stands above the rest? An educator who goes above and beyond to put students first? Beginning October 1, nominate an outstanding educator for the Heart of Education Awards. **Nominations will be accepted through January 18.**

## 2. EDUCATORS SUBMIT APPLICATIONS

Once a nomination has been submitted, each nominated educator will receive an email notification to complete a separate online application. Educators will be asked to write a 500-word-or-less essay describing how they have gone above and beyond to support their students. Educators may log into the system, save a draft of their application and return at a later date to complete and submit.

## 3. FINALISTS ANNOUNCED

After the application process has closed, a panel of judges — including community leaders, education experts and event sponsors — will narrow down the field to the finalists. These finalists will be notified and invited to the Heart of Education Awards celebration event, to be held at The Smith Center for the Performing Arts.

## 4. THE HEART OF EDUCATION AWARDS EVENT

On Friday, April 26, all of the finalists and their guests will enjoy a red-carpet arrival, an evening of dazzling performances and a sponsor-filled swag bag at the event. The evening will also include the announcement of the top 20 award winners, each of whom will receive a cash gift of \$5,000 and a trophy. Each winner's school will also receive a \$1,000 donation benefiting a program of the winner's choice.

**This is an excellent opportunity for you and your colleagues to get recognition for all the amazing work you do for our students and our community. CCEA strongly encourages all of our members to participate and nominate someone you know who goes above and beyond!**

[MAKE A NOMINATION →](#)

# 2019 TEACHER OF THE YEAR

# RICHARD KNOEPPPEL

## ARCHITECTURE / A-TECH

— Keenan Korth, Editor



Las Vegas, NV — 2019 Nevada Teacher of the Year, Richard Knoeppel poses with Governor Brian Sandoval 2018

**Our 2019 Nevada Teacher of the Year, CCEA member Richard Knoeppel, fills a relatively unique role within the District, especially among classroom educators. Richard teaches architecture and runs the program at the Advanced Technologies Academy, operating a gateway into a career field many CCSD students don't gain access to until their post-secondary studies.**

Originally from New York, Richard began his own undergraduate career at the State University of New York (SUNY) Oneonta, studying mechanical engineering before transferring to the Oswego campus to pursue their industrial technology program. During his junior year at SUNY Oswego, he made a slight pivot in his studies, taking some education classes, which ultimately led him into the education profession instead of becoming a practicing architect or engineer.

After graduating, Richard began his career as an educator as a drafting instructor in Long Island, quickly developing the first fully networked Macintosh laboratory in New York State. Being an educator was rewarding for him, but it also presented some challenges. He taught for a total of seven years in New York and was surplussed every year. Around this time, Richard met his wife, Danielle — also now an accomplished educator and member of CCEA's Negotiations Committee. They met on a blind date, were married six weeks later, and soon moved to Las Vegas to start their new life together.

continued —→

## TECHNOLOGY & CAREER READINESS

Richard began his career in CCSD at Del Robinson HS in 1994. He's always appreciated the opportunities there are as an educator in Clark County, and the architecture program he has built along with his many accomplishments are a demonstration of the hard work and passion he's put into his career here. After learning that their first son was on the way, he took a job at the Advanced Technologies Academy, a new school where he had the opportunity to build his program from scratch. In addition to his day job, Richard has been a long time CAD (computer assisted drafting) and BIM (building information modeling) instructor at CSN, where he's developed curricula and studio work around technologies and then integrated them into his program at A-Tech as well.

By building such a robust program rooted in technology, skill-building, and oriented towards professional practice, Richard is preparing his students to succeed early in a field that can be incredibly competitive and demanding. He proudly boasts that his former students have gone on to attend some of the best architecture programs in the country and that upwards of 70% of his students enter the field professionally. Richard also helps many of his students get internships while still in high school, further boosting their skills and experience compared to many of their future peers in college.

## BROADENING OPPORTUNITY FOR EDUCATORS AND STUDENTS ALIKE

Providing opportunities for his students isn't the only focus of Richard's work as an educator. He is also active in trying to better the profession for educators themselves. One thing, in particular, that he would like to change is the notion that as an educator your first job is your ceiling. "Teacher leadership" is a phrase that Richard says gets thrown around, but lacks meaning, if it doesn't provide opportunities for real advancement. Richard would like to see more opportunities and pathways for educators to become master educators, master practitioners, to develop curriculum, and mentor fellow educators — all with the promise of adequate compensation. This, he believes, will not only attract more talented young people to the field, but will naturally lead to higher retention rates and keep educators in the classroom rather than moving onto the administrative roles that currently provide one of the few pathways for career advancement.

