

CWUC Connection

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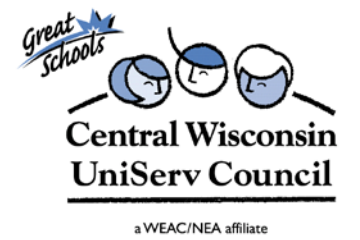
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CWUC Connection

CWUC is committed to organizing for strong locals, protecting members' rights, and advocating for strong public schools

Volume 38, No. 3 – November 2009



NEA's 88th Annual American Education Week: November 15-21

Everyone needs to do his or her part in making public schools great. NEA's "American Education Week" spotlights the importance of that job and the goal of providing every child in America, from kindergarten through college, with a quality public education. Each day highlights a different aspect of school life during the week of November 15-21.

- Monday, November 16: **Open House Day** Take time to open the doors of your school to the community. Think of ways to say "thank you" to community members, local businesses or local organizations for their continued support of public schools.
- Tuesday, November 17: **Parents' Day** Invite parents into the classroom for a hands-on experience of what the day is like for students. Don't forget to showcase the accomplishments of students and staff members.
- Wednesday, November 18: **Education Support Professionals' Day** Recognize the invaluable service that is provided to your districts every day by this outstanding group of individuals.
- Thursday, November 19: **Educator for a Day** Invite community leaders or elected officials to serve as educators to get a glimpse of what it's like to walk a mile in the shoes of a school employee for a day.
- Friday, November 20: **Substitute Educators' Day** Honor the educators who are called upon to replace regularly employed teachers.



The NEA website offers an online toolkit to provide creative ideas, artwork, sample letters to parents and press, background materials, and much more. Take time in your locals to celebrate and highlight the great things that are happening in CWUC's public schools.

ESP members...Celebrate American Education Week in a special way at the CWUC office on Wednesday, November 18

- 5:00 Registration and Light Meal – Featuring homemade soups, breads & bars, plus coffee & soda**
- 6:00 Program: Internal Organizing and Member Engagement – ALL FOR ONE and ONE FOR ALL**
- 8:00 Wrap Up: Questions and Door Prizes**

There is **no cost** to CWUC members. **Reservations are required.** Call the CWUC office at 715-693-1740 or 800-472-0010 no later than November 13, 2009 to sign up. Register early – space is limited. All CWUC Education Support Professionals are encouraged to attend. This activity is sponsored by the CWUC ESP Committee... Active Educational Support Professionals providing opportunities for you.



CWUC CALENDAR

Wed., Nov. 11	Negotiations Cluster IV – Central Wis. Conf. – Grand Seasons, Waupaca – 6:30 pm
Th.-Fri., Nov. 12-13	Professional Staff Mtg. – Concourse, Madison
Sat., Nov. 14	PDP Goal Approval/Verification Session – 9:00 am at CWUC office, Mosinee (by appointment only)
Wed., Nov. 18	Negotiations Cluster III – Wis. Valley/Great Northern Conf. – CWUC office, Mosinee – 6:30 pm
AND	ESP Program: Internal Organizing and Member Engagement – ALL FOR ONE AND ONE FOR ALL CWUC office, Mosinee – 5:00 pm
Thurs., Nov. 19	CWUC Executive Comm. Mtg. – CWUC office, Mosinee – 6:30 pm
Th.-Fri., Nov. 26-27	Thanksgiving – CWUC office closed
Wed., Dec. 2	Negotiations Cluster I – Cloverbelt Conf. – Owen-Withee H.S. Library – 6:30 pm
AND	Negotiations Cluster II – Marawood Conf. – Stratford H.S., Room 42 – 6:00 pm
Tues., Dec. 8	PDP Goal Approval/Verification Session at CWUC office, Mosinee (by appointment only) – 5:30 pm
Wed., Dec. 9	Negotiations Cluster IV – Central Wis. Conf. – Grand Seasons, Waupaca – 6:30 pm
Thurs., Dec. 10	TENTATIVE – CWUC Tech College Committee Mtg.
Wed., Dec. 16	Negotiations Cluster III – Wis. Valley/Great Northern Conf. – CWUC office, Mosinee – 6:30 pm
Thurs., Dec. 17	CWUC Executive Comm. Mtg. – CWUC office, Mosinee – 6:30 pm
Thurs., Fri., Mon. & Thurs., Dec. 24, 25, 28 & 31	Winter Holiday – CWUC office closed
Fri., Jan. 1	Winter Holiday – CWUC office closed

