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September 8, 2025

CTA-AE News This Month!

Hello CTA Aspiring Educators,

Espero que ustedes y su familia se encuentren bien y con salud.

On August 16th and 17th, your Statewide Board came together with one goal in mind: to organize for you. We met to chart out the upcoming Fall Conference, Bridging Gaps, Empowering California, but even more than that, we laid the groundwork for how Aspiring Educators will meet this moment in California.

Our schools are facing challenges unlike anything we have seen before, and as future educators, so are we. But here is the truth, when we come together, when we organize, when we strategize, we are powerful. That is the heart of Stronger Schools, Stronger California, a vision to make sure aspiring educators are connected, supported, and ready to lead change in our communities.

And this is where you come in. I want to bring this work directly to you and your chapter. Let's talk about what the statewide board is building, what resources are available, and how your chapter is at the center of this movement. If your chapter is ready, I ask that you invite me to your campus by emailing me directly (scta.gmendozajr@gmail.com) or by filling out this [form](#).

This year is about more than planning, it is about action. Together, we will grow the movement that strengthens our chapters, organizes for our communities, and builds the schools and state that our students deserve.

AE's, continue to move with purpose, continue to lead with corazon, and continue to rise as one.

Stronger Unions. Stronger Members. Stronger Schools. Stronger California. Stronger *us*.

Con Todo,
Gabriel Mendoza Jr.
2025-2026 CTA Aspiring Educators President

Renew your CTA-AE Membership

To all returning CTA-AE members, it's time to renew your CTA-AE membership for the 2025-2026 year! The annual membership period runs from **September 1 through August 31 of each year**. [Renew your membership here.](#)

CTA Aspiring Educators membership brings together like-minded people who share a passion for education. Membership offers opportunities to engage in personal and professional development, increase your voice and have a medium for social change – the ability to fight for what you believe in. As aspiring educators, we see issues in the education system, teaching practices, and obstacles to teacher preparation. Our union allows us to come together to work towards systemic change. We act as a collaborative community fighting for racial and social justice in our public school system.

Members of CTA-AE have access to the following benefits:

- Networking, leadership, training, and professional development opportunities
- Access to scholarships and grants from CTA specifically for CTA Aspiring Educators
- \$1 million in liability insurance, low rates on auto, homeowners/renters insurance

Check out the full list of member benefits and services on our [CTA-AE website](#).

If you have questions or concerns, email us at cta-ae@cta.org.

Save the Date for the CTA-AE Fall Event!

We are excited to share details about our CTA-AE Fall Event: **BRIDGING GAPS, EMPOWERING CALIFORNIA**

This event will be focused on developing advocacy to combat the issues that are taking place in our education system. How can we bridge gaps and empower California? By building community. Come connect with other chapters to gain perspectives and inspiration to grow your own chapters. Together, we can learn how we can uplift our chapters for positive/political change. During this event, we will provide you with the skills, resources, and information to support development— both at a professional level and at an advocacy level— at your local chapters for your aspiring educators. Register at the link below. We hope to see you there!

