

## **TTT Flashes - #3 2024-2025**

**February 14, 2025**

### **District 205 Faculty Association**

#### **Message from the President**

We are already over halfway through the 3rd quarter! There's a lot to read in this newsletter, so I'll make my message short. Please reach out to your building representatives if you feel as though there has been a contract violation, change in working conditions, or you are in need of representation. We need to know what is happening so we can help. Also- SAVE THE DATE... MARCH 18th, 2025 is the date for our SOLIDARITY RALLY (flyer on 2nd page). Please attend!!! It's going to be fun! If you ever are in need of support, have contract questions, or have a concern, never hesitate to contact me. We are part of an amazing group of educators that are dedicated to our students. Keep up the hard work this quarter!

In solidarity,  
Mark Danielson  
D205 Faculty Association President

#### **Ray Price Scholarship Drive**

The scholarship committee has designated February-March 2025 for our "We Fund the Future" scholarship drive. During this period, you will have the opportunity to contribute to the Ray Price Scholarship Foundation. Last year's virtual collection was successful so we will continue to collect in that way. There will be a few other ways to donate as well!

Ways to donate:

- Mail a check to the association office:  
Faculty Association of District 205  
500 Armory Drive, Suite 109  
South Holland, IL 60473  
OR drop it off with a Building Rep/Member of the Ray Price Scholarship Committee  
*Make checks payable to Ray Price Scholarship Foundation*
- Donate with a credit card, debit card, or create a Paypal account



[paypal.me/RayPriceDistrict205](https://paypal.me/RayPriceDistrict205)

**D205**

**FACULTY  
ASSOCIATION**

# **SOLIDARITY RALLY**

Sometimes we just need to gather as a UNION... let's come together in solidarity to support Public Education!

**18 March 2025  
starts at 4PM**

**Lower Level Library  
Thornwood H.S.**

**EVENT HIGHLIGHTS:**

Food • Socializing  
Advocacy Campaign • Networking

**Our Kids! Our Union! Our Future!**



## **Wellness Benefits**

Please read the email from our District Benefits Coordinator, Ms. Socorro Prado dated Wednesday, 2/5/2025 at 3:11PM!

It has attachments regarding some very VALUABLE resources you are entitled to as a Blue Cross/Blue Shield Participant...

**Teledoc** is a leading telemedicine provider that allows you to consult with healthcare professionals remotely. With this service, you can receive medical advice, prescriptions, and even mental health support, all from the comfort of your home or office. Please sign up for Teledoc today- even if you don't need it now, it will be set up for when illness strikes!

**Wondr** teaches proven skills that help you lose weight and improve your health. **Wondr** is a digital weight loss program tailored to you.

**Employee Assistance Program (EAP)** is a program that offers free, confidential assistance on mental health, life coaching, financial consultation, legal consultation, life management, personal assistance, and medical advocacy.

**Blue Access for Members (BAM)** - With a BAM account, you'll have your health plan info, all in one place. Make a payment, find a doctor, check your claim status and get an overview of your coverage.

IN ADDITION... you get access to NAVIGATE! It is a wellness program from our Educational Benefit Cooperative that we are a part of.

There is a link to the platform below. You can log in and make an account. You can also download the app. They have 3 group challenges a year that our Wellness Committee encourages you to sign up for. They also have individual challenges and some video classes that you can take. Please sign up for Navigate and for challenges!

<https://ebcwellbeing.livehealthyignite.com>

## **FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK**

Contact FA President, Mark Danielson if you are interested in any of the following opportunities. Also reach out if you have any comments, questions or concerns!

### **Open Committees**

We currently need members to step into Faculty Association Committees that lack representation from across the district. Please send me suggestions for anyone in your building that may be a good candidate or let me know if you are interested in joining a committee!

Current Needs:

- Flower Committee (Thornton/OA/PC)
- Scholarship Committee (Thornton/Thornridge/OA/PC)

### **Board Watchers Club**

We are starting a Board Watchers Club!

What does it entail?

- Attending the monthly regularly scheduled BOE meetings
- Taking notes and reporting back to our FA members on what is happening in our district.

Do I have to make it to all of the meetings?

- No! We all have busy lives. We are looking to get a small group to attend each meeting. Not everyone in the “club” has to make it to every meeting.

### **Early Career Committee**

I am proposing to the Executive Board that we create a new Faculty Association Committee. This is for teachers in years 1-10 of their career. The goal for the committee is to get input on challenges facing our newest teachers so they can be best supported. Part of this committee's vision is to also develop leadership capacity in our next generation of District 205 teachers! The goal is to meet after school once a month to discuss educational issues, host training sessions, and help give voice to our early career teachers. I will be seeking approval from the Exec Board at our next meeting. Please reach out to me if interested in serving on this committee! We are looking for 10 people to start.

