

November 24, 2025

## CTA-AE News This Month!

¡CALIFORNIA ASPIRING EDUCATORS!

Muchísimas gracias for such an outstanding Fall Event! Together, we made a collective commitment to prioritize our presence and to organize for our communities in ways that never have been done before. It was an absolute honor to share that space with all of you.

Even though we come from different universities in the state, our shared commitment to building classrooms that truly reflect and serve our communities was undeniable. As we return back to our campuses, I ask that you continue to hold on to that same energy and hope we built together.

Aspiring educators, do not give up. Do not give into the attacks made against our profession. Stand strong, stand united, and remember the best is yet to come for our union and for the work we are called to do.

Sigue la lucha, y vamos con todo!

In Solidarity,  
Gabriel Mendoza Jr.  
2025-2026 CTA Aspiring Educators President

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## FALL EVENT Recap: Message for the Secretary-Treasurer

Dear Aspiring Educators,

Thank YOU for making our Fall Conference on November 7-8 in Burlingame such a success! 73 members and advisors spent the weekend with us at the event and 13 colleges and universities from across the state were represented:

- Cal Poly Humboldt
- CSU Chico
- CSU Fullerton
- CSU San Diego
- CSU Stanislaus
- CSU Northridge
- CSU San Bernardino
- Irvine Valley College
- San Bernardino Valley College
- Santa Ana College
- UC Berkeley
- UC Los Angeles
- Southwestern College

It was such a pleasure to meet so many dedicated future educators come together, hear about the work happening in your chapters and listen to your ideas.



As we move forward, I encourage you to stay involved and continue building the power of your chapters. There are many ways to extend your leadership and make an even bigger impact, including applying for open positions on the CTA-Aspiring Educators Statewide Board (more details on this later in the newsletter)

Thank you for all that you do to strengthen our community and make a difference for students across California.

Find photos from the Fall Event [here](#).

In Solidarity,

Dahlia Schilling  
Secretary-Treasurer  
CTA Aspiring Educators

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## Chapter Development Updates

Aspiring Educators at Cal State Long Beach are working hard to build their board, chapter, and officially become chartered once they find an official advisor to facilitate their growth. Interested in learning more or simply supporting their journey? Follow them on Instagram!

# ASPIRING EDUCATORS

Interested in the education system?



## Who are we?

California Teachers Association Aspiring Educators (CTA-AE) is intended for **anyone aspiring to be a teacher, school librarian, social worker, psychologist, school nurse, college faculty member, etc.** We serve as the collective voice for our peers and advocate for what we believe to be fair and just for ourselves and our future students. Our mission is guided by our **four core values - teacher quality, community outreach, diversity, and advocacy.**

## What we'll offer!

1. Professional Development Workshops
2. Community Outreach Opportunities
3. Social Events
4. And More!



Want to stay in touch?

CSULB CTA-AE IS LOOKING FOR



# BOARD MEMBERS

➔ Interested in a leadership position?



## WE ARE LOOKING FOR

- Treasurer
- Secretary
- Public Relations (or Social Media) Coordinator



*swipe for descriptions* ➔

APPLY BY:

**Mon. Nov 24th**

APPLY VIA GOOGLE FORM AT:

