



THE LAE VOICE

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE LOUISIANA ASSOCIATION OF EDUCATORS

Great Public Schools for Every Louisiana Child

Volume 13, No. 1 October 2016

LAE WRAPS UP STATEWIDE COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS ON EDUCATION

LAE leaders recently hosted a series of meetings across the state where the association brought educators, parents, and community members together to discuss the needs of Louisiana’s public school students. These community conversations took place in Shreveport, Lafayette, Lake Charles, Morgan City, Monroe, Alexandria, Baton Rouge, LaPlace, and Bogalusa. During the meetings, attendees received a brief overview of the revamped federal K-12 public education policies set forth through the new Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Participants then broke into groups to partake in collaborative conversations surrounding what schools need to ensure a better future for children, and shared their thoughts on what needs to be done in order to accomplish this. Each group presented its findings to the larger assembly.

LAE President Debbie Meaux emphasized how important the authentic feedback of rank-and-file community members, parents, and educators is to the ESSA’s success in Louisiana.

“Through working together, we are sure to experience positive educational outcomes for the children who live in our communities,” she emphasized. “We have a chance to get it right for our schools and our children, and we need to do everything we can to ensure that we are successful.”

Information gathered will be compiled into a report for the governor’s advisory council on ESSA. For more information on LAE’s involvement with the law’s enactment in Louisiana go to lae.org/essainla.



Webster Association of Educators President Jim Croad leads a discussion between parents and teachers at LAE’s Shreveport-area Community Conversation.



Event participants listen intently as LAE ESSA Implementation Team member Yvonne Johnson shares her insights on the new law.



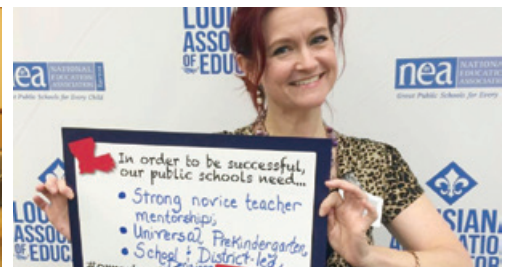
Event participants of the Bogalusa-area conversation focus on the needs of students in Washington Parish.



Lake Charles-area conversation attendees take a moment to share their thoughts on the needs of Calcasieu Public Schools.



Participants of the Ouachita Parish/Monroe region event focus in on their discussion held at the Ouachita Parish Public Library.



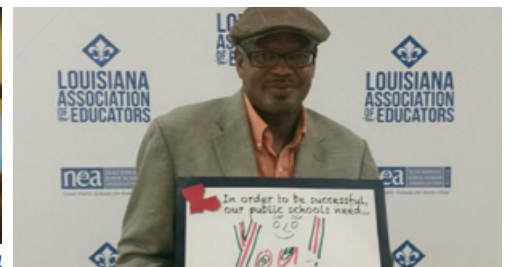
Lafayette Parish Association of Educators Vice President Kimberly Domangue shares her thoughts on the top needs for public schools in the Acadiana region.



Parents, educators, and community members hard at work discussing the needs of public schools in Baton Rouge and surrounding areas.



Participants of the St. John the Baptist Parish conversation discuss ideas on how to achieve educational excellence for the students in the region.



Morgan City conversation attendee Larry Guilbeau shares what he feels is the most important factor for schools to be successful.



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Debbie Meaux, President

The 2016-17 School Year has gotten off to a less-than-favorable start with many districts in the Southern region of the state dealing with impacts of the recent flooding. It comes as no surprise to see the incredible displays of strength and resolve that so many educators across the state have shown during this time – school communities welcoming (into their schools) faculty, staff, and students of campuses that took on water; educators helping the families of students who were impacted; families helping educators gut their homes; and school employees helping their colleagues, even if their own homes sustained damage. I think it goes without saying that I have tremendous pride for you – my colleagues across the state – who have shown an incomparable level of selflessness during this time of need – whether it's been through physical or financial aid. School communities across the state have found special ways to reach out to those impacted so that our kids can maintain the most reasonable sense of routine during this time of rebuilding. Many of you who sustained great personal and professional loss, didn't think twice about being there for your students in order to provide the standard of love, care, and stability that they are used to receiving. As an educator, you know it is the one place to which they can retreat in order to maintain a sense of normalcy. Your kindness and compassion is unprecedented and greatly appreciated.

