



An NEA Affiliate

Student Educator

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Outreach to Teach 2006 in Loyal, WI

Gina Pagel, State Secretary/Treasurer and Outreach Coordinator, Edgewood

On April 22nd-23rd, 180 Student WEA members worked together to ensure great schools in Loyal, WI at our 8th annual Outreach to Teach event.

Volunteers helped enhance the quality of this school's environment; they built shelving, replaced ceiling tiles, hung whiteboards, hooks, and blinds, organized classroom materials, and went through 75 gallons of paint for murals, signs, hallways, gyms, classrooms and playground games. The



Outreach to Teach Coordinator, Gina Pagel and UW-Oshkosh President, Ricky Johnson

"[Volunteers] built shelving, hung whiteboards, hooks, and blinds, organized classroom materials, and painted murals, signs, hallways, gyms, classrooms and the playground."



projects required collaboration and problem solving, both of which seemed to come naturally to the volunteers. This year's K-12 school site meant that all of the volunteers were under one roof- unless they were outside; you could feel the energy throughout the school! It allowed participants to see the diversity of projects, and volunteers were able to easily help others when they had

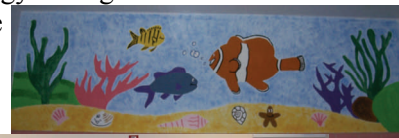
completed their own jobs.

Great schools depend on qualified teachers and staff, adequate funding, and the involvement and support of parents



and the community. This was our chance, as future teachers, to dedicate a week-end of our time as evidence of our commitment to public education.

As well, the commitment of the teachers and staff in Loyal demonstrated their devotion to students.



We are the student program of the Wisconsin Education Association Council

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Message from Student WEA President Froom



**STATE PRESIDENT
AMANDA FROOM**

Volunteers including Student WEA members, K-12 teachers, Education Support Professionals, Retired Professionals, and community members gathered at the Loyal School District in hopes of generating an awareness of the negative impact of revenue controls, recognizing the political nature of public education funding, and networking with people throughout the state. Personally, as a fifth year Outreach to Teach participant, I am motivated to be involved in volunteer activities because I see the impact that it has on the recipient, those who volunteer, and the organization.

Participation in volunteer opportunities is an important part of our democracy. According to the *TheNonProfitTimes*, participatory democracy is, “based on the value that it is a good thing for citizens to participate in running their communities and in making sure that things happen the way they want.” Volunteering generates a sense of ownership and makes people feel connected to others. This is perhaps the essence of why I volunteer at Outreach to Teach. Volunteering empowers us to create a difference in the lives not only of students and staff members at Loyal, but also the community members. It is this profound act of volunteerism that empowers me personally and politically. I have noticed my personal growth and need to contribute to society is reflected in my experiences volunteering, and I believe that people who volunteer have a vision for the future.

Far reaching positive public relations for education has been established as a result of our efforts in Loyal. Congratulations and thank you to all of those volunteers who participated! It is my hope that each of you continue to serve others in volunteer projects that you encounter. Best of luck to each and everyone one of you, as you aspire to reach your future goals.

~Amanda Froom

Outreach to Teach 2006 in Loyal, WI

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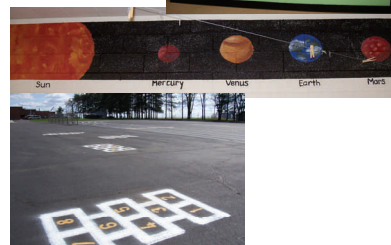


Yet, as future educators, we also understand that loyalty must come from our state legislators’ and residents’ willingness to fund our public schools. Although Loyal has been able to maintain their buildings and programs, they too are looking at a budget deficit of \$200,000. The squeeze felt by revenue controls throughout Wisconsin’s



public schools is a concern to those of us studying to become quality educators. Our hope is that through the Outreach program we can be involved in our communities, as well as bring the message to our members and the residents of Central Wisconsin of the negative impact of revenue controls to our great schools.

Thank you to everyone who has been involved with making this year’s Outreach such a success! The project entailed a lot of hard work, but everyone did an excellent job and had fun as well! We look forward to seeing you next year at Outreach to Teach 2007! Check out the article about Outreach at www.weac.org and stay tuned next October for the announcement of the 2007 site.



