



February 25, 2025


CTA-AE News This Month!


Howdy, CTA-AE Member!


We hope this message finds you well and in good spirits. As we come into the second month of the new year, we want to provide you all an update of what we've been up to and learn more about how we can best support you in organizing your college/university campus!

 **NEW CHAPTER ALERT:** We are so pleased to welcome the following new chapters into our organization: **UC Berkeley** (Region 1), **UC Santa Barbara** (Region 3), **CSU Northridge** (Region 3), **Irvine Valley College** (Region 4). We are excited to work alongside you all in building **AE POWER** on your campuses and beyond.

 **SPRING EVENT:** Save the Date Below and Register for the CTA-AE Spring Event and Representative Assembly (RA!) All chapters get up to seven (7) members to be sponsored by CTA-AE to attend the event. Make sure to register as soon as possible to secure travel scholarships.

 **EDUCATORS RISING (EDRISING):** Alongside being an active CTA-AE Member, you are also entitled to amazing benefits from Educators Rising (EdRising). To get these resources, **sign up at the [Ed Rising page for collegiate membership](#)**: to get the resources FREE, use this special code at checkout: **EDRAE**. More information can be found at <https://educatorsrising.org/college-students/>.

 **FEBRUARY BOARD MEETING:** This past weekend, our board was hard at work recruiting new chapters into our organization and reaching out to members across the state to attend our upcoming Spring Event. However, our work extends beyond just us, it also encompasses you. We want to hear how we can better serve you and collectively serve our mission of changing public education for the better. Please email scta.ethancollier@gmail.com directly to or [book an AE Office Hour slot!](#)

 **ADVOCACY UPDATE:** The education system, as we know it, is changing. Our most disenfranchised populations of students are being targeted, such as our undocumented, LGBTQIA+, and students of color. There have been major shifts in the federal Department of Education, including the immense pressure to eliminate DEI initiatives with colleges/universities. Now is the time, more than ever, to **MOBILIZE, FIGHT, AND COUNTERACT** the system that seeks to minimize our voices!

Let us keep the **AE POWER GOING** and **GROWING** as we enter a new era of education in our world. When we fight, **WE WIN!**

In solidarity,
Ethan Collier-Moreno (he/him/él), CTA-AE President
Mali Vera Cruzio (she/her/ella), CTA-AE Vice President
Isaiah Ophaso (he/him), CTA-AE Secretary-Treasurer

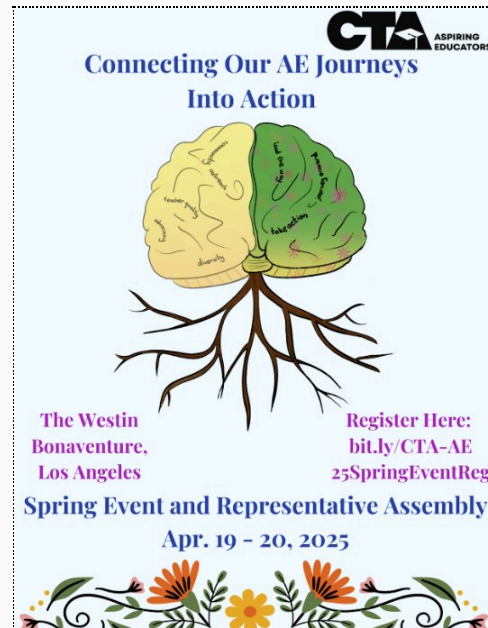
Save the Date (and register!) for the CTA-AE Spring Event and RA!

We are excited to share details about our CTA-AE Spring Event and Representative Assembly!

- When: April 19-20, 2025
- Where: Westin Bonaventure, Los Angeles, CA
- Register: <https://bit.ly/CTA-AE25SpringEventReg>

The event is FREE to all CTA-AE members! Become a member or renew your membership here: <https://sctaenroll.cta.org/Enrollnow.aspx>.

We can also provide scholarships to cover hotel and travel but will be prioritizing members from recognized chapters. Please connect with your chapter leaders if you're interested in attending and receiving a scholarship. If you don't have a chapter at your campus, connect with us to create a chapter and submit a Chapter Recognition Form here: <https://bit.ly/CTA-AE24ChapterRecognition>.



