

April 24, 2025

CTA-AE News This Month!

Hello CTA-AE Members

Thank you to everyone who joined us at the CTA Aspiring Educators Spring Event! It was an incredible weekend filled with connection, inspiration, and collective action. From powerful workshops to our keynote with Dolores Huerta, we saw firsthand the strength and passion of future educators who are ready to lead both in and out of the classroom.

We would like to extend a huge congratulations to the incoming CTA-AE Executive Officers: Gabriel Mendoza Jr. and Queen Udofia, who have been elected to the CTA-AE President and Vice President Position. Our current CTA-AE President, Ethan, will be returning as the new Secretary-Treasurer. We are beyond excited to see this new leadership within our union and what they will do to advance us even further in our mission!

A huge congratulations to our Aspiring Educator Award winners and to all of our 2025 graduates; your hard work, leadership, and dedication to students and communities are what make this movement stronger. We can't wait to see the impact you'll make in the profession and beyond.

¡Sí, se puede!

In Solidarity,
Ethan Collier-Moreno (he/him/él), CTA-AE President
Mali Vera Cruzio (she/her/ella), CTA-AE Vice President

Report from the CTA-AE Spring Event and RA!

Thank you to the members, leaders, advisors, and community folks who helped make the CTA-AE Spring Event a huge success!



The weekend in numbers:

- 71 members and 13 advisors, CTA Board members, guests and staff who spent the weekend with us at the event!
- 16 colleges and universities from across the country were represented:

- CSU Chico
- CSU Fullerton

- CSU Northridge
- CSU San Diego
- CSU Stanislaus
- Irvine Valley College
- Los Angeles Pacific University
- Point Loma Nazarene University
- San Bernardino Valley College
- San Diego State University
- Santa Ana College
- UC Berkeley
- UC Santa Barbara
- University of Southern California
- Western Governors University (Regions 2, 3 & 4)

Spring Event participants heard from special guest speaker and labor icon Dolores Huerta, who urged them to use the full spectrum of their skills. "As a teacher, you are always an organizer in the classroom," she said. "I know you will all be great teachers and you will all become amazing organizers."



Special thanks to Santa Clara and San Diego County Office of Education for their help facilitating the Why Choose Residency workshop.

And a huge shout out to the Aspiring Educator Award winners, listed below, and the Graduates of 2025.

Newly Recognized Chapter

Awarded to a newly established chapter during the 2024-2025 Year

CTA-AE at CSUN

Aspiring Educators at UCSB

Irvine Valley College's Future Educators Club

Social Media Award

Presented for a chapter's social media page that has shown great engagement and consistent activity with their members.

California State University Fullerton

CTA-AE Virginia Ann Shadwick Human Rights Award

Aspiring Educators at UCSB

Most Notable Chapter Event

Irvine Valley College's Future Educators Club Book

Donation Drive: LA Fires

Outstanding Local Chapter

This is the most prestigious award given to a chapter

that has excelled in empowering students and inspiring change
Irvine Valley College's Future Educators Club

Outstanding Chapter Advisor
Shelby Clatterbuck from
Irvine Valley College's Future Educators Club

W.H.O. (We Honor Ours) Award
Sofia Rubio from CSU Fullerton SCTA

Statewide Board Elections at the Spring Event

One of the important tasks of the Spring CTA-AE representative assembly is that we hold an election for the State-wide board for the coming school year. On Saturday we offered a workshop on State-wide board 101. Attendees got to hear from current CTA-AE board members about what they have been working on and what their roles entail. They also got to ask questions of the board members as they considered running for a role themselves. Sunday morning, CTA-AE delegates elected the following:

President: Gabriel Medoza Jr.
Executive Vice President: Queen Udofia
Secretary-Treasurer: Ethan Collier-Moreno
Region 2 Director: Tiffany Richey
Communications Editor: Andrea Guevara
Racial and Equity Affairs Committee: Giselle Reyes, Jennifer Kay Garcia, Elias Antunez

Congratulations to the new 2025-2026 CTA-AE board!

