



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Your weekly update newsletter from LAE President Joyce Haynes

August 1, 2011

THANK YOU 2011 SUMMER LEADERSHIP ATTENDEES!

We had a great time at the Summer Leadership Conference. **LAE** leaders traveled to Marksville to strengthen their bonds with the association – and we did just that! I cannot tell you how much I appreciate each of you and your energy, your commitment, but most of all your dedication to the association. Thank you again for all that you do!

We've posted photographs from the conference on Facebook; be sure to go to www.facebook.com/#!/media/set/?set=a.2312385172558.2135286.1337252564&type=1 to check them out.

CONGRATS TO THE 2011 EMERGING LEADER CLASS...

President Tia Mills, Vice President Philip Norton, Anita Augustus, Dywana Howard, Heidi Noel, Janette Patterson, Craig Ratcliff, Judy Rockwell, Tyjuana Smith, Ewanyia Williams-Smith, Adrienne Williams, Donna Wilridge and Kalyn Young. Hats off to all of you - we know you will go out there and make **LAE** proud!

SPARK PARKS PROJECT FOR SCHOOLS

Sprite wants to help you give a Louisiana school the chance to refresh its playground or athletic field. Through the Sprite Spark Parks Project for Schools Sweepstakes, 25 schools across the country will receive a \$25,000 grant to liven up areas on their campuses where students can play. The national campaign is focused on refurbishing active spaces at schools in order to encourage physical fitness. Go to www.mycokerewards.com/sprite to find out more.

WAY TO GO!

Lafayette Educator Rodolfo Espinoza to Receive California Casualty Award for Teaching Excellence

Rodolfo Espinoza, a teacher at Lafayette High School, is a recipient of the California Casualty Award for Teaching Excellence - a prestigious award for public educators. He is one of 35 awardees who will be honored at the NEA Foundation's Salute to Excellence in Education Gala in Washington, DC next year.

TRSL Director Maureen Westgard Invited to Finance Talks by U.S. Treasury Secretary

As one of the country's leading women executives in pensions and finance, Maureen Westgard, director of the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana (TRSL), was invited by U.S. Treasury Secretary to participate in discussions about financial market innovations and investment in the economic recovery.

On behalf of **LAE**, I would like to say congratulations to Mr. Espinoza and Ms. Westgard!

A GOOD READ: MANY F'S PROVE CHARTER SCHOOLS ARE NO SURE SOLUTION

During Rick Scott's first week in office, he and school-reform guru Michelle Rhee visited a charter school in Florida, touting the for-profit academy as a model of how the private sector could better educate children. It's no surprise to us that scores at these schools fell far short of the sky-high promises made by politicians and for-profit executives who claimed that charter schools would do better. See the full story at: www.orlandosentinel.com/os-scott-maxwell-charter-schools-071720110716,0,125283.column?track=osiphoneapp

ANOTHER GOOD READ: ED REFORM AGENDA DICTATED BY PRIVATIZATION INTERESTS

New revelations have surfaced about carefully orchestrated plans by privatization interests to drive "education reform" in Louisiana and most other states. The planning and organizing group for this reform legislation is called "ALEC" which is an acronym for American Legislative Exchange Council. The group provides an opportunity for business interests to offer template legislation to supportive governors and legislators. The National Chairman for the ALEC group is Louisiana State

Senator Noble Ellington. Read more about this issue in Former **LAE** Executive Director Mike Deshotels' latest blog post at louisianaeducator.blogspot.com. I encourage you to stay informed when it comes to issues surrounding ALEC, as we will hear this name mentioned often in the next few months. You can get more information by visiting www.alecexposed.org.

NEXT ACEE COMMITTEE MEETING

The next Advisory Committee on Educator Evaluation (ACEE) meeting is Tuesday, August 2nd. I encourage you to watch the meeting online by logging on to www.louisianaschools.net/media/acee.html. **LAE** has requested placement on the agenda for an upcoming ACEE meeting, in order to make a presentation to the committee regarding our alternative to the Value-Added Model. We're still waiting for confirmation to present. We'll continue to keep you posted on any developments.

DATES TO REMEMBER

August 26th & 27th: **LAE** Board Meeting

September 5th: Labor Day – **LAE** Headquarters Closed

September 10th: Committee Day

October 14th & 15th: Executive Committee

"Teaching is the profession that teaches all the other professions."

-Anonymous