The catastrophic flooding certainly has laid the groundwork for an uneasy outlook; however, this year, educators will hopefully be able to look past this challenge with hopeful optimism for the future of our schools as the ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act) is now in effect. LAE members – along with thousands of education stakeholders across the nation – are taking on the task of determining what kind of educational plans need to be established in order to effectively propel our children successfully into their lives beyond school. Our association recently wrapped up a series of forums across the state where parents, educators, and community members took a deeper look at how we, as Louisianans, can craft an obtainable path to excellence. Under the new ESSA law, districts and states are charged with designing systems from the bottom up (not the other way around), which provides us with a unique opportunity to get it right for the school children of this state. The pathway to a successful future for all children – as outlined in ESSA – is to bring decision making back to the local level with mandated parent, community, and practitioner input. This new law gives us the chance to work on equity in our school districts across the state. The new regulations from the USDOE will require that new money coming into states via ESSA be used to supplement – not supplant – the funding that already exists, with an eye toward making sure that every public school

student in the state is given, a fair and equal chance at a quality education. This means Louisiana will need to tackle inequities in funding, building quality, and distribution of school staff, so that all children are taught by qualified and certified educators in well-resourced, nurturing learning environments. If we take the appropriate actions, this stands to be an encouraging step in the right direction for our public education system here in Louisiana.

As we look forward to the next few months, we plan to explore legislation in the 2017 Legislative Session to begin the process of transition. Our major areas of focus will center around teacher preparation, reduction of unproductive testing, an increase in time to teach, and needed modifications to the teacher evaluation and accountability systems. Much needs to be done in order to ensure that ESSA is implemented properly in order to provide all kids with a quality, equitably-delivered education – LAE is at the forefront of making sure this happens.

In the coming months, I urge you to make a commitment to engage with association leaders and staff as we seek input on our advocacy efforts. It is our mission to establish – once and for all – a public school system that values the ideas and input of those who have dedicated their lives to the educational excellence of Louisiana's future. Please visit our website www.lae.org and take advantage of the many resources which are housed there. Let us know how we can "up our game" in forging a new trail toward visible improvements in Louisiana's public education system.

As always, thank you for being a member of this great association and more importantly, thank you for all you do every day for the children of Louisiana!

In Solidarity,
President Meaux

ATTENTION: LAE BOARD VACANCIES

The LAE Board of Directors is composed of association leaders who are active education employees and who have been elected by their peers to act for the association in between meetings of the LAE Representative Assembly. You must be a member for at least three years to be eligible to apply for the following vacancy:

Second Associational District, Seat A: Avoyelles, Caldwell, Catahoula, City of Monroe, Concordia, East Carroll, East Feliciana,

Franklin, Grant, Iberville, LaSalle, Madison, Morehouse, Ouachita, Pointe Coupee, Rapides, Richland, St. Helena, St. Martin, Tensas, West Baton Rouge, West Carroll, West Feliciana, and Winn

If you are interested in applying, please send your letter of intent and resume to Laurie Guillot at lguillot@lae.org by November 17, 2016. The next LAE Board meeting is scheduled for November 18, 2016, and the seats will be appointed at this meeting.

WANT TO HELP PUBLIC SCHOOL EDUCATORS IMPACTED BY THE AUGUST 2016 FLOODS? HERE'S YOUR CHANCE!



Just days after devastating flood waters inundated South Louisiana communities, LAE joined forces with the NEA to establish a national flood relief fund. Donations from across the United States have been pouring in to help aid Louisiana's public school employees impacted by the disaster. LAE President Debbie Meaux and staff have been busy in their efforts to deliver flood relief donations to teachers and other school employees across the state. So far, LAE has given away more than 70-thousand dollars to members in need. If you haven't donated to the fund and wish to do so, it's not too late. Please visit www.lae.org/2016laflood to find out how you can help a colleague in need.



LAE Office Manager Laurie Guillot hands flood relief donation to Livingston Association of Educators member Gwendolyn Hill.



LAE President Debbie Meaux surprises Tanglewood Elementary School teacher Laci Brice with a donation gift card.



NEA Member Benefits manager Wil Thompson joins President Meaux to deliver a donation package to Howell Park Elementary School teacher Chanel Lemelle.



Tanglewood Elementary School teachers Susan Matherne and Karen Harrison accept their donations from President Meaux.



LAE member Vereta Lee accepts a flood relief donation from LAE Exec. Dir. Lynda Guidry and Assoc. Exec. Dir. Kenton Cooper.



Lafayette Parish Association of Educators President Jonathan Cole presents Nicole Carusone alongside LAE Legislative and Political Director Shane Riddle.