Student WEA's Accomplishments Around the State

Compiled by Kristin Benedict, President, UW-Eau Claire

UW-Oshkosh: *exceeded their membership goal *worked with their College of Education to renew their NCATE accreditations *assisted their university in creating a College of Education Alumni Association *hosted an after school program for sixth grade students *added a President-Elect position to their executive team

UW-Eau Claire *enlarged their executive team by adding a PR coordinator and a President-Elect position *chosen on their campus as an Outstanding Student Organization *increased their membership from last year *recruited twenty members to attend Fall PDS *raised over \$1000 for Relay for Life *record number of students at their middle school lock-in *a few members met with First Lady, Jessica Doyle at Read Across America

UW-Stout *created a program at Knapp Elementary School for Read Across America *donated winter coats and school supplies to Knapp Elem. * hosted the West Region's Spring PDS *sponsored an awesome Hawaiian night for their members

UW-Stevens Point *100+ students attended their first meeting "Tye-dyeing for Student WEA" *executive team attended the NEA SP Connections Conference in Boston *hosted the UWSP Celebration of Teaching Banquet with guest, Stan Johnson (WEAC President) *officers received leadership awards through their University *eligible board members were recognized with the Whose Who Award *raised \$500 for books *participated for Read Across America *participated in a holiday basket program



UW-Oshkosh's Read Across America celebration!

Aurora, *new affiliate *sent delegates to the Student WEA Representative Assembly *participated in SEE (Space Exploration Experience) -a program that allows visually impaired students to explore the cosmos

Marian College *sponsored successful book fair *raised \$452 for a school impacted by Hurricane Katrina.

UW-Green Bay *hosted a very successful CLASS Grant entitled, "Stories of Our Future" at Jefferson Elementary School *increased membership *created Camp-Read-A-Lot, a literacy program

UW-Madison *created a large display on campus for American Education Week *increased membership *expanded on a pen pal program.

Garthage *dedicated and involved members and executive team *had members attended the WEAC Teacher's Convention *president attended the Midwest Leadership Conference in Indianapolis *reached their membership goal of 100

UW-La Crosse *increased their membership *increased attendance at Spring PDS and

Outreach *raised money for Hurricane Katrina victims *started an "Adopt-A-School" project in La Crosse

Wisconsin Lutheran *exceeded their membership goal *wrote a CLASS Grant *held their annual "Arctic Escape" for local middle school-ers *sponsored Read Across America programs at six schools *donated books to a local school for summer programs

UW-Whitewater *became largest organization affiliated with the College of Education at Whitewater *raised money for Hurricane Katrina and Autism Awareness *awarded two CLASS Grants

Viterbo *completed another very successful Safe-Trick-or-Treat Program *held QEI workshop for student teacher members

Alverno *awarded a \$1,000 CLASS grant to purchase almost 300 books (English and Spanish) for a bilingual MPS school *raised additional \$750 to fulfill the financial needs of this project

Edgewood *60 people participated at their Read Across America Celebration * had good representation at both Spring and Fall PDS *has nurtured a great relationship with the Edgewood faculty and staff

Beloit College *affiliated with Student WEA in April



UW-Stout's members at Hawaiian night!



UW-Eau Claire's grant project-the lock-in!

2006 State Awards

Brian Baker, State Vice President, UW-Eau Claire

Each year chapters have the opportunity to apply for various awards to recognize the hard work they put throughout the year. Although there is only one first place, simply by applying for each and every award, one honors and recognizes the value and hard work of the leaders and members in each chapter organization. With that in mind, I would like to take a moment to congratulate all of our chapters for all of the great things that are continuously being done to strengthen the organization, members, and public schools.



Student WEA state award winners!

The members of this year’s judging committee include: Ron Martin (Teacher at South Middle School in Eau Claire), Jo Burke (ECAE UniServ President), Nicole Zimmerlee (Past StWEA State Officer/first year educator), and Pete Roller (ECAE UniServ, retired). On April 21, 2006 the following awards were presented:

Outstanding Newsletter –

Wisconsin Lutheran College

Outstanding Chapter Website –

UW-Eau Claire

Outstanding CLASS Grant Project –

UW-Oshkosh

Outstanding Chapter Advisor –

Maggie Beeber, UW-Stevens Point

Highest Numerical Membership Increase –

UW-Eau Claire

Highest Percentage Membership Increase –

UW-Baraboo and UW-Parkside

Outstanding Teacher Educator –

Dr. Patty Caro, UW-Stevens Point

Outstanding Cooperating Teacher –

Jim Turner; sixth grade teacher, Altoona Middle School

Local Chapter Excellence (<100 members) –

UW-Oshkosh

Local Chapter Excellence (>100 members) –

UW-Whitewater

Outstanding Local Leader –

Kristin Benedict, UW-Eau Claire; Elizabeth Stangl of UW-Stevens Point

Gold Club Status (Chapters reaching 100% or greater of the previous year’s membership totals) –

Alverno, Cardinal Stritch, Carroll College, Carthage College, MATC, Mt. Mary College, St. Norbert, UW Baraboo, UW Eau Claire, UW Green Bay, UW La Crosse, UW Madison, UW Oshkosh, UW Parkside, UW Stout, UW Waukesha, UW Whitewater, Wisconsin Lutheran College

Congratulations to all!!

