



**EAST CENTRAL UNISERV UNIT**

**Action Needed For NCLB Reform**

Work on the reauthorization of No Child Left Behind (NCLB), along with all other provisions of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), has begun in Congress. NEA has identified the following modifications as its top legislative priorities for NCLB.

1. Inclusion of multiple measures in a revised Annual Yearly Progress (AYP) accountability system so that AYP is not based solely on standardized test scores.
2. Use of growth models to measure changes in student performance.
3. Shift AYP from a system that labels and penalizes schools to one that rewards success.
4. Provide additional common-sense flexibility for assessing and counting test scores from both students with disabilities and ELL students (English Language Learners).
5. Add a separately-funded class size reduction program with class size limits of 15 to improve student learning, with priority given to high poverty schools—which could be

phased in over time.

6. Increase flexibility for meeting the “highly qualified” teacher requirements, including teachers of multiple subjects, special education and rural educators.
7. Advance teacher quality at the highest poverty schools by providing funding to attract and retain quality teachers and improved teaching and learning conditions.

You can help make these desired NCLB changes become a reality by asking your members of Congress and presidential candidates the following questions.

1. Will you support amending ESEA/NCLB to ensure that the determination of whether a school is effective (making Adequate Yearly Progress) is based upon more than students’ performance on a single statewide test?
2. Will you support measuring student growth over time rather than just assessing students at a single point in time?
3. Will you support shifting AYP from a system that labels and

penalizes schools to one that rewards success?

4. Will you support more appropriate and valid assessment and accountability of students with disabilities and English Language Learners?

Iowa’s Members of Congress:

**Rep. David Loebsack** (Ed Comm.)

<http://loebsack.house.gov/>

Call Toll Free 866-914-IOWA

**Rep. Leonard Boswell**

<http://boswell.house.gov/>

Call Toll Free 888-432-1984

**Senator Tom Harkin**

<http://harkin.senate.gov/>

319-365-4504

**Senator Charles Grassley**

<http://grassley.senate.gov/>

319-363-6832



*Great Education.  
It’s An Iowa Basic.*

**ECUU Leaders**

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**Carolyn Stucker, Linn-Mar**

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**Jackie Wellborn, Linn-Mar**

*Build Better Teach/Learn Envir.*

**VACANT**

*Build Support for Public Educ.*

**Nancy Porter, Iowa City**

*Strengthening Local Associations*

**Susan Wilgenbusch, HLV**

**Two ECUU Educators Nominated**

Two ECUU educators have been nominated to receive The Excellence in Education Award. Jacob Cummer, Iowa City, and Beverly Stolfus, Clear Creek-Amana have received this prestigious nomination. The award is sponsored by ISEA, WHO Radio, Iowa Farm Bureau, and KDSM

Fox 17 and is bestowed upon a teacher who goes “above and beyond” and touches the lives in ways that he or she will probably never see. Nominees are invited to attend the gala awards ceremony banquet on October 29 in Des Moines. Congrats to both!



**Inside this issue:**

New Educator Website	2
ISEA ESP Conference	2
ISEA Podcasts	2
Midwest Regional Conf.	3
American Educ. Week	3
What is a UniServ Unit?	4
Upcoming Events	4



## New Website for Republican Educators

The Elephant Educators Forum website was recently launched at [www.elephanteducators.org](http://www.elephanteducators.org). The following is an excerpt from the website that explains the mission.

The Elephant Educators Forum is an on-line advocacy group dedicated to improving American public education through increased cooperation and understanding between Republican Party Organizations and

the Teacher's Unions. As MORE THAN ONE MILLION loyal registered Republicans who are also loyal active NEA & AFT professionals, we are all devoted to creating great public schools.

Elephant Educators genuinely respect political diversity and believe in honest debate; therefore we invite conservative, moderate and liberal NEA & AFT Republicans to find a common home here on our forum. We un-

derstand that our engaged involvement in the political process will assist in changing the dynamics surrounding public school improvement. Elephant Educators will help both the Republican Party and our Teacher Unions to find common ground around our shared values and vision, recognizing the vitally important role that both the Republican Party and the NEA & AFT play in achieving educational progress.

## ISEA ESP Conference Set for November 2-3



Toni Graham  
ISEA ESP Chair

ISEA will hold its annual ESP Conference on November 2-3 at the Adventureland Inn in Altoona.

The ISEA will pay the registration fee for two members from each ESP local association to attend the annual ESP Conference, Nov. 2-3 at the

Adventureland Inn in Altoona. There will be detailed hands-on help for locals preparing for a Living Wage campaign, tips on how to build respect for the valuable and professional services that ESPs provide, as well as plenty of food and fun. Make plans now to send at least two rep-

resentatives to this worthwhile event.

To register or get further information, please contact the ECUU office at 800-378-6305 or by emailing Connie at [cesser@isea.org](mailto:cesser@isea.org).

## ISEA Podcasts Available



The ISEA is once again blazing new trails with the re-launch of our *In Focus* podcast series on current educational issues. The program is the first of its kind among NEA state affiliates and was honored last year with the prestigious Bob Montfort Memorial Pio-

ner Award presented by the NEA Public Relations Council of the States.