How to get a free Credit Report

You can get a free credit report from each of the three major credit bureaus (Equifax, TransUnion and Experian) which are required by law to provide consumers, upon request, a free copy of their credit report once every 12 months. The reports are not sent automatically. You must request the report through one of three ways:

- Go to <https://www.annualcreditreport.com/cra/index.jsp>, which is the only authorized source for consumers to access their annual credit report online for free;
- Call (877)322-8228;
- Complete the form on the back of the Annual Credit Report Request brochure and mail it to: Annual Credit Report Service, P.O. Box 105281, Atlanta, GA 30348-5281. The brochure is available from the Federal Trade Commission at <http://www.ftc.gov/freereports>.

Bell testifies in favor of Race to the Top Bill

WEAC President Mary Bell testified Wednesday, October 28, in favor of a bill crafted to make Wisconsin eligible for federal Race to the Top grant dollars.

"Our union of educators believes the changes embodied in the proposal before you today reflect the best practices in developing and implementing comprehensive and effective teacher evaluation systems while ensuring Wisconsin's eligibility for Race to the Top dollars," Bell told the Senate Education Committee.

She pointed out that under the bill, a school board could use the student results on the Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Exam (WKCE) for teacher evaluations provided the board has developed a teacher evaluation plan that includes a description of the evaluation process, multiple criteria in addition to exam results, the rationale for using exam results to evaluate teachers, and an explanation of how the board intends to use the evaluations to improve pupil academic achievement.

"In addition," Bell testified, "this legislation ensures that teachers are at the table in discussions surrounding the use of student data on these standardized tests by making the teacher evaluation plan a mandatory subject of collective bargaining. Children and communities benefit whenever teachers and school boards work collaboratively with a focus on the goal of improving student learning."

She noted the proposal "acknowledges that just as a single test does not represent the sum total of a student's abilities, a teacher's effectiveness in the classroom cannot be judged solely on their students' standardized test scores."

"There are a multitude of factors that make a teacher successful, and I think we all can agree that the result of one test given on one day in a school year isn't a true measure," she said.

On Thursday, October 29, the Senate Education Committee voted 6-1 to approve Senate Bill 372 making a technical change to ensure Wisconsin is eligible for federal Race to the Top grant dollars. Senator Luther Olsen (R-Ripon) was the lone dissenter. The bipartisan vote followed rejection of amendments supported by Senate Republican committee members to strip the bill of the collective bargaining component and to allow student standardized test scores to be used as one factor in teacher discipline, suspension or nonrenewal of contract.

Stay informed and connected with a blog for and about ESP members

The WEAC Education Support Professional (ESP) blog is a place where everyone can stay informed and stay connected. WEAC ESP members can use this space to write about who they are and what they are thinking, and to find out more about what is new in the ESP world.

This blog is housed on the www.weac.org ESP landing page. Here you can also find resources such as the WEAC ESP Handbook, learn more about the WEAC ESP Certificate and professional development, and stay connected with other ESP local activities. For more information or to sign up for this service contact WEAC ESP Coordinator, Kim Wiemer Noyce, at wiemernoycek@weac.org

Win a 2GB Jump Drive!

Here's how... On December 1, WEAC will randomly select ten WEAC members who are Facebook fans and ten WEAC members who are Twitter followers to win 2GB jump drives. If you aren't already a fan or follower, become one now to qualify. Also visit the new [weac.org](http://www.weac.org) for news, professional development resources, member services, and expanding multimedia and social networking opportunities.

Become a fan of WEAC Facebook page on www.weac.org/facebook and a follower of the WEAC Twitter page at www.twitter.com/WEAC



CWUC Retired hold fall meeting at Treehaven by Randy Sus

Departing from their established pattern of holding their all-member meetings at the CWUC Office building, the retired board of directors decided to try something different—they made arrangements to move their meeting place to the UWSP 1,400 acre natural resources facility in Tomahawk.

The day was perfect for adventuring outdoors, so, in addition to taking a walking tour of the facility and learning of its growth and value to natural resources students, those in attendance enjoyed presentations on retirement money management by Jim DiUlio, and acupuncture by Debra Miller Thums. A talk on wolves was featured

by members of the staff. Billy Feitlinger offered an update on current legislation pertinent to retirees, and Dustin Bielke, the liaison to WEAC-Retired, introduced himself to the crowd.

