January 9, 2017

In this issue:
- CollaboRATE Deadline is Friday
- ProComp Negotiations
- Take Action—Protect Your Retirement Funds
- MLK Day Parade
- Classrooms Not Corporations
- DCTA Lobby Day
- School Visits
- Introducing Brock Grosso and Alizay Furtado
- Mindfulness Workshop Next Week
- Athletics Grant Opportunity
- Rep Council Update
- Regional Open Houses
- Holiday Party Pics

CollaboRATE Deadline—Friday, January 12

Did you know that the feedback you provide on CollaboRATE contributes to your leaders’ evaluations? You are able to give feedback on your administrators as well as on your Team Leads/Evaluators. To rate leaders who are not auto-populated into the principal role, click on “continue” after completing the school, DPS, and principal survey. This takes you to the next page where you can type in the name of your team lead/senior team lead, AP, dean, etcetera and provide feedback.

Hurry! The survey closes on Friday and if there are fewer than 50% of teachers providing feedback on a leader, the results are given less weight in your leaders’ evaluations. All feedback is confidential and handled by a third-party. Leaders with five or more responses will get a report that groups all employee feedback. DPS needs to hear accurate feedback on their administrators—good, bad or ugly—share the facts.

Skinner Teachers in Solidarity on December 18 for the ProComp bargaining session that evening.

The ProComp Agreement now expires in 65 days, on March 14!

The next ProComp Bargaining Session is will be on Tuesday, January 30 from 5 pm to 9 pm at the Acoma Campus (1617 S. Acoma St). March and February sessions are tentatively on the following dates: February 1, 7, 20, 22, 26 and March 14.
Take Action to protect your retirement!

In December, Walker Stapleton, Colorado’s State Treasurer, released his proposed changes to PERA to the press, and they would be disastrous for educators. His proposed changes include:

- No COLA for 20+ years
- 5% contribution increase for active employees
- No additional employers dollars into PERA
- Retirement age will be increased to match social security, 67 years old
- Increase the highest average salary from 3 years to 10 years.
- The 30 year expected rate of return should be lowered from 7.25% to 5%.

In the coming months, DCTA, along with CEA, and other coalition members, will be fighting to protect our retirement. Any changes to PERA have to be approved by the State Legislature during the upcoming spring session.

Attend the DCTA Lobby Day on Wednesday, February 7 so you can talk with your elected officials in person about how these changes would affect you!

Intent to Return

Responses are due by Friday, January 12 and are not binding. Unless you are positive you will not be returning for the 2018-2019 school year, you should respond that you intend to return.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Marade

Monday, January 15, 2018, 9:30 am at City Park

(march + parade = “marade”, coined by Mayor Wellington Webb’s wife, Wilma)

Join members of DCTA as we march in solidarity with our brothers & sisters of color and our community partners to celebrate the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Stand with fellow union members united in the spirit of hope, equality, and justice for working families everywhere. Learn more details and RSVP here.

Post-Marade - Join the Colorado Education Association for a student-led panel (Hinkley High School AAMES and SAAFE student leaders) with lunch provided at the CEA Office. CLICK HERE to RSVP by Thursday, January 11 so CEA can order enough food for all attendees.
Classrooms Not Corporations: National Week of Action February 4-10

The Alliance to Reclaim Our Schools is coordinating a national week of action in February to help policy makers and the public understand the importance of divesting from corporations and investing in our students, schools and communities. This week in February will also mark the one-year anniversary of Betsy DeVos’s confirmation, bringing her voucher schemes and school privatization agenda to Washington.

It’s time to take a stand to make sure that all students, regardless of where they live, get support, tools and time to learn.

Call to Action:

1. CEA is texting a survey this week to learn how much money Colorado educators are paying out of their own pockets for their students and classrooms. Complete this survey!

2. Participate in the DCTA Lobby Day on February 7. Click here to learn more and RSVP.

Did You Know? Over the past decade, our state and local governments have invested billions of dollars in corporate tax incentives. And during the same period, our policy makers have made decisions that resulted in a serious decline in school funding where the gap between Colorado’s per pupil average and the national average has grown from $500 to more than $2,000 per student.

