

TTT Flashes - #5 2024-25

May 22, 2025

District 205 Faculty Association

Message from the President

I will keep this semi-short... we have made it to the end of another school year! The biggest myth in education is the phrase “summer break”. (We all know that the job of a teacher is more than just the contractual hours during the school year.) Although we will all be busy at work preparing for our next school year, reflecting on this past year, attending PDs, and more, please take some time for YOU! Self-care is important and my wish is for all of you to take some much needed time off this summer to relax and recharge your batteries.

Even though you should definitely take some time “off”, I am asking all of you to still check emails occasionally. We received an email from our Superintendent this week that explains the district’s updates to curriculum that are taking place. Unfortunately, despite what the email states, we have not been given any of these “new curriculum guides”. There have been no presentations on these “curriculum guides” during the final weeks of school. It is deeply disturbing that Administration has re-written curriculum in isolation of those in the classroom everyday- the teachers. We have been asking District for information on these changes since January and have yet to see any of the new documents. According to the email, there are going to be PD/feedback sessions in July. I would encourage anyone that wants to provide input to attend these if at all possible! Although the union recognizes the District’s right to develop curriculum, writing it with only Division Leaders, Administrators, and Artificial Intelligence is an insult to the teachers that work with the current curriculum everyday. I am highly skeptical that these documents will be well-written and best serve the needs of our students. Again, the ask is for everyone to consider providing input when the time comes. Check emails this summer from time to time. I hope everyone has a wonderful summer!

In solidarity,
Mark Danielson
D205 Faculty Association President

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

New Building Teams

Congratulations to the newly elected Executive Board for 2025-2027!

Thornton:

Building Vice President- Devin Olson

Building Reps- Joe Donka, Denise Henry, Barbara James, and Lauren Malito

Thornridge:

Building Vice President- Kim McNamara

Building Reps- Jason Curl, Pat Lawson, Kristen Sison, and Mike Whitman

Thornwood:

Building Vice President- Jason MacConnell

Building Reps- Christine Burger, Susan Hudson, Christina Lim, and Jen Merwald

President: Mark Danielson

Treasurer: Katherine Metro

Secretary: Libby Villarreal

Staff Satisfaction Survey

Please take a few minutes to complete the annual Staff Satisfaction Survey before Thursday.

The link is below. This information helps the Executive Board plan for the upcoming school year to best serve the needs of our membership.

<https://forms.gle/2117YqcjjQDzrruFA>

2025 Retirements

Congratulations to Elyn “Dan” Marcano and Linda Kingdon on their retirement! We celebrated our retirees along with our Ray Price Scholarship winners at the Retirement Tea this past Thursday (5/15). We wish everyone well as they move into this next chapter of life!



Attendance Bonus

Check the email (5/21) from HR Assistant Rafael Camacho Jr. Important information contained in that email...

- ❖ Those teachers eligible to receive this year's Attendance Bonus will receive an email by June 9, 2025 detailing the specifics of the bonus.
- ❖ If you don't receive one by June 9, 2025, then you will not be receiving a bonus.
- ❖ If you feel there is an error, reach out directly to the Human Resources Department (Rafael Camacho Jr.)
- ❖ Direct deposit date- Wednesday 6/18/2025
- ❖ If you don't have direct deposit, you are to reach out to Tamara Dixon no later than 12 p.m. on Thursday 6/12/2025 to make arrangements to pick up your paper check.
- ❖ Any questions- reach out to the Human Resources Department. If you believe there is an error after reaching out to them, please email both Ken Wendorff and Mark Danielson.

Important for those on the Retirement Track

Do not work extra assignments or pick up new positions that you haven't already been working! We have attempted to work with the District to find a way to compensate those that are getting a 6% raise in the retirement track for doing extra work when approved by administration, but have not received any answers from Administration on the issue to date.

Opportunities/News from IEA

IEA Teaching and Learning Virtual Book Studies are taking place over the summer. This is a wonderful learning opportunity for all of us this summer as we take some time to relax!

Virtual Book Studies are asynchronous learning opportunities where members engage at their own pace around their own schedule. Reading assignments, discussion forums, and activities that promote application will be released weekly on Sundays. Members are responsible for purchasing their own copy of the book. In addition, participants from studies are invited to a virtual Collective Conversation. This live gathering will be held during the last week of the study as a way to connect and share with other members.

IEA professional learning opportunities are a benefit of membership and are free-of-charge to members. (Dates are listed on the sign-up link)

Up to 20 Professional Development Hours (PDHs) will be provided per book based on each participant's hours of engagement. Members may enroll for up to two (2) books this session.

Deadline to register is June 8th.

Information: <https://ieanea.org/resources/iea-teaching-and-learning/>

Registration Link:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScvfomKelg468TYU6Ssftf9mGfnCF2Pp5TCbu9_Kx9ce6tyUQ/viewform

Let me know if you're joining and what book(s) you are reading!

2025 IEA Summer Leadership

Summer Leadership Registration is Now Open!

Summer Leadership will be held July 28-31, 2025, at Illinois State University at the Bone Student Center in Normal, IL.

Summer Leadership will provide you with the opportunity to both add to your professional practice "tool kit", and earn professional development hours toward renewal of your license with a wide-range of

professional development sessions beginning on Tuesday afternoon, July 29 at 1:00 p.m. through Thursday, July 31 at 12:00 p.m. Sessions will include 1, 2, 3 or 6 hour sessions and we ask you to sign up for any number of sessions that meet your needs. We will also have a keynote presentation from Sara Nelson, International President of the Association of Flight Attendants-CWA, AFL-CIO during lunch on Wednesday.

SLA will be offering sessions on bargaining, grievance, equity, communications, organizing, elections, school funding, association representative training and more. Returning this year are workshop sessions designed to provide time for local officers and leadership teams to work together in developing skills and plans necessary for the upcoming year.

[Register now at the discounted rate of \\$45.00](#). The rate will go up to \$90.00 on May 23 at 5pm. Hotel blocks for attendees are available on the registration site and posted on the website – [Summer Leadership](#).

(IF YOU'D LIKE TO ATTEND- PLEASE CONTACT MARK DANIELSON)

Request for Funding applications are being accepted for the following conference:

- [2025 IEA Summer Leadership Academy](#) - due May 30

The 2025 CRSJ Student Activist of the Year Award is OPEN for Nominations! The CRSJ Student Activist of the Year Award recognizes a K-12 student or student group that has worked to advocate on educational, social, and/or racial justice issues that impact the lives of students, fellow educators and the communities they live and serve in. Our Student Activist(s) of the Year demonstrate exceptional effort and innovation in leading, organizing, and engaging educators, parents, and the community in collective efforts toward equitable change. For more information and the nomination process, please view this [memo](#).

Antivirus Recommendations for Home Devices

Are you looking for an antivirus product for your **home devices**? While IEA does not have an “at home” program through our vendor, PC Mag puts together reviews and recommendations of paid and free antivirus products each year below are the links for this year:

- [The Best Free Antivirus Products](#)
- [The Best Antivirus Protection](#)

Benefit Highlight – CustomGuide Interactive Training Courses

Did you know IEA members and staff have access to the interactive online CustomGuide training library for free? Check out this week's highlighted course to brush up your Business Skills:

- **Critical Thinking Skills** – Ready to think critically and make smarter decisions? This course sharpens problem-solving and reasoning skills for better outcomes. Learn to question assumptions effectively, evaluate data and facts, solve complex problems, and count biases in decisions.

[Self-register](#) for an account then [login](#) to access this course and more! Reach out to Kelsey.Harms@ieanea.org with any questions.