ASPIRING EDUCATORS

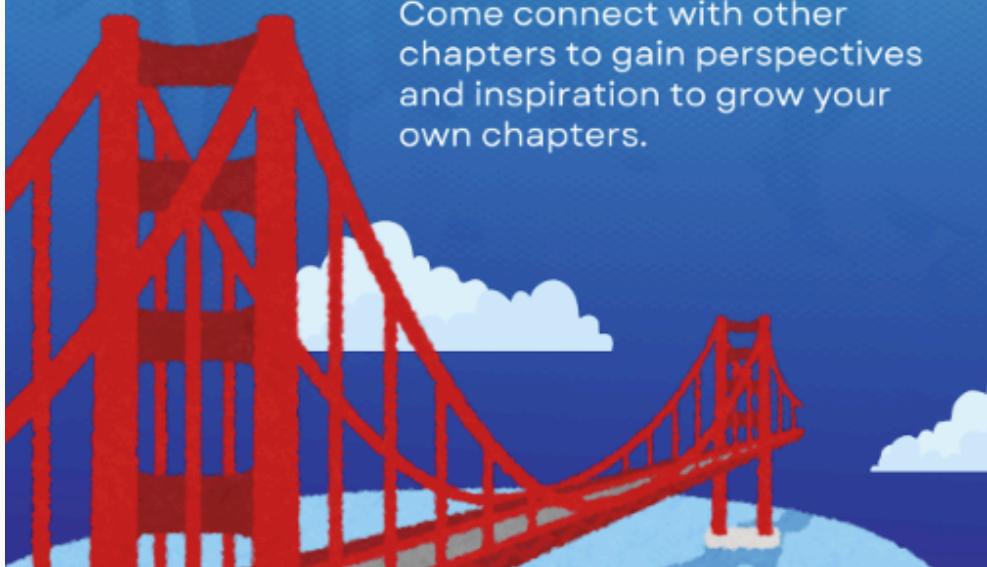
BRIDGING GAPS, EMPOWERING CALIFORNIA



**November 8th-9th, 2025
Burlingame, CA**

Register here:
<https://bit.ly/25FallEventReg>

Come connect with other chapters to gain perspectives and inspiration to grow your own chapters.



Dates:

Sat. Nov 8 - Sun. Nov 9, 2025

Location:

CTA Headquarters 1750 Murchison Drive, Burlingame, CA

Registration:

Link to register: <https://bit.ly/25FallEventReg>

Deadline to register: **Friday, October 10, 2025**

Scholarships to attend are available to CTA-AE members who are part of registered chapters. Contact your chapter advisor or chapter president to request a scholarship. The deadline to submit names of aspiring educators to receive scholarships to attend the Fall Event is Friday, October 3, 2025.

Chapter Development Updates

[Message from the Executive Vice President Queen Udoфia](#)

CTA-AE's chapters are the heart of our work and the foundation of our movement. This report reflects ongoing efforts to connect with chapters, support local leadership, and grow our collective capacity as future educators in California.

1. August Board Meeting – Burlingame (Aug. 16–17)

Recap: At the August Board Meeting in Burlingame, the Statewide Board aligned on priorities for the Fall Conference and reaffirmed our collective commitment to strengthening and expanding CTA-AE chapters across California.

Next Steps: Continue building on this momentum by advancing outreach, engagement, and recruitment efforts in collaboration with the board and staff.

2. Chapter Contact Information Update

Task: All board members were assigned specific groupings of chapters by CTA-AE staff to update and verify contact information. The list provided during the August meeting was determined to be outdated.

Status: Outreach to my assigned chapters is underway. Several are still unable to confirm updated leadership details. Others are navigating transitions due to graduations and internal leadership changes.

Next Steps: Continue outreach and ensure all updated contact information is submitted to staff by the established deadline.

3. Outreach & Recruitment Efforts

Task: As part of our ongoing recruitment efforts, I have been in contact with current and potential chapters to promote CTA-AE membership and involvement.

Status: Some campuses have expressed interest in chartering. Others are reorganizing internal leadership structures or working to ratify their chapter for the academic year.

Next Steps: Maintain consistent communication, offer support where needed, and coordinate with staff on next steps for chapter activation or renewal.

4. Fall Conference Preparation

Action Taken: In alignment with CTA-AE's mission, I will continue working with assigned chapters to ensure they are informed, engaged, and prepared for active participation in the upcoming Fall Conference.

Next Steps: Encourage chapter attendance, provide clarity around expectations, and support chapter leaders in preparing for a successful experience.

Contact Information:

For follow-up or additional information, please feel free to contact me directly:

Phone: 949-791-9215

Email: ctaee.Queen.Udofia@gmail.com

Get Your Chapter Recognized

As we transition into the new school year, **all existing AE Chapters will need to resubmit their Chapter Recognition paperwork**. Regardless if you are an established Chapter or just starting out, please check out the instructions below.