**<https://bit.ly/CTAAEboardapp>**

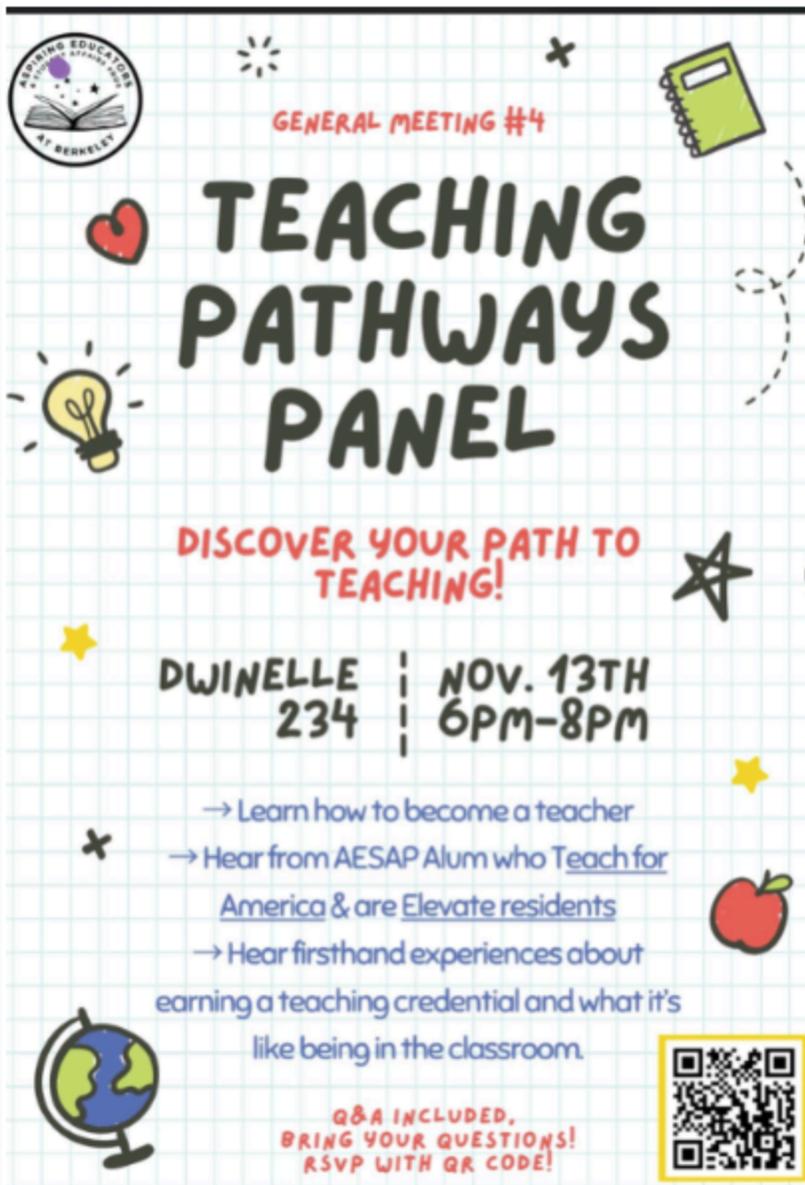
LINK IN BIO ^

## CTA-AE Chapter & Member Spotlight

The UC Berkeley Chapter (AESAP) has completed a collaboration event with ASL Berkeley x AESAP to expand our knowledge of education from an American Sign Language (ASL) perspective! It was a successful event that showed us the history of ASL in the classroom and how education changed its accessibility for those in the deaf/hard of hearing community. So exciting!



In addition, on November 13th, AESAP will be hosting a Teaching Pathways Panel to make the process of teacher credentialing less daunting and hearing from guest speakers who are currently going through the process of credentialing to make the process less daunting, ensuring that their members feel that they have a community they can rely on!



Region 4 Director:

Hello Aspiring Educators, this is Giselle Reyes reporting on our local initiatives led by students and the many ways they continue to empower students with the tool to continue their education and career aspirations!

To start us off, our local Cal State Fullerton chapter has been hosting meaningful workshops about substitute information with an upcoming identity workshop for their members exploring different perspectives this November 18th, 2025.



The San Diego State University chapter has been focusing on providing their members with various skills and ways to uplift each other within their community. Their local chapter hosted a CPR and First Aid training for their members which they plan to do again next spring semester!



Santa Ana College chapter will be wrapping up their College Supply drive in collaboration with the Undocu-Scholar Center. Club Apple invites aspiring educators and local chapters to join us on zoom this November 21st for an introduction to Anaheim Secondary Teachers Association Union. Join us in this opportunity to build bridges for students from high school to college and into their career choice after their education!

# AGENDA ITEMS



This upcoming Friday Club Apple will be hosting their second to last hybrid meeting at the Undocu-Scholars Center for a community member gathering, our end of the year potluck, and meeting inspiring guest speakers.

RSVP *REQUIRED*



**12:20-  
12:30 pm**

**Meet Staff at the Undocu-Scholars Center**  
**Where: VL-109**  
*Sign in Required*



**12:30-  
12:45**

**Guest Speakers on Zoom: ASTA**  
**Anaheim Secondary Teachers Association**  
Aspiring Educators goals and aspirations.