Existing Board Vacancies include:

- Communications Editor (2)
- Racial and Equity Affairs Committee (1)
- Region 1 Director
- Region 3 Director
- Region 4 Director

Each of these vacant positions can now be appointed by the incoming 2025-2026 CTA-AE state-wide board. We are also accepting applications for individuals interested in being considered for the position of California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CCTC) Liaison. Please fill out the [Declaration of Candidacy Form](#) if you would like to be considered.

State Council Representation Elections and CCTC Applications

There are 3 positions for State Council Representatives for 2025-2026. As a State Council Representative, you will attend the 4 [CTA State Council](#) meetings acting on the behalf of the needs of CTA Aspiring Educators. State Delegates are elected by secret ballot sent to all CTA-AE members.

State Council Representation Election Timeline:

- April 28, 2025 by 4PM - deadline to declare for the State Council via the [Declaration of Candidacy Form](#)
- May 5, 2025 – voting will begin on election buddy
- May 12, 2025 – voting will end on election buddy at 11:59 PM
- May 20, 2025 – results will be shared with members and submitted to CTA Elections Committee
- May 30, 2025 – deadline to file challenges

Chapter Development Updates

CTA Aspiring Educator Chapters are at the heart of CTA-AE!

If you have questions or want to chat about how to build community in your chapter, join us for our monthly (every third Sunday) Virtual Chapter Roundtable meetings.

[Register for the Monthly Chapter Leader Roundtable](#)



There are 5 easy steps to becoming a CTA-AE Chapter:

1. Fill out the Chapter Recognition Form below and at: <https://bit.ly/CTA-AE24ChapterRecognition>;
2. Show proof of official club status on campus;
3. Show proof of elected leadership, ie: Chapter President;
4. Show proof of at least one advisor, ie: faculty in your campus School of Education; and
5. Share your governing documents, ie: Chapter By-Laws – we have samples you can use!

In addition to all the benefits of being a CTA-AE Member, recognized CTA-AE Chapters receive additional benefits.

Please see below for 5 reasons to become a CTA-AE Chapter:

1. Sponsorship to attend CTA-AE's events like our Fall Event on November 2-3, 2024 or Spring Event and Representative Assembly on April 19-20, 2025;
2. CTA-AE gear like t-shirts, tote bags, pens, pencils;
3. Access to scholarships and awards for school through the [CTA Foundation's Scholarship Programs & Awards](#);
4. Opportunity to meet with CTA-AE Chapters across the state and with [NEA Aspiring Educators](#); Members and Chapters across the nation; and
5. Voting rights at CTA-AE's Representative Assembly.

Link to charter chapter: <https://bit.ly/CTA-AE24ChapterRecognition>

If you are a member whose chapter has not yet been recognized or are unsure, feel free to contact cta-ae@cta.org.

Communications Team Update

As we wrap up the year, we want to thank everyone that came out to the Spring Event. It was so great to see people in person and be in unity with you all. We have enjoyed being your communications editors for the past couple years and can't wait to continue our work in new positions. Congratulations once again to the new communications editor, Andrea Guevara!

As always, don't forget to follow us on Instagram [@cta_aspiringed](#)

Warmly,
Jennifer Kay Garcia and Tiffany Richey

CTA-AE Scholarships, Grants, and Awards

[2024-2025 CTA/NEA-Retired Pedretti Credential Candidate Scholarship](#)

Deadline: May 17, 2025

Dedicated to Gloria's former students, this scholarship will provide financial aid to potential educators pursuing a Pre-K through 12th grade teaching credential through an accredited institution of higher education.

[LGBTQ+ Safety in Schools Grant & Scholarship Program in Honor of Guy DeRosa](#)

Deadline: May 30, 2025

The grant program will support groups, projects and presentations that promote understanding of and respect for LGBTQ+ persons. In addition, the scholarship program will support self-identified LGBTQ+ active CTA/CTA Aspiring Educators members enrolled in a teacher/counseling credential or graduate program who are pursuing a career in public education and who understand the importance of LGBTQ+ educators as role models in our public schools.

Questions? email scholarships@cta.org or humanrightsdept@cta.org



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