LOUISIANA COMMUNITIES TAKE PART IN NATIONAL DAY OF ACTION AND "WALK-IN" TO SHOW SUPPORT FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Louisiana parents, students, educators, and community members gathered at K-12 public schools across the state on October 6 as a display of community togetherness for public schools. The actions - referred to as Walk-Ins - aimed to shine a light on the needs of public schools and the students they serve. Major cities across Louisiana including Baldwin, Baton Rouge, Lafayette, Loreauville, Lutcher, Monroe, Shreveport, and St. Martinville joined thousands of communities nationwide for the day of action. The

events were held to draw attention to important issues impacting the nation's public education system including the need to focus on challenging curriculums that emphasize high-quality teaching rather than high-stakes testing, expanded offerings for student support services, and more opportunities for parents to get involved in their neighborhood schools' planning and decision-making process. Thank you to all LAE members who helped organize and participate in events in their communities.



Shreveport Walk-In held at Southwood High School.



Monroe Walk-In held at Lincoln Elementary School.



Baton Rouge Walk-In held at Tara High School.



St. Martin Walk-In held at the Early Learning Center.



St. John the Baptist Parish Walk-In at Lutcher Elementary School.



Lafayette Walk-In held at J. Wallace James Elementary School.



THE LAE-FCPE RECOMMENDS CANDIDATES IN U.S. SENATE AND CONGRESSIONAL RACES



Foster Campbell

The LAE's political action committee, the LAE Fund for Children & Public Education (LAE-FCPE), recommends Public Service Commissioner Foster Campbell for this fall's U.S. Senate race. Campbell's proven track record of fighting for high-quality schools was the determining factor in the committee's decision to support.

"I truly believe he understands the importance of investing in schools that prepare our kids to compete in the global marketplace," said LAE-FCPE Chair Debbie Meaux. "Mr. Campbell is the clear choice of the teachers and education support professionals we represent."

Foster Campbell began his career as a school teacher before serving on the state public service commission. A major contribution during his tenure in the Louisiana Legislature was his establishment of the Louisiana Educational Excellence Fund, an endowment of more than \$1 billion for Louisiana's K-12 public schools.

"I'm incredibly honored to have the support of Louisiana's hardworking teachers and school employees," said Campbell. "I know how hard they work to provide our students with innovative, authentic classroom experiences. Together, I know we can effectively achieve great things for the children of today who will be the leaders of tomorrow."

In their vote to support Campbell for U.S. Senate, members of the LAE-FCPE interview committee cited several of his positions and goals on important education issues including funding for teacher preparation and mentorship programs; fair, transparent, multi-faceted, and community-supported accountability measures for teachers, schools, and districts; and common sense improvement strategies such as nationally recognized educator certification programs and classroom-based performance assessments.

"Mr. Campbell understands the needs of Louisiana's public schools and we are confident that he will look out for the best interests of school children - not just in Louisiana, but across the nation," Meaux said.



Cedric Richmond

In Congressional District 2, which includes portions of New Orleans and Baton Rouge, the LAE-FCPE recommends congressional incumbent, Cedric Richmond. Richmond, who served 11 years in the Louisiana Legislature, has an "A" rating from the LAE-FCPE on policies that impact public schools and working families.



Richard Lieberman

In Congressional District 6, which includes portions of the parishes of Assumption, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Iberville, and Terrebonne, the committee recommends Richard Lieberman. Lieberman understands that Louisiana students need more than a "one-size-fits-all" curriculum in order to be successful in school.



Marshall Jones

In Congressional District 4, which includes portions of the parishes of Allen, Caddo, St. Landry, and Union, the LAE-FCPE recommends Marshall Jones. Jones is committed to working alongside teachers and community members to provide all children - regardless of their economic circumstance - with the public schools they deserve.

"These four gentlemen stand to have lasting positive impacts on the educational well-being of our school children," Meaux said. "We look forward to the upcoming election and the opportunity to get it right by electing Mr. Campbell, Mr. Richmond, Mr. Jones, and Mr. Lieberman to office."



The primary election will be held on November 8, 2016. Early voting begins October 25 and will run through November 1.

IT'S NEVER TOO EARLY TO START THINKING ABOUT NOMINATIONS FOR THE LAE IMAGE AWARDS

The LAE Image Awards are presented annually to recognize members whose leadership and actions in their professions have advanced public education in Louisiana. Every year, the LAE chooses one outstanding teacher, ESP, administrator, ancillary personnel, friend of education, and human and civil rights trailblazer to honor. The LAE is now accepting applications for the 2017 Image Awards. The deadline to submit nomination packets is March 7, 2017. You can download the applications at www.lae.org/2017laeimageawards.



