



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Your weekly update newsletter from LAE President Joyce Haynes

February 6, 2011

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

The purpose of Black History Month is to publicize the important contributions of African Americans to American History. **LAE** encourages you to bring Black History Month into your classroom. NEA offers a number of lesson plans that cover a variety of subjects that can be adapted to fit multiple grade levels. Check out www.nea.org for resources and a lesson plan ideas.

SUBSCRIBE TO GREAT LAKES RESEARCH

The Great Lakes Center for Education Research and Practice is an independent, nonprofit organization supported by education stakeholders across the country. The mission of the Great Lakes Center is to improve public education through the support and dissemination of high quality, academically sound research on education policy and practices. **LAE** encourages you to check out their website www.greatlakescenter.org and sign up for The Think Twice Weekly Report.

A PUBLIC DATABASE OF "VALUE-ADDED" TEACHER RATINGS?

Yes, it's true. The *Los Angeles Times* created such a database for teachers in their school district. Rankings from "least effective" to "most effective" were assigned to teachers based on an analysis of whether they consistently raised or lowered their students' standardized tests scores. New York City faces the same fate. We all know that these results produce unreliable, subjective results and releasing this data unfairly subjects our teachers to public ridicule. **LAE** insists Louisiana teachers work with their school boards and administrations to ensure that this does not happen. Any form of individual teacher evaluation result is matter of personnel and is private information which should never be made available in any format for public scrutiny or access. Follow the links below to find out more.

Union/District and NY Times agree to wait: <http://tinyurl.com/46nnvl4>

NY Court allows Release of teacher information: <http://tinyurl.com/4q4388r>

One Persons plight – explaining your classroom to the “general public” one example of the misapplication of Value Added: <http://tinyurl.com/4pfecnj>

A GOOD READ...

The Shameful Attack on Public Employees

Conservatives are waging a vicious attack on public-sector employees. *Wall Street Pit* writer Robert Reich shares his thoughts about how these attacks are filled with bad data, twisted evidence and unsupported assertions. Read Mr. Reich's latest post at: www.wallstreetpit.com.

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that the teacher retirement employer contribution rate has two components? One component is the normal cost of the defined benefit plan. The other is the required payment of the unfunded accrued liability (UAL). Together, these two components make up the required employer contribution for a given fiscal year. The bulk of the UAL is the initial unfunded accrued liability (IUAL). The IUAL is the debt owed to TRSL by the state for teacher benefits paid between 1936 and 1989, which were not fully funded. By law, the IUAL must be paid in full by the year 2029 and payments must follow an amortization schedule set for by the Legislature. All TRSL employers are obligated to pay this debt. **LAE** encourages you to visit www.trsl.com in order to find out more about this and other issues related to Louisiana teacher retirement.

DATES TO REMEMBER

LAE Board meeting: Feb. 18th – 19th; Read Across Louisiana: Feb. 26th; Annual ESP Conference: March 11th – 13th;
National Black Issues Conference: March 25th – 27th

“Just don't give up trying to do what you really want to do. Where there is love and inspiration, I don't think you can go wrong.”

-Ella Fitzgerald