Awards Ceremony at the Spring Event

At the Spring Event, we honor CTA Aspiring Educators Members, Chapters and Advisors. Awards will be held at the Awards Ceremony over dinner.

Deadline for nominations: March 15, 2025
Awards Ceremony: April 19, 2025

[Awards Nomination Form](#)



Statewide Board Elections at the Spring Event

If you're interested in running for a Statewide Board position for the 2025-2026 year, make sure you register for the CTA-AE Spring Event and RA in Downtown Los Angeles from April 19 -20 where elections will take place and please fill out the [Declaration of Candidacy Form](#).

More information on roles and responsibilities can be found at: www.cta.org/ctaae

Deadline to Declare: April 19, 2025 by 11:59 PM

Please note that it is required for all candidates to attend the Candidates Meeting on April 19 immediately following the Awards Dinner.

CTA-AE Statewide Board Members must:

- Remain members in good standing of the Chapter, CTA Aspiring Educators, CTA and NEA as a condition for nomination to and service in their respective positions.
- Carry at least six (6) units per semester/quarter with a GPA of 2.5 or better.

In addition to duties and responsibilities specific to their position, all Statewide Board members:

- Coordinate the activities of the Association.
- Be responsible for the implementation and reporting of the policies and positions of the Association.
- Between meetings of the Representative Assembly, the Statewide Board shall act in the name of the Association in matters demanding immediate action on the part of the Association. More information can be found in the CTA Governing Documents, particularly the [CTA-AE Standing Rules](#).

Racial and Social Justice Update

We are continuing to develop the REAC Directory, a valuable resource featuring contact information for past presenters and tools to support chapter growth. If you have any relevant resources—such as contacts, presentations, or discussion topics—please share them with REAC Director Jimmy Salvador-Contreras at cta.ae.jimmysalvadorcontreras@gmail.com.

We also invite you to join our NEA-AE BIPOC Connections GroupMe! We recently surpassed 30+ members, creating a space for connection, support, and shared resources. In today's climate, it's more important than ever to know you are not alone. We welcome you to engage, express your thoughts, and collaborate with fellow educators. Join us here: [GroupMe](#)

Apply to be a REAC Director! Passionate about racial equity in education? CTA Aspiring Educators is seeking multiple REAC Directors to advocate for social justice, recruit and retain diverse educators, share minority teaching opportunities, co-chair the Racial Equity Affairs Committee, and attend key conferences like the CTA Equity and Human Rights Conference and the CTA LGBTQ+ Issues Conference. This role is open to those who identify as BIPOC and/or LGBTQ+. Make an impact—apply today!

Please email scta.ethancollier@gmail.com if you are interested in applying for REAC Director!

State Council Update

Hola Todos!

My name is Gabriel Mendoza Jr (he/him/el), and I am honored to serve as your State Council Representative for the 2025 cycle! Representing you at the CTA's State Council, has and continues to be a tremendous honor and privilege. The State Council is a key decision-making body that gathers educators from across the state to address critical issues affecting education today! As a representative, I have the opportunity to participate directly in the shaping and direction of CTA policies, and engage in discussions on statewide legislative advocacy, leadership development, and educational initiatives that strengthen and advance the quality of education in California.

At the most recent State Council, no major policies were presented by committees. However, we

did vote to elect a handful of new CTA and NEA Directors, including incumbent Secretary-Treasurer Erika Jones! We also voted to extend the term of office for the three executive officers, CTA President, Vice-President, and Secretary-Treasury, from 2 to 3 years.

Several committees, composed of organized members who are tasked on different aspects of CTA's policies, met to discuss priorities for the upcoming State Council in April. As a member of the Early Childhood Education Committee, no significant legislation was presented to me or the committee body, but discussions began on the need to extend CA Proposition 55. This measure, a continuation of Proposition 30, places a temporary income tax on high-income earners (earning more than \$250,000 annually) to fund public K-12 education and healthcare programs ending in 2030.

I look forward to the next State Council, and encourage those interested in shaping CTA policy to please reach out and consider running to be a State Council Representative for the upcoming term. Our collective voice becomes even stronger if we have a seat at the table. *Sí se puede!*

En Solidaridad,
Gabriel Mendoza Jr.