A podcast is essentially a radio program that you can listen to on a Web site or download to an MP3 player and listen whenever you want to.

[Click here to listen to the latest episodes](http://www.iseapodcast.org/) or go to [www.iseapodcast.org/](http://www.iseapodcast.org/)

New podcasts will be posted roughly twice a month throughout the 2007-08 school year.

## A January Weekend in Minneapolis

The annual NEA Midwest Regional Leadership Conference is scheduled for January 18-20 in Minneapolis. The conference will take place at the Hilton in downtown Minneapolis.

**The ECUU Executive Board is again providing scholarships for local members to attend.** There are 10 scholarships available

for \$300 each. The \$300 should cover approximately conference registration and hotel costs. The ECUU board would like to encourage anyone who has not attended in the past to take advantage of this scholarship this year.

If you are interested in attending with an ECUU scholarship, **contact Connie at**

**[cesser@isea.org](mailto:cesser@isea.org) by Nov. 26.**

This year's conference theme is "One Message, Many Voices...Advocate for Great Public Schools in 2008: We Elect to Impact Our World." NEA President Reg Weaver, VP Dennis Van Roekel and Secretary/Treasurer Lily Esklesen will be speaking.



## American Education Week Nov. 11-17

NEA's 86th annual American Education Week (AEW) spotlights the importance of providing every child in America with a quality public education, and the need for everyone to do his or her part in making public schools great.

**Great Public Schools: A Basic Right and Our Responsibility** reflects the Association's calling upon

America to provide students with quality public schools so that they can grow, prosper, and achieve in the 21st century.

Each day of the week has a theme.

Nov. 12—Kickoff Day

Nov. 13—Invite Parents to School Day

Nov. 14—Education Support Professionals Day

Nov. 15—Educator for a Day

Nov. 16—Substitute Educators Day

For additional information and to view an online toolkit go to <http://www.nea.org/aew/index.html>.



## NEA & PTA Develop Parent Guides

The NEA and the National PTA (Parent Teacher Association) have jointly developed a series of parent guides that provide parents and caregivers with fundamental tools to encourage their children's success in school. The following is a complete list of guides available at <http://www.nea.org/parents/parent-guides.html>.

~ Preparing Your Child for School

~ Successful Kindergarten Transition

~ Helping Your Child Do Well in School

~ Helping Your Teen Get the Most Out of High School

~ Raising Ready Readers-and Keeping Them That Way

~ Helping Your Child Learn to Read

~ Helping Your Child with Today's Math

~ Raising Scientifically Literate Children

~ Hey Mom, I Want To Be An Engineer

~ Testing at Your Child's School

~ Choosing Supplemental Education Services



<http://ia.nea.org/uniserv/eastcentral/archive.html>

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## So What is a UniServ Unit?

"UniServ" is short for "Unified Service." And that's what the UniServ program is all about. While ISEA and NEA headquarters staff provide a wide range of specialized programs and services for members, our UniServ program is designed to bring those programs and services directly to the local level. ISEA currently has 24 highly trained UniServ directors who work out of ten regional offices across the state. They are on-call to help with individual contract problems, negotiations, membership development, political action, or training activities. If you have a job-related question or feel that your rights may have been violated, help is only a phone call or e-mail away.

The East Central UniServ Unit, ECUU, is one of ISEA's Units. ECUU includes 31 local school district associations and Grant Wood AEA in an eleven county area in the Cedar Rapids/ Iowa City area. Its boundaries are approximately the same as those of GWAEA or about 4700 square miles. ECUU has over 2500 members from these 32 locals. ECUU shares the Cedar Rapids Regional Office with the Cedar Wood UniServ Unit (CWUU). Together ECUU and CWUU form Team Eastwood.

## Many Important Events Are Upcoming

**Bargaining Trainings 1 & 2** are both scheduled for **Thursday November 8** from 5-8:30pm at College Community HS's Success Center.

All local bargaining team members are encouraged to attend. The training will include sessions for beginning bargainers as well as experienced folks. Important issues such as bargaining Teacher Quality changes will be discussed. A sandwich supper will be served.

If you are planning on attending, please RSVP to Connie at [cesser@isea.org](mailto:cesser@isea.org).

**The Annual Legislative Dinner** is scheduled for **Thursday November 16** beginning at 6pm. This year's banquet will take place at A Touch of Class located at 5977 Mount Vernon Rd SE in Cedar Rapids.

ISEA's 2008 Legislative Program will be discussed and local legislators will be in attendance for comments and questions.

The cost is \$10 for members and \$20 for guests. RSVP to Connie by calling the office or emailing [cesser@isea.org](mailto:cesser@isea.org) by Nov. 13. Please bring your money to the dinner.

**Iowa Caucus Training** for ECUU is scheduled for **Tuesday December 4** from 6-8pm at the Country Inn & Suites CR Airport.

The Republican and Democratic caucus procedures will be explained and attendees will be given party platform planks to be proposed at your local caucus.

There is no RSVP needed for this training. All members are welcome to attend.

All members are encouraged to attend the Iowa Caucuses in January to make your voice heard for public education.