**12:45-  
1:00 pm**

**State Board President Aspiring Educators**  
**Guest Speaker #2: Gabriel M.**  
Joining us in person with a Banned Books Raffle all the way from San Diego!



**1:00-1:30  
pm**

**End of College Supply Drive**  
**Community Potluck Celebration**  
Time to reflect, share ideas, and stand in solidarity!

For more details or questions, email us at:  
[clubapple.ctaac@gmail.com](mailto:clubapple.ctaac@gmail.com)

Santa Ana College and Club Apple invites Region four and all aspiring educators to our local Road to Teaching conference for some amazing workshops and guest speakers this upcoming week! **Register [here](#)**

Presented by SchoolsFirst Federal Credit Union

## THE 29<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL



# ROAD TO TEACHING 2025

CONFERENCE

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22**

**8:30 A.M. - 3:30 P.M. AT SANTA ANA COLLEGE**



REGISTER AT  
**SAC.EDU/RTTC**



**KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY MEGAN LEE**  
2026 ORANGE COUNTY TEACHER OF THE YEAR

### WORKSHOP TOPICS INCLUDE

- Early Childhood, Elementary, Secondary, & Special Education
- Student Engagement & Classroom Management
- Landing a Teaching Job

**LUNCH & EDUCATION FAIR INCLUDED!**



## October 2025 State Council

Hello everyone!

We hope your November has been treating you well! As your State Council Representatives, we had the privilege of attending the state council during the weekend of October 17-19, where we discussed politics in education along with legislation that CTA would like to put forth for the betterment of public education.

We happened to arrive during the time that the No Kings Protest was taking place that weekend. As a result, we spent the better half of our Saturday marching around Los Angeles to stand up against no kings and to push for a YES on Prop 50. On that note! What a success! Proposition 50 has been passed. This is incredible for the preservation of our democracy. Below is a photo of us participating in the protest.



We also want to take the time to highlight some of the incredible work that happened at October's State Council:

1. CTA Made Assembly and Senate Tiering Recommendations for the June 2nd, 2026, Primary Election.
2. CTA voted for Vanessa Barrera for the NEA Board Director of District 10.

We also want to thank all of you who attended our Fall Event during the weekend of November 7-9! It was a privilege to hear from each Chapter and collaborate with you all!

There, we also spoke on Prop 55, which we hope to get on the ballot for next year. This proposition would increase the personal income tax for joint 700,000 earners. This is an extension of Prop 30 that originally was temporary, but with Prop 55 will become permanent. This will NOT increase the sales tax that was previously in Prop 30. If not passed, 1 in 6 teachers could be laid off due to the 16% budget cuts that would take place! If you would like to hear more from CTA, please visit the website below:

[Prop 55](#)

As difficult as having an organizing conversation may be (as we learned during our Fall Event!), we urge all of you to begin having these conversations with your peers, friends, and family members. Before we fight for more funding, we must first fight to keep the funding we currently have.

Thank you for your time, and we hope you all have a wonderful end to your year!

In Solidarity,  
Your State Council Representatives

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## Elections Updates

The CTA-AE board is looking to fill some vacancies on the statewide board for the remainder of the 2025-2026 term (January 2026 - June 2026). The rest of the board schedule is below. Besides our monthly meeting, there are tasks assigned to board members as needed and depending on our union's organizing needs. However, our board is committed to working with you as we continue to build our union up, support each other's leadership development, and overall, build a community of support amongst each other. Please take a moment to review the meeting schedule and vacant positions with a brief description of their responsibilities.

**Meeting Schedule:**

January 10-11, 2026: *Virtual*  
February 21-22, 2026: *Burlingame*  
March 21-22, 2026: *Virtual*  
April 18-19 2026, *Los Angeles*

**Vacancies:**

**Racial Equity Affairs Committee (1 Vacancy)**

Work together to move the racial and social justice work of the association. Focus on supporting equity amongst members and our students. Supports the development of the CTA-AE Spring Conference.

**Region 2 Director**

Work with the Vice President and the Statewide board to support the development and growth of Region 2 chapters. Must reside in region 2 (map attached to this email). Supports the development of the CTA-AE Spring Conference.