Represent CTA Aspiring Educators Nationally at the 2025 National Education Association Representative Assembly!

And meet other Aspiring Educators from across the country!

- **When:** June 28, 2025 - July 6, 2025
 - June 28-July 1: NEA Aspiring Educators Conference
 - July 2-6: NEA Representative Assembly
- **Where:** Portland, Oregon
- **How:** Complete the [Declaration of Candidacy Form](#) by February 28 at 4PM

Elections Timeline:

- Friday, February 28, 2025 – Deadline to Declare on [Declaration of Candidacy Form](#) (by 4PM)
- Monday, March 3 – Monday, March 10 - Open ballots to vote on Election Buddy NEA RA ballots due by 5pm (electronically)
- Friday, March 14 – Announce results to membership

Important Notes:

- **Required Attendance:** Elected delegates must be available to attend the entire event and all meetings and activities.
- **Election Process:** A ballot will be sent to all CTA Aspiring Educators with the name and statement of all those who have declared candidacy and have been determined eligible to run.
- **Number of Available Seats:** The number of elected delegates that CTA Aspiring Educators may send will depend upon our statewide membership on March 15, 2025.
- **Cost:** Expenses for elected delegates to attend both the NEA RA and the NEA Aspiring Educators Conference are covered by CTA and CTA Aspiring Educators. Additional participants may attend at their own expense. For more information about the NEA RA Convention or the NEA Aspiring Educators Conference, please contact the CTA Aspiring Educators office at cta-ae@cta.org.

More about the NEA Representative Assembly (RA): The National Education Association (NEA) holds an annual Representative Assembly convention of its members every summer. This is the largest assembly of people for a single convention in the United States. Delegates elected from each state will attend the convention, vote on national issues, and elect national officers. In addition, elected student delegates also attend a pre-conference prior to the convention – the NEA

Aspiring Educators Conference. This is a great opportunity to attend meetings and events as well as network with future and current educators from across the country.

CTA-AE Scholarships, Grants, and Awards

[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.


[Jack Kinnaman Scholarship](#)


Deadline: April 15, 2025

No educator can succeed alone. That is why NEA members come together to support each other, from the classroom to the picket line. The Jack Kinnaman Memorial Scholarship Fund is part of this proud tradition. NEA-Retired members recognize the stress we face and that college costs go far beyond just tuition. That's why they have generously set up scholarships of \$3,500 for five Aspiring Educators.

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

Communications Team Update

 **BIG NEWS** We're thrilled to share that content submissions for our social media and newsletter are now open! If you have an article, story, update, or any piece of content that you believe could benefit our community, we'd love to hear from you. Whether it's an insightful reflection, a recent success, or something you're passionate about, your voice plays a vital role in our shared journey. Go ahead and [submit your content](#) now—we can't wait to see what you'll contribute! Together, let's keep building a stronger, more connected community through the power of shared knowledge and experience.

 **APPLY TO BE A COMMUNICATIONS EDITOR** We're on the hunt for a passionate and detail-oriented Communications Editor to join our team! If you love creating engaging content, refining information, and making a real difference in how we connect with our community, we'd love to hear from you. Please email scta.ethancollier@gmail.com if you are interested in applying to be a Communications Editor!

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

Warmly,
Jennifer Kay Garcia and Tiffany Richey

Chapter Development Updates

Again, a warm welcome to our newest CTA-AE Chapters UC Berkeley, UC Santa Barbara, CSUN, and Irvine Valley College!

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.



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.

Aspiring Educators Meeting on the Current State of Education

The Executive Orders on federal funding, immigration, and the Department of Education are causing confusion and concern for Aspiring Educators. Join your union on February 26th 4-5:30pm PST/7-8:30pm EST to share concerns, gain resources, and take action.

Aspiring Educators will come together to share concerns, stories, and questions about the recent federal actions and how it impacts us on our campuses, communities, and states. We will be joined by NEA Executive Committee member, Illinois educator, and immigrants rights advocate, Gladys Marquez, Marc Egan, NEA Government Relations, Susana O'Daniel, NEA Strategic Federal Partnerships, and Bianca Singh, NEA Education Policy and Practice, to help answer questions and point us towards resources.

[Register today!](#)



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