One Colorado corporation alone received $1.9 million in tax subsidies in 2013. In 2015 that same company paid no income taxes despite making $283 million in profit that same year. These types of polices further erode our tax base, eliminating even more funding for our students and schools.

Learn more online about how corporations in your community are profiting off of taxpayers.

Lobby your Elected Officials

DCTA Lobby Day will be Wednesday, February 7. If you are passionate about educating Colorado legislators regarding students and teachers’ needs, join us as we talk with them in person. We will be lobbying to protect our retirement (PERA) and to demand Colorado invests more in our students! Click here to RSVP.

School Visits

Last Friday: We spent time at DCIS Baker.

This week: We will be visiting Castro, Hallett Elementary, and Lake Middle School.

***Contact your UD (Kate Martin, Alizay Furtado, or Brock Grosso) to schedule a meeting to discuss a new teacher compensation system in DPS. Changes are being bargained now, and it is imperative that you know where we are headed on YOUR COMPENSATION SYSTEM.***
Welcome to our two new Uniserv Directors—Alizay Furtado and Brock Grosso!

Brock Grosso comes to DCTA from Chicago, where he spent the past 3 years organizing with senior citizens and people with disabilities who lived in public housing. He was raised in a family of educators and is looking forward to fighting alongside teachers to ensure they are treated with respect and dignity! When not organizing, Brock can be found reading science fiction, making bread, and dreaming of one day dunking a basketball.

Alizay Furtado is a 12-year teacher who last worked at Emily Griffith High School. She was a DCTA building representative and Fellow Ambassador for the Colorado Education Association. She is passionate about education and looks forward to advocating for teachers in her new role. In her free time, Alizay likes to walk her dogs and go salsa dancing.

The Mindful Classroom

Taking a Mindful Approach to Teaching, Learning, and Life

Mindfulness Workshop on Thursday, January 18

Learn the value of Mindfulness not only as a powerful self-care practice, but as a tool to engage your environment in the present moment and to live authentically. This 90 minute workshop offers insights and methods to blend mindfulness skills with your personal practice and explores the ever-expanding benefit mindfulness will bring to you, your classrooms, and your teams. We will cover real tools for stress management, distress tolerance, and classroom management. Start the new year ready to take care of you so that you can be ready for the challenges and open to the joys ahead! The Kaiser Permanente workshop, sponsored by DCTA’s Rise Up Committee, is on Thursday, January 18 at 4:15 pm at Lincoln Elementary (710 S Pennsylvania St). Please RSVP so we order enough Chinese food!
$1000 to $3000 Athletics Grants for Middle/High School Team!

Team Up with California Casualty. Give your athletes a sporting change with a Thomas R. Brown Athletics Grant. Last year, one of our own DCTA teachers received this grant—let’s get more this year.

Apply here to receive $1000 to $3000 for your middle school or high school team!

The California Casualty Thomas R. Brown Athletics Grant was established to provide support to public school sports programs impacted by reduced budgets.

APPLICATION DEADLINE IS MONDAY, JANUARY 15! Applications received after January 15 will be considered for next year’s grant program. Click here to see complete grant eligibility requirements and conditions.

Rep Council has been rescheduled this month to Tuesday, January 23 (from January 16) at DCIS Baker from 4:30 pm—6 pm. Trainings will be on Budgeting and CSC, RiBs and Non-Renewals.

Regional Open Houses

Drop in to an open house near you to receive current information about your new contract, upcoming ProComp negotiations, etcetera from a Uniserv Director. Have your voice heard and join the conversation for what matters most for our students.

Hill Middle School Open House
Wednesday, January 10, 4—6 pm
451 Clermont St

Café Chihuahua Open House
Wednesday, January 24, 4—6 pm
2250 S Federal Blvd

GVR Beer Garden Open House
Wednesday, January 17, 4—6 pm
4995 Argonne St

’Bout Time Pub & Grub Open House
Wednesday, January 31, 4—6 pm
3392 W 38th Ave
Our Students.  Our Profession.  Our Careers.