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

1. Fill out the Chapter Recognition Form at: <https://bit.ly/25-26ChapterRecognitionForm>;
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 8 - 9, 2025 or Spring Event and Representative Assembly on April 18 - 19, 2026;
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/25-26ChapterRecognitionForm>

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

CTA-AE Chapter & Member Spotlight

CSU Fullerton won Outstanding Program in Academia Award at the Tuffy Awards

As the new President of SCTA at CSU Fullerton, it was an honor to receive the award for Outstanding Program in Academia, for the 2025 Tuffy Award. The annual Tuffy Award recognized the achievement of student organizations and their members who have impacted the Titan community. It reflects the passion and commitment our team has poured into building a strong, supportive community for future educators. My predecessor/board collaborated together to create meaningful opportunities for connection, growth, and preparation for the teaching profession.

The event itself is a recognition of the many organizations on campus and the award, represents all our hard work and inspires me as the new president to continue advocating for and supporting the next generation of teachers. It's a reminder of the power of student leadership, collaboration, and dedication. I would like to also acknowledge my predecessor Sofia Rubio. None of this would have been possible without her help, support, and guidance. The award we received was thanks to her leadership in her presidency position and my vice-presidency, but mainly her hard work as president. - *Gabriel Román Flores, SCTA President at CSU Fullerton.*

Club Apple won Club Association of the Year at Santa Ana College

Club Apple was recognized with Student Organization of the Year, Most Creative Association, and Outstanding Advisor Awards during the past student leadership banquet. Club Apple has shown remarkable growth and achievement over this past school year. Their dedication and hard work were recognized with the "Student Organization of the Year" award. Additionally, thanks to the creativity and commitment of the board members, they also earned the title of "Most Creative Association."



This proves that their efforts to uplift members and strengthen their chapter have been noticed by their own community. And of course, behind every successful organization is a strong leader—and Club Apple is no exception. Their advisor, Daniel Cristobal, has always played a vital and important role in supporting and advocating for his students. A strong commitment and impact with the organization led him to be honored with the "Outstanding Advisor Award," distinguishing him among all the advisors at Santa Ana College.

These awards highlight the extraordinary collaboration, creativity, and leadership within Club Apple—and the excellent future ahead for this CTA-AE chapter.

Aspiring Educators Represent California at Educators Rising Conference

This year, I had the incredible opportunity to participate in the Educators Rising national conference, which took place in Orlando, Florida. I competed at the collegiate level in the *Educators Rising Moment*—completely in Spanish. As part of the event, I wrote and delivered a personal speech sharing why I want to become an educator, hoping to inspire future teachers at all levels of education.

The experience was both fun and eye-opening. It pushed me to grow, not only in public speaking but also in sharing my story with confidence and pride. I'm proud to share that I placed second in the competition! Even more meaningful, this was the first time a large group from California attended the conference. My teammate Tiffany and I were honored to represent our state and make our voices heard as members of our aspiring educators club.

-Andrea Guevara, CTA-AE Communications Director

This summer, Tiffany Richey proudly represented her community at the Educators Rising National Conference in Orlando, Florida. Competing in the Educators Rising Moment—a public speaking event where students share their personal "why" for becoming an educator—Tiffany earned 3rd place nationally in the English category. Her heartfelt story highlighted her passion for teaching and the impact she hopes to make in the lives of future students. The experience was both valuable and rewarding, offering a powerful opportunity to connect with aspiring educators from across the country and to grow as a future leader in education.

-Tiffany Richey, CTA-AE Region 2 Director





Celebrating the Former Co-President of Berkeley AESAP, the CTA-AE Berkeley Chapter, *Emma Rose Neal*

Since graduating in the Spring of 2025, Emma Rose Neal has gone on to intern in Washington, D.C. as a research assistant at the American University School of Education. Part of this internship involved working with the City Teaching Alliance, a teacher preparation program. Throughout this time, Emma worked alongside other aspiring educators while attending congressional hearings and town halls, listening to the voices and stories of those in our nation's capital, which inspired her to pursue her path as an educator. This fall, Emma will continue her education at Complutense University of Madrid, with a focus on teaching music in early childhood education.