The spring full-membership meeting is scheduled to be held back at the CWUC building on April 22, featuring topics on wills and elder law, Tiny Tiger Intergenerational Center at Marshfield, choosing a long-term care facility, and canine search and rescue—understanding that these topics are subject to change, depending on availability of presenters.



Technical College Enrollment Growth

Given their focus on retraining, most knew that Wisconsin's 16 technical colleges would shoulder the brunt of student demand associated with the economic downturn. But enrollment growth has been even stronger than anticipated. Preliminary projections from September 2009 show a 15% statewide increase in fall 2009 technical college enrollments. Mid-State Technical College and Northcentral Technical College project 17% and 23% enrollment increases respectively.

This enrollment growth is driven, in part, by dislocated workers returning to the classroom. After all, the number of dislocated workers in Wisconsin has increased by 31% over 2008 levels and is now three times higher than 2007. But there are other factors at play. For example, the Wisconsin GI Bill and the federal Post 9/11 GI Bill have led to more veterans enrolled in technical colleges. Plus, traditional-age college students seeking more affordable education options are turning to the technical colleges in growing numbers. For many students, the technical colleges' proximity to home and relatively inexpensive tuition mean they're more affordable than four-year colleges.

Enrollment growth has undoubtedly led to longer program waiting lists and more cramped classrooms. And strong enrollment growth has led to unprecedented demand for student financial aid. Approximately 15,000 technical college students are on the waiting list for Wisconsin Higher Education Grants – the state's primary need-based financial aid program.

Technical college instructors and support staff are dealing with a difficult situation – one exacerbated by a general lack of financial resources. We want to thank you for doing what you do. Your work is absolutely critical to the lives of your students and the state's prosperity.

AMERICAN GRADUATION INITIATIVE

On September 18th, the House of Representatives passed the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act (SAFRA) by a vote of 253-171. The bill makes sweeping changes to the nation's college lending system by converting to direct government lending.

The saving generated from the conversion will be used, in part, to fund President Barack Obama's community college program – the American Graduation Initiative (AGI). The House version of the AGI invests about \$10 billion in 2-year colleges over a 10-year period through grants and funding to the states.

As of this writing, the Senate has yet to act on SAFRA and the AGI, but is expected to do so soon.

Subscribe to WEAC's Educators' Bulletin Board by e-mail

Get the latest postings on upcoming events, professional development opportunities and classroom resources sent directly to your inbox once a day by subscribing to the www.weac.org Educators' Bulletin Board.

To subscribe, go to the [Educators' Bulletin Board](#) and click on the link on the left side of the page titled "Subscribe to the Educators' Bulletin Board by e-mail." Enter your e-mail address on the form, fill out the security code below, and click "complete subscription request." You will immediately receive a short e-mail with a link to verify your subscription. Click it and you will be signed up!

This is a terrific way to stay informed without doing a lot of searching on the Internet. Visit www.weac.org to register for this educational service.

"Milwaukee Opportunity Plan:" A collaborative alternative to mayoral takeover

Wisconsin and Milwaukee teachers have announced a collaborative plan built on teacher, parent and community input as the alternative to Governor Doyle's proposed mayoral takeover of Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS). The "Milwaukee Opportunity Plan" incorporates low-cost, systemic changes to MPS. Strategies are based on first-hand experiences of teachers and parents on what is needed in Milwaukee classrooms to benefit students, the city and the state.

To find out more about the systemic recommendations of the detailed Milwaukee Opportunity Plan, go to www.weac.org where you will find a link to press releases, pamphlets, specific goals of the plan, and more. All WEAC members should be aware of what proposals are being talked about since it could have an impact on schools throughout Wisconsin.

Right to Representation...

All CWUC represented employees are entitled to representation by the union in any meeting which, in the opinion of the administrator, could affect continued employment with the District or results in discipline of the employee. If in doubt about the purpose of the meeting, you should contact your building representative or the president of your local association.

If you ask for representation, any meeting as described herein cannot legally proceed. If you are challenged by an administrator, state the following:

"If this discussion could in any way lead to my being disciplined or terminated, or cause a negative effect on my working conditions, I request that an Association Representative be present at this meeting."

There can be no reprisal for anyone excusing himself/herself from such a meeting to contact your local building representative, president, or a UniServ director. If one proceeds voluntarily without representation, the information gathered can and will be used against you.