Representative Assembly’s Profound Keynote

Jenna Pickett, Elections and Credentials Committee Chair, Treasurer, UW-Eau Claire

The Student WEA awards dinner is a time for our local chapters to shine. It is also the last opportunity of the St. WEA year to listen to a great keynote speaker. Lisa Johnson not only teaches English in a middle school in Chippewa Falls, but she also teaches English at an alternative high school in Eau Claire. She does this on top of extra curricular activities and working on her masters degree at University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire.



Lisa Johnson, 7th grade English teacher, Chippewa Falls

Like many of our members, Lisa shares a passion for teaching and a belief that she can make a difference in the life of a student. The difference between Lisa and many of us is that she is legally blind. After having a cornea transplant at the age of 21, she can now see large objects. She has wanted to be a teacher ever since she was in fourth grade even though she was discouraged from doing so. Lisa did not let her disability interfere with her dream to become a teacher. One of her most important messages to her students is that they can do and be anything they want. She does not want any of her students to be discouraged from pursuing their dreams.

Lisa is a teacher that is not afraid to do what it takes to increase her students’ confidence. She once dressed up as Kelly Clarkson’s older, pregnant sister and sang to an auditorium full of students.

In her classroom Lisa strives to be profound and encourages her students to be as well. With that she teaches her students that no one knows everything, even her. Lisa is an inspiration for all because she is an excellent example of a profound teacher.

Meet the New State Officers



Kristen Kovalask

The 2006-2007 Student WEA year is almost here! My name is Kristen Kovalaske, and I am proud to serve as the Student WEA State President for the upcoming year. I am currently a junior at Carthage College, majoring in elementary education and minoring in math. This is my second year in Student WEA, and I have previously served as the President-Elect at Carthage and the State President-Elect.

I'm from Waupun, WI, and I'm definitely a small-town girl! I get the opportunity to attend the Summer Leadership Conference in Orlando, FL this summer, and it will be my first plane ride ever! I love Harry Potter, swings, and anything to do with country music! I am looking forward to working with all the local chapters from across the state next year and helping to make everyone's year in Student WEA the best that it can be. If you need anything, please don't hesitate to contact me. I can't wait to see what we can all accomplish together!

My name is Zoua Xiong. I am a junior at UW-Milwaukee. This is my 2nd year as a Student WEA member. My major is Early Childhood. I am the President-Elect for the 2006-2007 school year. I love to play volleyball (competitively) and I like doing outdoor activities. I also like to cook. A lot of people who don't know me personally think that I'm a quiet and shy person. I'm actually very outgoing and spontaneous and I talk A LOT! I've also been married to my husband, Steve, for 6 years and we have a little three year old boy, Tristen.



Zoua Xiong

I had originally decided to run for the VP position, but as time went on, I've realized that this organization is something I feel very strong and passionate about. I figured that if I was going to put in the time and energy to hold a state position, I wanted to eventually be the President so I decided to run for President-Elect. I am looking forward to Fall PDS because it was a great experience planning Spring PDS. I'm also excited about Outreach even though it is a long time from now. Dana is such a fun person to work with and knowing that she is the coordinator, I'm even more excited about it. The biggest thing that I'm looking forward to is just working with the new state board and the new local chapter presidents. I'm so excited!



Kristin Benedict

Hi, my name is Kristin Benedict and at the Student WEA Representative Assembly I was voted in as the new state Vice President. I am a senior at UW-Eau Claire where I am studying elementary education and special education (both learning and cognitive disabilities). This is also my fourth year in Student WEA. I decided to run for a state position because Student WEA has become a big part in my life over the last four years. I held both the treasurer and president position at my local chapter and I felt like a state position was my next step in learning about Student WEA and benefiting an organization that has given me so much.

When I have free time (not very often) I enjoy playing and listening to music, reading for fun and hanging out with my friends. I also enjoy being active and being outside so I have decided to work as a camp counselor in North Carolina this summer. In the upcoming year I am looking forward to learning even more about Student WEA as well as working with the state executive team, the board of directors and Nancy to spread the word about Student WEA as a great organization around the state.