**Region 3 Director**

Work with the Vice President and the Statewide board to support the development and growth of Region 3 chapters. Must reside in region 3 (map attached to this email). Supports the development of the CTA-AE Spring Conference.

**State Council Representative *Alternate***

Attend the CTA State Council in the event of an absence by any of our current state council representatives. Participate in committee meetings at the State Council, in addition to supporting the development of the CTA-AE Spring Conference.

January 23-25, 2026: Los Angeles, Bonaventure Hotel

March 27-29, 2026: Los Angeles, Bonaventure Hotel

June 5-7, 2026: Los Angeles, Bonaventure Hotel

**Liaison to the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing**

Represent CTA-AE on the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing. Participating in this role positions you to be the voice for Aspiring Educators on the CTC and to learn more about the CTC. Additional meetings in Sacramento as needed.

**Communications Editor (3 vacancies)**

Create flyers, posters, and social media materials. Monitor Instagram and repost or uplift the work of our chapters. Supports the development of the CTA-AE Spring Conference.

**Elections Committee (4 Vacancies)**

Help support the Elections Chair in implementing election procedures. This position will only meet virtually from January to April, meeting once in person at the CTA-AE Spring Event. This is a great position for anyone looking to get involved but doesn't want to pursue a position with heavy responsibilities. This is also a great position to observe the work of the board in case you would like to run for something next year.

If interested in any position, have questions, or need more insight, please email Jonathan at:

[oyaga4publiced@gmail.com](mailto:oyaga4publiced@gmail.com)

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## Message from the CCTC Liaison

During the October State Council, Lauren Winkel, the CCTC Liaison, attended California Commission on Teaching Credentialing sessions. Please see the attached documents for the full reports.

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## NEA-Retired Jack Kinnaman Scholarship for Aspiring Educators

Every year, NEA-Retired offers the Jack Kinnaman Scholarship of \$3,500 for Aspiring Educators. The scholarship application will be online and active on December 1, 2025, and must be submitted by April 15, 2026 no later than 5:00 PM ET.

The application can be found at [nea.org/retired](https://nea.org/retired). The Jack Kinnaman Scholarship webpage will be active starting December 1, 2025.

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## CTA Scholarships

[CTA-AE Scholarship in Honor of L. Gordon Bittle Memorial](#)

**Deadline: February 6, 2026**

This program offers up to three scholarships of up to \$5,000 each to active members of CTA-AE pursuing a career in public education.

[Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Scholarship](#)

**Deadline: February 20, 2026**

The Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Scholarship Program encourages Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) students to become educators, school nurses, school counselors or school therapists and to promote professional growth for BIPOC educators and Education Support Professionals (ESP) members.

[César E. Chávez and Dolores Huerta Education Awards Program](#)

**Deadline: March 6, 2026**

This award program provides recognition for educators and their students who demonstrate an understanding of the vision and guiding principles embraced by César E. Chávez and Dolores Huerta.

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

**Deadline: May 29, 2026**

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 (CTA-AE) 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.

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## Register Today: New educators Weekend 2025- North!

[Register HERE](#).

The **New Educator Weekend (NEW)** is for educators in their first three years in the profession. The conference has everything that educators need to be successful in their first years of teaching, including sessions about classroom management, creating engaging classrooms, lesson plans and ideas, connecting with your union, student loan forgiveness information, member benefits, project grants and more.

Your experience at the New Educator Weekend is equal parts educational and transformational. You'll learn new skills and find solutions to real-life challenges. You'll leave the conference feeling inspired, motivated and with a knowledge of what you need to do to be even more successful on Monday morning in your classroom.

[Register HERE](#). Registration for Aspiring Educators is just \$10 (not including travel/hotel).

This conference is a CTA Conference, and will not be available for sponsorship through the CTA Aspiring Educators Program. CTA and CTA's Human Rights Department will not reimburse AE members for expenses incurred to attend this conference. AE members that wish to attend can request funding for travel/hotel lodging/meals/registration fees from your AE chapter or college campus.

## 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](mailto:cta-ae@cta.org).

## 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 below and 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, feel free to contact [cta.ae@cta.org](mailto:cta.ae@cta.org).



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