LAE TEACHING & LEARNING CENTER TRAINERS SET TO HOST CULTURAL COMPETENCY WORKSHOPS

Improving student learning for all students is a central part of the LAE's mission. Ensuring great schools, supporting innovative teaching, and expecting student success is not only the right thing to do, it is crucial to the professional well-being of our members and the schools they serve. Check out our latest offerings for professional development at www.lae.org/professionaldevelopmentcourses and in the meantime, mark your calendar for the following:

THE CULTURALLY COMPETENT EDUCATOR SERIES:

Want to gain a better understanding of students challenged by language barriers or economic circumstance? Join us to learn about the meaning of social justice and equity in education and walk away with helpful information on how to design lessons that are relevant to the students you teach. The goal is to understand the achievement gaps that persist and explore successful methods to close those gaps. All workshops are from 10:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M. Lunch is included. Participants may take one, two, or all three workshops.

NOVEMBER 5, 2016:

THE CULTURALLY COMPETENT EDUCATOR I

Baton Rouge - LAE Headquarters - 8322 One Calais Avenue

Lafayette - Lafayette Parish Library - 6101 Johnston Street

Lake Charles - Calcasieu Parish Central Public Library -
301 W. Claude Street

Mansura - LSU Ag Center - 8592 Highway 1, Suite 1

Monroe - Ouachita Public Library - 1800 Stubbs Avenue

New Orleans - Rosa F. Keller Library - 4300 South Broad Avenue

Shreveport - Mooretown Branch Library - 4360 Hollywood Avenue

NOVEMBER 19, 2016:

THE CULTURALLY COMPETENT EDUCATOR II

Baton Rouge - LAE Headquarters - 8322 One Calais Avenue

Monroe - Ouachita Public Library - 1800 Stubbs Avenue

Lafayette - Lafayette Parish Library - 6101 Johnston St.

Lake Charles - Calcasieu Parish Central Public Library -
301 W. Claude Street

LaPlace - St. John Parish Central Library - 2920 Highway 51

Mansura - LSU Ag Center, 8592 Highway 1, Suite 1

Shreveport - Mooretown Branch Library - 4360 Hollywood Avenue

DECEMBER 10, 2016:

THE CULTURALLY COMPETENT EDUCATOR III

Baton Rouge - LAE Headquarters - 8322 One Calais Avenue

Lafayette - Breaux Bridge Public Library - 205 N Main St.

Lake Charles - Calcasieu Parish Central Public Library -
301 W. Claude Street

Mansura - LSU Ag Center, 8592 Highway 1, Suite 1

Monroe - Ouachita Public Library - 1800 Stubbs Avenue

New Orleans - Rosa F. Keller Library - 4300 South Broad Avenue

Shreveport - Caddo Association of Educators Office -
3007 Knight Street, Suite 210

SHOW YOUR APPRECIATION FOR YOUR FAVORITE LOUISIANA PUBLIC SCHOOL PROFESSIONAL BY USING #THANKALAEducator ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Can you think of a former educator who inspired your decision to work in the education profession? Have a special colleague that goes above and beyond the call of duty with little recognition? Now's your chance to spotlight these committed individuals and all the things they do to make public schools great for Louisiana's children! Remember, use **#thanklaeducator** to share your story on social media TODAY!

#THANKALAEducator

SHARE YOUR STORY!

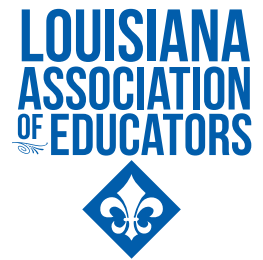
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Published Monthly by the
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CONTEST: Recruit the most new members, win an iPad!

The LAE member who recruits the most new members between now and November 30, 2016 will win an iPad – runner-up prizes include gift cards for \$400, \$250, and \$100 dollars. In order to be eligible, you must enroll at least three active public school professionals and either scan and email the completed enrollment forms to lguillot@lae.org or mail to the LAE headquarters (8322 One Calais Avenue) by the close of business on Monday, December 5th. Don't forget to fill in your name as the recruiter!

Contact your LAE UniServ Director for more information. Good luck!

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UPCOMING EVENTS

November 5

Culturally
Competent
Educator I

November 11

Veterans Day
*LAE Headquarters
CJSEED

November 18-19

LAE Board
Meeting/Training

November 19

Culturally
Competent
Educator II

November 23-25

Thanksgiving Break
*LAE Headquarters
CJSEED

December 10

Culturally
Competent
Educator III