**Richard looks forward to continuing to advance the education profession and taking advantage of the opportunities that come with being the 2019 Nevada Teacher of the Year. Congratulations, once again, Richard! We are fortunate to have you and your leadership in our community.**



(above)  
**Richard's students' submissions for the 2018 Chicago Architecture Foundation DiscoverDesign National High School Completion 2018**



(left)  
Las Vegas, NV —  
**Richard Knoeppel and his family pose with Governor Sandoval, State Superintendent Canavero, and CCSD Superintendent Jara 2018**





# PECC

Parents & Educators of Clark County



— Jeff Hinton, Chair of Parents & Educators of Clark County

**Parents and Educators of Clark County (PECC) was founded with the goal of bringing stakeholders together in the public education space to hold our elected officials accountable for increased education funding.**

We realized that a logical point of entry to achieve this is through our school SOTs and we have been making an effort to build relationships with SOT members to grow our influence. There is a tremendous amount of will on part of our families in Las Vegas to improve education and we wanted to create a grassroots campaign to give voice to those who consistently feel betrayed by our policy makers who say one thing on the campaign trail and then do another once they are elected.

There are a variety of approaches that PECC would like to take to hold our elected officials accountable to include letter writing campaigns, rallies, and phone calls. The one thing politicians listen to is voters in their districts, if we can leverage this, then we have a real chance of achieving legislative priorities that will significantly improve education funding. The results of the midterm election bode well for education reform in Nevada, but it must not be seen as a forgone conclusion, we still need to put pressure on law makers so that they do the right thing and fund education properly.

**GET INVOLVED WITH PECC** —>



Las Vegas, NV — PECC organizers with Senator Mo Denis and Senator-elect Keith Pickard at an education town hall 2018



## An Education Community Panel Discussion

# Overcoming Obstacles: A Path Toward Success

— Brenda Pearson, Director of PLP & The Nevada Collaboratory

This series of panel discussions serves to build connections between our schools and the broader Las Vegas community to better support the needs of our students and families.

### PANEL 1: COMMUNITY EXPERTISE

- Mark Marumoto, Juvenile Justice Services
- Cesar Lemus, Executive Director of The Harbor-Juvenile Assessment Center
- Christie Gardner, UNLV, Doctoral Candidate

### PANEL 2: LIVED EXPERTISE

- Tiffany Valencia, Educator
- Sapphire Taylor, Student
- Drew Gish, CCSD Graduate

### WITHOUT A SAFE AND SECURE SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT, STUDENTS STRUGGLE... STUDENTS FAIL

#### Are we missing the opportunity to guide our students down a path of success?

A safe and secure school environment is so vital that, without it, students are dramatically more susceptible to bullying, violence, substance abuse, and dropping out of school. During this panel discussion, hear from community members who intervene with these struggling students. Additionally, hear the stories of students, educators, and administrators to better understand how a missed opportunity can change the course of a student's life. Learn about available resources and how we can work together as a community to create a safe and secure school environment for the children of today and tomorrow.

[CLICK TO RSVP →](#)

# You're Invited.

CCEA cordially invites you to join BMS Financial, to learn how PERS, Social Security & Health Trust come together to impact your retirement future.

Tuesday  
12/04/18  
4:30pm

Teachers Health Trust  
2950 E. Rochelle Ave  
Las Vegas, NV 89121

Using a straightforward teaching style & lots of real-life examples, we will keep you entertained & educated! You will learn:

01. Where you start
02. What comes out of your retirement check
03. How PERS affect your Social Security
04. How health care changes when you retire
05. Should you retire, keep working, or both!!!

**Our group specializes in retirement planning for educators & over the past 25 years has helped thousands of families make the right retirement decisions.**

Representative is registered with and offers only securities and advisory services through PlanMember Securities Corporation, a registered broker/dealer, investment advisor and member FINRA/SIPC. 6187 Carpinteria Ave, Carpinteria, CA. 93013, (800) 874-6910. BMS Financial and PlanMember Securities Corporation are independently owned and operated. PlanMember is not responsible or liable for ancillary products or services offered by BMS Financial or this representative.

**CLICK TO RSVP →**

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## CCEA Record

is the Clark County Education Association's newly re-launched monthly newsletter featuring:

- **regular political, strategic, & organizational updates;**
- **highlights of the work of CCEA & members across the District;**
- **CCEA initiatives, promotions & contests;**
- **& everything else we think you need to know about the Association & the education profession.**

**THANK YOU FOR READING.**

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**Vikki Courtney**, CCEA President

**Linda Jones**, Political Field Coordinator

**John Vellardita**, Executive Director

**Ron Lopez**, A&R Coordinator

**Brenda Pearson**, Director of PLP & the NV Collaboratory

**Theo Small**, CCEA Vice President

**Jeff Hinton**, Chair of Parents & Educators of Clark County

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