I'm Dana Schwabenlander! I am currently a junior attending UW-Madison. I am an early childhood/middle childhood education major with an English minor. I enjoy spending time with my family and friends, kayaking, reading, watching movies, going to the Madison Farmer's Market in the fall and spring, and attending Badger football games!!!



Dana Schwabenlander

This is my second year in Student WEA, and as I begin my third, I will be serving as the State Secretary/Treasurer and Outreach to Teach Coordinator! Being in Student WEA has become a very large part of my college experience. I enjoy the experience I gain in a student leadership position and the professional development that comes along with it. This year, I served as the first Outreach Committee Chair and loved the project. I wanted to take the next step to ensure a successful Outreach to Teach! I am looking forward to getting to know the State Executive Team and Board of Directors and developing friendships. I am also looking forward to planning another FANTASTIC Outreach event!



Krystal Schneider

My name is Krystal Schneider and I am a freshman at Carthage College. I am studying Elementary Education with a second major in Special Education. I love working with children, whether that be at the preschool I work at or through endless babysitting jobs. Scrap booking, hiking, reading, and staying in shape are all things that I do to pass the time away.

Even though I have only been in Student WEA for just under a year, I can't wait to start my position of State Public Relations Coordinator. I found the PR position to be a great opportunity to get more involved and knowledgeable about Student WEA. I know that I am the young one on the board, but I'm ready to work together as a team and get great things accomplished.

South Region's Spring Professional Development Seminar

Zoua Xiong, UW-Milwaukee



Keynote, Kevin Neubert, 4th grade teacher, Wauwatosa School District

This year, our Spring PDS was held at the beautiful Carthage College campus. We doubled last year's registration with 140 participants. It was quite an experience for those who participated in the planning of the PDS.

We had seven different sessions. The sessions we had were "Creative Ways" which was about learning how to use creative ideas that are fun and educational by incorporating children's literature, art, music, and food into lesson plans, "Cooperative Teaching" where we learned how to collaborate ideas and work as a team with other professionals, and "Family Involvement" where we learned about the role families play in the education of children and how to develop strong family involvement in classrooms and schools. We also had "First Day of School" where we got tips and ideas on procedures and routines that can be used throughout the school year, "Teaching Abroad," discussed teaching overseas, and "Interviews" included a panel of administrators who spoke about what they look for in future employees. Lastly, "Mentoring Relationships" which was about the PI-34 Mentoring process.

Our Keynote Speaker was Kevin Neubert of Wauwatosa, WI. Kevin is a 4th grade teacher who has his own website where parents can visit to see what their child is doing in his class. He shared quite a few of his many stories of his first few years of teaching. His hilarious stories cemented our beliefs and attitudes about becoming a teacher.

Be sure to watch for next year's Spring PDS planning and get involved!!

West Region's Spring Professional Development Seminar

Brian Baker, State Vice President, UW-Eau Claire

West Region's Spring Professional Development Seminar, held on March 4th at the



Keynote, Maddie Fennell, Teacher, Omaha, Nebraska School District

UW-Stout campus, was a great success! Maddie Fennell, a renowned national speaker and teacher in Omaha, Nebraska, flew in to address participants on the importance of relationships inside and outside of the classroom as well as the difficulties/rewards that come with teaching in an urban school. She is truly an inspiration to us all!

In addition to hearing from Maddie, participants chose two additional sessions to attend. Topics for sessions ranged from PI-34/QEI to classroom management strategies and new teacher information, providing students close to graduation some tools for their first years of teaching.

Thanks to the west region presidents for planning another great event!!



Presenter, Rose Battalio, Professor, UW-Eau Claire

Somebody Should Have Told Me...

Reflections of a Student Teacher

Stephanie Berger, Student WEA member

As I finish my semester-long student teaching placement, I think of how this has changed me. Looking back, there are many things I was never told. So, I'm choosing to share those with you.

Somebody should have told me...I'd age 10 years in 4 months. My college life has ended, and I'm an adult! I'm in bed at 9:30 pm and up at 5:30 am. I'm cautious of what I wear in public (no more jogging pants or beer sweatshirts.) I am responsible for the actions of my students. My entire vocabulary has changed to that of a professional.

Somebody should have told me...I would have no social life. This, from the girl who gave Wisconsin a reputation at the Midwest TECA regional as the party animal. Yes, my life has gone from going out 2-4 nights a week to MAYBE once a month. Running into parents of my students is a little uncomfortable, so even that's a stretch.

