

TTT Flashes - #1 2025-2026

Aug 25, 2025

District 205 Faculty Association



Message from the President

Faculty,

It is my hope that everyone has had a great start to the 2025-26 school year! The work that you do day in and day out with our students is some of the most important work that exists in our society. If you have any contractual questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to any of your Faculty Association representatives, our Executive Director (Ken Wendorff), or me. No issue is too small for us to try to solve together. As we were told during Teacher Institute Day 1, teachers should be given all the resources and support necessary to educate our students. If you have a need, please speak up!

In solidarity,

Mark Danielson

D205 Faculty Association President

IMPORTANT DATES- August/September

Deadline to submit interest form for committees- Wednesday, August 27th

Labor Day Holiday- Monday, September 1st

Rep Council Meeting (first one of the year)- Wednesday, September 3rd

Back to School Night- Thursday, September 4th

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Committees for 2025-26 School Year

Please fill out the google form below if you are interested in serving on a District Joint Committee and/or a Faculty Association Committee. There is also a place on the form to indicate interest in co-chairing/chairing a committee. If you have any questions about what any of these committees do and what serving on one would entail, please don't hesitate to reach out.

For clarity, Article 26 of our contract explains the District Joint Committee structure and compensation. These committees are comprised of equal numbers of administrators and faculty members and help give direction to our district.

Faculty Association Committees are approved by the Executive Committee of the Faculty Association and are volunteer positions. These positions help guide our Faculty Association.

Final committee selections will be emailed out to all staff once they are finalized. Signing up for a committee does not guarantee an appointment on that committee. **THE FORM IS DUE BY THE END OF THE DAY ON WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27th.** I highly encourage everyone to get involved this school year!

<https://forms.gle/4Kajq3k83yMgt8Vj7>

Membership Dues- 2025-26

- Dues come out of 10 paychecks
- If you'd rather pay membership dues up front... read the email from our membership chair, Viviana Franco. You have until 9/19 to pay dues up front. Send them directly to Viviana Franco (or via Katherine Metro, Treasurer, Ken Wendorff, Executive Director, or Mark Danielson, President).
- Dues Calculator: <https://join.ieanea.org/dues-calculator/?email=>
 - Note: add \$12.50 per paycheck (for the 10 checks) to your calculated amount from the IEA website for local dues. Their amount includes all IEA-NEA dues.
- Local Dues were approved by our Representative Council in May to be \$125 for the 2025-26 school year. These are used for such things as contract maintenance, grievances, member training, conferences, social events, committee initiatives, etc. Expenses are shared monthly at our Representative Council meetings.
- Questions? Contact our Membership Chair Viviana Franco, President Mark Danielson, or Executive Director Ken Wendorff

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>

Fall 2025-Spring 2027 FA Building Leadership

Thornridge

VP- Kim McNamara

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

Thornton

VP- Devin Olson

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

Thornwood

VP- Jason MacConnell

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

Opportunities/News from IEA

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:

- **Online Communication** – Struggling with online communication? Develop effective digital etiquette and virtual collaboration skills. Learn to write engaging email subjects, master virtual meeting etiquette, use online collaboration tools, and build strong online connections.
- **Build Confidence** – Ready to boost your self-assurance? Build confidence with strategies to excel in work and social situations. Learn mental strategies for lasting confidence, learn to use physical cues to boost confidence, excel in diverse situations, and turn setbacks into strengths.

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

A special ENTICE workshop for teachers who want ways to do inclusive science

IL Department of Natural Resources is offering professional development training for teachers on June 4 that includes ways to make aquatic macroinvertebrate science studies inclusive for students of all abilities.

The cost is \$11, and teachers walk away with about \$50 worth of items they can use in their classroom with their students. Here is the link to the registration <https://www.enticeworkshops.com/>. We are working in partnership with Four Rivers Environmental Education Center, which is accredited by the National Inclusion Project, which means it has met the standards set by the organization for inclusive practices for individuals with disabilities.

For more information contact: lorna.shuman@illinois.gov or 217-785-0973

NEA AI in Education Resources

We are excited to launch a new AI in Education Resource Hub on NEA.org where members can access guidance, tools, and professional learning opportunities on AI. The resource hub can be accessed at: www.nea.org/AI.

Through the resource hub, members can access many materials including:

- The NEA Task Force Report and Policy Statement on AI in Education
- Professional Learning Opportunities through NEA Teacher Quality
- School and Classroom Guidance on AI, including but not limited to thoughtful questions educators can be asking, resources for students with disabilities, and resources for multilingual learners
- Policy Resources, including but not limited to sample school board policies and overviews of federal regulations
- Several Partner Resources, including a comprehensive toolkit from our partners at TeachAI

Please share the resource hub link widely. If you have any questions, please reach out to Michael Shoudy (Michael.Shoudy@ieanea.org) or Justin Thompson in EPIC (jthompson@nea.org)

NEA Foundation Grants to Educators

NEA is accepting applications for Spring/Summer 2026 [Envision Equity](#), [Learning & Leadership](#), and [Student Success](#) grants until **Monday, September 15th**.

Additional information can be found [here](#).

NEA Story Collection

With the US Supreme Court set to hear an important case on transgender rights and inclusion in student athletics, NEA is interested in hearing from educators who have expertise on student athletics and can speak to the importance of inclusion and support for transgender and other gender non-conforming students; the role of athletics in a supportive education environment and students' sense of belonging; and the positive benefits for all student athletes. We are also interested in speaking to educators who have witnessed the effects of trans athletics bans. Folks can share their stories here: [NEA Story Collection: Supporting Transgender Student Athletes](#)