TTT Flashes - #1 2026-2027

September 22, 2026

District 205 Faculty Association

Message From the President

Faculty,

I am proud to once again represent our approximately 400 members to start another school year. As you settle into routines at work this school year, please remember to inform your building representatives if you are in need of representation or have any contract questions. You may also reach out to Devin Olson (Executive Director) or myself. In some cases, we may refer you back to union leadership in your building or site, but we are here to help direct you there or assist in ensuring all questions and concerns are addressed!

Please take some time to fill out this quick check-in that will provide us with your top 3 current concerns. Complete it by 10/2!

SURVEY:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSegS3R-7pNrrtJQrGc2CKF1Eu1CSYevUGrhn8iBZ3whzAUxDA/viewform?usp=publish-editor

In Solidarity,
Mark Danielson
Faculty Association of District 205 President

IMPORTANT DATES- September/October

- Autumnal Equinox- Today! (September 22nd)
- Parent-Teacher Conferences- Thursday, October 1st-Friday, October 2nd
- Fall Testing Window- October 5th-October 7th
- Rep Council (October Meeting) - Wednesday, October 7th
- Indigenous Peoples' Day/Columbus Day Holiday- Monday, October 12th (NO SCHOOL)
- November 1st- Daylight Savings Time Ends

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

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

2026-27 FA Building Leadership

Thornridge
VP- Kim McNamara
Building Reps- Jason Curl, Pat Lawson, Kristen Sison, and Mike Whitman

Thornton
VP- Barbara James
Building Reps- Joe Donka, Denise Henry, Lauren Malito, and Courtney Ologbosele

Thornwood
VP- Jason MacConnell
Building Reps- Christine Burger, Susan Hudson, Christina Lim, and Jen Merwald

Ray Price Scholarship Committee Update

Thank you to everyone who donated to and participated in our fundraisers last year! Because of your generosity and support, we exceeded our $14,000 fundraising goal and raised an incredible $15,841.94 last school year!

Our goal for the 2026–2027 school year is $16,000. Reaching this goal will allow us to continue providing the multi-year Ray Price Scholarships while also covering necessary administrative expenses including mailers, postage, accounting fees, and other scholarship-related costs.

Raffle Basket Fundraiser Update

We have already kicked off this year's fundraising with our raffle basket fundraiser during August. Thanks to everyone who purchased tickets and supported the fundraiser! We raised $422 from the raffle basket fundraiser, and winners were selected at the 8/28 social event.

Congratulations to our raffle basket winners: Sheila Svoboda, Afsar Farooqui, Paul Fritz, and Marti Guzman!

Thank you for continuing to support the Ray Price Scholarship! We are incredibly grateful for our staff, retirees, and supporters who make this scholarship possible.

> *"I sincerely thank you for all your help, support, and assistance throughout the scholarship process. I am truly grateful for this opportunity and for the generosity that made this scholarship possible. Receiving this scholarship means so much to me, and it will make a meaningful difference in my college journey. Your support has not only provided financial assistance, but it has also encouraged me to continue working hard toward my educational and future career goals. Thank you again for your kindness, generosity, and continued support. I am truly blessed and forever grateful to be a recipient of this scholarship."*
>
> - Autumn Harmon, 2023 Ray Price Scholarship recipient

DONATIONS ARE ACCEPTED YEAR-ROUND.

Ways to donate:

- Mail a check or cash to the association office:
  Faculty Association of District 205
  500 Armory Drive, Suite 109
  South Holland, IL 60473
- Drop it off with a Building Rep/Member of the Ray Price Scholarship Committee. Envelopes will be sent to your school mailboxes during the first week of March.

Make checks payable to ***Ray Price Scholarship Foundation***

- Donate online with a credit card, debit card, or create a Paypal account
  paypal.me/RayPriceDistrict205

IEA RESOURCES/OPPORTUNITIES

Illinois' National Board Intent to Mentor Application is OPEN!

Calling all NBCTs! Are you interested in serving as a mentor or leading a cohort for the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards program in the 2026-27 school year?

ISBE is now accepting Intent to Mentor Applications. The Application period is now through October 9, 2026. Interested NBCTs are encouraged to apply early and review the program requirements and eligibility information available through ISBE. To access the Intent to Mentor

Application, click here: Illinois' National Board Teaching Excellence Intent to Mentor Application FY27 For more information about National Board Certification, visit the ISBE National Board Certified Teachers webpage.

Fall Educator Pipeline Events - Registration is OPEN!

Aspiring Educators, kick off your 2026 year at the Fall Retreat at the PDC in Springfield. You'll get key info on unionism and elections, connect with the IEA network, and meet your state leadership team and members from your area. October 3rd: Aspiring Educators Fall Retreat, Springfield IL

Connect with fellow Early Career educators (years 1 to 10) from your area and across the state. Learn how to get involved with IEA, take part in decision making bodies, and talk election related action for public education. October 24th: Early Career Fall Blitz, Bloomington IL or Oak Brook IL