Somebody should have told me...keeping a straight face is VITAL in many situations. Having an 8th-grade student turn into a dinosaur, the "cat" under his desk giving himself a "bath," and the occasional loud release of gas from freshmen are all tough situations in which not to laugh. Sometimes laughing encourages the disruptive behavior, and only makes the situation worse.

Somebody should have told me...to wear jeans on Friday. All through college, we were told to not wear jeans to school. But I feel I'm a much better teacher when I wear jeans, mostly because I'm comfortable. Just as long as I no longer shop at the same stores as my students (yes, I had to give up *Maurices* and *Vanity*) and it's not violating the school's dress code.

Somebody should have told me...I would turn into my mother. One of my favorite classroom rules for projects is that the students are not allowed to do "anything that would embarrass my mom." They don't know that there's not much that would embarrass her, but it keeps the projects clean!

Somebody should have told me...Kindergarten rules are vital, even for high school students. Seriously, if I had a dime..."Keep your hands and feet to yourself." "Don't make me sing the clean-up song!" "If you can't say anything nice, don't say anything at all." Maybe this would be a good list to post in my class...

Somebody should have told me..."Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes" is a great way to wake up! Just mentioning it is usually enough to get the kids to pay attention in class. In fact, I think we've only actually done it once. And singing the clean-up song is the icing on the cake.

Somebody should have told me...This would be the best experience of my life! With all the mistakes I've made, the headaches, lost sleep, discussions with parents and nasty school lunches, this semester has reaffirmed my destiny as a teacher. I wouldn't trade my kids for anything, not even the dinosaur or the cat!

Mark Your Calendar!

May 2006

- ◆ 1st Early Enrollment for First Time Members
- ◆ 5th Wisconsin Education Association Council Representative Assembly, Green Bay
- ◆ 7th-13th Teacher Appreciation Week
- ◆ 9th National Teacher Day

June 2006

- ◆ 30th-July 5th National Education Association Representative Assembly, Orlando

July 2006

- ◆ 1st- Re-enroll for the 2006-07 Student WEA Membership
- ◆ 30th-August 2nd Summer Academy, Appleton

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State Committees— Now Accepting Applications

You can make StWEA an even better organization by getting involved at the state level. Applications for StWEA Standing Committees are now being accepted. Below is a list of the committees and a brief description of what they do. Applications are available at www.student-wea.org, or by contacting Kristin Benedict at benedick@uwec.edu.

During the 2006-07 year, the committees meet in Madison (lodging, meals and mileage provided) on the following dates:

November 4, February 2, and March 30

Governmental Policy— review the governance needs of Student WEA, recommend changes in operating policies at the StWEA Representative Assembly.

Educational Issues and Professional Development— keep current on educational issues and professional development opportunities, recommend activities to StWEA Board of Directors.

Elections and Credentials—prepare voting procedures, certify voting credentials and election procedures during the StWEA Representative Assembly.

Public Relations— review internal/external StWEA public relations activities and promotional materials.

Resolutions— review and recommend resolutions for consideration by the StWEA Board of Directors and Representative Assembly.

Career Transitions—complete projects such as mini resume handbooks and district quick fact books to aide in the transition between StWEA membership and becoming a teacher.

Outreach— assist the Outreach Coordinator in the planning of Outreach to Teach, an annual statewide community service project.

Join a State Committee— It's a great way to get involved!

Graduating Senior?

Let Student WEA Help You Get a Job:

Are you graduating in May? You should have received an email detailing how to post your mini-resume on our website. These “snapshots” of you provide a description of your education, interests and teaching experience to potential employers. Hundreds of employers have access to these brief bios, and can contact you for further information or to schedule interviews. To have your mini-resume posted on the StWEA website, visit www.student-wea.org, click on Senior Transitions, or email Kelly Perna at pernak@weac.org for more information.

Tell Us What You're Doing Next:

What are you doing after graduation? Once you sign a teaching contract, whether in Wisconsin or out of state, send us information about where you're teaching and your email and mailing address. This information will help us to keep track of Student WEA members and remind you to apply for your NEA dues rebate. When we receive your information, we'll send you an NEA dues rebate form and a thank you gift! Send name, school information, email and mailing address to Nancy Clark (clarkn@weac.org) or:

WEAC attn: Nancy Clark
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Madison, WI 53708



An NEA Affiliate

Every kid deserves a Great School!

Student Wisconsin
Education Association

Questions or comments on the Educator?
Email Molly Baker: bakermb@uwec.edu.

WE'RE ON THE WEB:
WWW.STUDENT-WEA.ORG