-Luis Tovar, Region 1 Director

Elections Updates

Congratulations to our newly appointed statewide board members for the 2025-2026 term. We are thrilled to welcome these folks as they continue their aspiring educator journeys. We welcome their enthusiasm and leadership in this moment as we continue to fight for a great publication for every student.

- Luis Tovar (UC Berkeley) - Region 1 Director
- Sara Huerta (Santa Ana College) - REAC Director
- Lauren Winkel (UC Berkeley) - CTC Liaison

Want to get involved in the movement for strong public schools? Fill out this [Google form](#), and I will reach out to you with more information! Aspiring Educators, now is the time to take action, not just for public education, but for our communities and the democracy that makes this country beautiful.

REAC Director Updates

As part of the Racial Equity Affairs Committee, our intention is to strengthen our students, especially our BIPOC (black, indigenous, people of color) communities by building equitable, safe, and collaborative campuses for our union members to advocate for their needs both at the local and state level all throughout California. We recognize that this cannot be done without truly understanding each chapter and their unique needs. This past month, we have been actively reaching out to different chapters to acknowledge their hard work and achievements on their campuses and within their organizations over the past year and semester, as well as all the concerns they might have. We plan to put together a resource hub for everyone to use and contribute to. We are accountable to each other and should actively exchange resources and information rather than gatekeep and hoard it.

In solidarity,
Elias Atunez, JK Garcia, Sara Huerta

NEA Aspiring Educators Updates

NEA (National Educators Association) will be initiating a nation-wide telephonic outreach campaign to connect with potential AE members. They will be supporting our statewide membership recruitment efforts by reaching out to students who have attended NEA websites and online actions, and will connect them to our CTA-AE leadership. We're looking forward to welcoming new Aspiring Educators and continuing to build capacity to fight for the future of our profession and advocate for better working conditions for educators and better learning conditions for our students.

Message from the Communications Director

Hello CTA-AE community,
I hope this message finds you well! As your Communications Director, I'm always excited to highlight the inspiring work being done by aspiring educators across California. While I don't have major updates to share at the moment, I do want to remind you about an important upcoming opportunity.

 **Registration is now open for the CTA-AE Fall Statewide Event, happening November 8–9 in Burlingame, CA!**

Don't miss this chance to connect, grow, and learn alongside fellow future educators.

 [Fall Conference Registration](#)

Stay tuned for more updates, and as always, thank you for your continued involvement and passion. Let's keep working together to shape the future of education!

In solidarity,
Andrea Guevara
Communications Director, CTA-AE

District Q Director Corner

From the desk of CTA Board of Director DeWayne Sheaffer Representing District Q Director

Hello CTA-AE leaders. I hope you have had a restful and exciting summer break. Now as we focus towards the fall 2025 semester the work begins. Let me be real. The work never ended!

Though there are many issues facing public education these days, please do not forget to focus on issues you can contribute to but more importantly take care of yourself. You are a human first and then a student! Yes you have other activities you wish to be engaged in. Take a pause and identify what you can do well. If you noticed I did not say it perfectly. We strive to do our best in all areas of our life and at times we may fall short. That is okay! The Important part is what is the lesson to be learned in all outcomes of our actions and in-actions.

You can do a lot of things. However, being selective is important. Do not forget you are part of a team of other leaders across the state and some of you have connections to leaders across the nation that you can reach out to. You are not alone in these moments though you are alone. Reach out and communicate with others when needed. This is not a sprint, it is a marathon! Pacing is the key. A well-crafted engine cannot run hard 100% of the time! There is a need for it to rest and receive maintenance to continue. So do you! Do not forget.

As you begin the fall 2025 semester planning and journey, please pause and reflect on what you can do well. Though you have a lot of energy, use it the best way you can. Know you only have 168 hours in a week. That may seem like a lot. However, most of that time you will be sleeping! Also remember "life will be lifting."

Have a great academic year!



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