## **Policy Review Team (PRT)**

There are many layers to organizing within our union. I am seeking out a team of advisors that will help review new Board and District Policies. This team will simply be forwarded information to read from time to time and then give the President, Executive Director, and Executive Board feedback. This is a perfect group to join if you want to help the union out, but do not have a lot of time to commit to after-school meetings! If you'd like to join this team, or know someone that would be perfect for it, let me know.

## **Immigration Concerns**

### **NEA's Guidance on Immigration Issues (January 2025)**

- Visit [NEA's Immigration webpage](#) offering information and resources on immigration policies affecting students, schools, and communities under the 2nd Trump term. Here is [NEA's Immigration Guidance Booklet](#).

This information was presented at our District Labor Management meeting on 1/27/2025. Information on creating a Safe Zone Policy (from the NEA Immigration Guidance Booklet) for our district is being shared at the Board of Education Policy Committee meeting on 2/4/2025 during Public Participation. The District Administration has assured us that they will do everything in their legal power and authority to protect students while upholding the law. It is important to note that the laws have not changed. We are seeking to strengthen the policies and procedures within our district surrounding data sharing and staff training to further protect our students.

## **Red for Ed**

Continue to show up in **RED** every Wednesday as we advocate for public education.

From the IEA website... "Red for Ed is a grassroots movement of educators and supporters of public education who are advocating for increased public funding for education and better pay and benefits for teachers and other school staff. Red for Ed is a nationwide movement that began in 2018, but it has become increasingly visible and influential as teachers and their allies have held events, walkouts, rallies, and demonstrations demanding better funding for their schools."

Need some new **Red for Ed** gear?

<https://shopiea.org/>



## **Opportunities/News from IEA**

### **RACIAL AND SOCIAL JUSTICE**

#### **February is Black History Month – Check Out These Resources!**

- Visit: [Tulane STEM](#). This page features a timeline highlighting important achievements in the life sciences made by black scientists and more!
- Check out [African-American Women Change the World](#) by the National Women's Hall of Fame!
- [How BHM Began & How It Changed to What it is Today](#) – VIDEO
- [Kids Explain Black History Month](#) – VIDEO
- ["I Am Ruby Bridges" - An Animated Classroom Read Along \(with Moving Pictures\)](#) - VIDEO
- LGBTQ+ Executive Order Explainers & Resources: [PFLAG Exec.](#), [Other: Human Rights Campaign website](#)
- Immigrant Justice: [Resurrection Project](#), [NEA's Immigration webpage](#)

#### **Call for nominations for the [2026 NEA Foundation Awards for Teaching Excellence](#) – Applications due March 15, 2025 (*Share with members*)**

Do you know an exceptional educator who deserves recognition? Now is your chance to nominate them. We're looking for candidates who are innovative, sensitive to diversity, engaged with their community, dedicated to professional development, and advocates for the profession. This opportunity is available to IEA/NEA members only.

- Awardees will receive expenses-paid travel to the NEA Foundation's annual Salute to Excellence in Education Gala in Washington, D.C., held in February 2026 and recognition on stage in front of more than 800 education leaders.
- NEA will select five awardees to also receive the Horace Mann Awards for Teaching Excellence and \$10,000 each, plus expenses-paid travel for themselves and a guest. One of the five awardees will go on to win the [NEA Member Benefits Award for Teaching Excellence](#), which will be announced during the gala's finale, and \$25,000.

### **Minority Teachers of Illinois Scholarship**

Please use the link if you were a recipient of the Minority Teachers of Illinois Scholarship. There is currently a lawsuit challenging the validity of the scholarship. The IEA would like to know who has received the scholarship and its impact. We believe in a diverse teaching force and recognize the need for scholarships such as the Minority Teachers of Illinois Scholarship.

<https://ieanea.org/forms/mti-scholarship-survey/>

### **Stories Needed to Advocate for Legislation**

Your lobbyist team is hard at work advocating on your behalf. We are seeking stories on the following topics to further show the need for change. The lobbyists in parentheses are the lead contacts for the stories.

- Faith's Law (Unique Mickens and ShiAnne Shively)
- Notice to Remedy (ShiAnne Shively and Derek Stevens)
- Use of AI on Evaluations (Unique Mickens and ShiAnne Shively)
- Outsourcing (Unique Mickens and Derek Stevens)
- Increased Cost of Health Insurance (Will Lovett)
- Need for Student Teaching Stipend (Unique Mickens)