



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

March

2010

COMMUNITIES STAND UP FOR SCHOOLS

AN OUTPOURING OF PUBLIC SUPPORT ON MARCH 4TH



They protested on March 4th in all corners of the state. There were college students fighting for affordable tuition, educators for quality programs and smaller class sizes, parents for keeping their neighborhood schools, students for keeping their teachers, and businesses for producing an educated workforce. March 4th became a Day of Action for a beleaguered education system still reeling from year after year of unprecedented budget cuts. The cuts total more than 17 billion dollars over the last two years.

Sacramento State University students converged on the capital with picket signs, chanting their frustration over tuition hikes and class eliminations. Gail Mendes, Secretary-Treasurer of the California Teachers Association, addressed the protesters. "We can no longer sit around and watch the legislature fumble the future of our state by shortchanging our educational system," said Mendes. At San Francisco State University, students marched and held up traffic along 19th Avenue, chanting and distributing flyers. Stu-

"When local chapters are successful in community organizing, everyone involved benefits."

David A. Sanchez

dents at Elk Grove School District outside Sacramento had a mock funeral carrying caskets representing the death of programs that the district is cutting. CTA members at Long Beach Community College rallied mid-day and then joined students and professors at Cal State Long Beach for a mass rally. At UC Riverside, students, teachers and staff wore red tee-shirts and armbands. They held a spirited rally while chanting and exhorting the Legislature to do its job and fund education.

Let's continue the momentum. The public is looking for guidance on how to keep it going. Our local CTA Chapters must continue to make contacts with community based organizations, supportive businesses, parents, and faith-based organizations. These are education's natural allies. If you need assistance, call your Community Outreach staff for help in putting together a plan.

Community Outreach Training Sessions will be offered at:

April 16-18	Region IV Leadership Conference	Rancho Mirage
May 14-16	Educational Support Professionals Conference	Burlingame
July 19-23	CTA Presidents' Conference	Asilomar
Aug. 4-6	Summer Institute Community Outreach Strand	UCLA
Oct 1-3	Region 2 Leadership Conference	Reno
Oct 15-17	Region 1 Leadership Conference	Asilomar

Consult the CTA website for registration information or call one of the regional offices.

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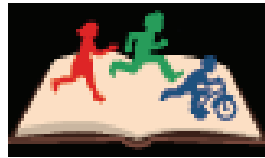
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Community Outreach Mission Statement

Community Outreach provides statewide services to local chapters, UniServ units and Service Center Councils in support of community engagement projects. The goal is to build strong, collaborative relationships between communities and local chapters in each of the four CTA regions. These efforts focus on developing projects and partnerships in support of public schools and their surrounding communities.

Outreach Offerings



Healthy Bodies/ Healthy Minds

In 2008, The California Endowment funded an expansion of *Teachers for Healthy Kids* to create *Healthy Bodies, Healthy Minds* - a project that addresses the link between learning and physical education, physical activity, and nutrition. The purpose of this project is to educate CTA members and staff about these issues, provide information about easy-to-implement classroom and school site activities, and promote policies that support optimal nutrition and physical activity options at both the state and local levels.

Research shows that well-nourished, active students have better concentration, school attendance and test scores. In recognition of this fact, the *Healthy Bodies, Healthy Minds* project addresses this connection between health and learning.

For many students plagued by inactivity and poor nutrition, the school is an ideal place to provide opportunities for safe and engaging physical activities and nutritious meals.

In light of the current budget situation, what can teachers and schools do?

- Promote physical activity and learning during the school day
- Model positive attitudes about physical activity and physical education
- Avoid withholding recess or punishing with physical activity
- Take advantage of opportunities to improve physical education like taking physical activity breaks during class time

If you are interested in a community outreach presentation at your Rep. Council, Executive Board, Service Center Council or Community meeting, contact your Regional Community Outreach Staff.