

We're pleased to be in your inbox with our monthly Communication Matters newsletter, in which we highlight district successes, provide updates on relevant news, and pass along pertinent information to bolster your CASE membership.

*With that said, **we love hearing about innovation in your districts!** Is your school or district doing something worthy of a shout-out? Be it a district-wide project, a school-specific milestone or even a staff member who goes above and beyond, **we want to know!***

NEW: We're happy to be able to start featuring out Spotlight stories on our website!

Take a look at some Spotlights from past newsletters:

- [Spotlight On: Telluride School District's Affordable Teacher Housing](#)
- [Spotlight On: Monte Vista School District's International Science Fair Attendance](#)
- [Spotlight On: Colorado's Finest High School of Choice](#)

Be sure to contact CASE Communications Specialist Elisa Wiseman with your story or shout-out for a chance to be featured on our website and in a future

Communication Matters. Email her at ewiseman@co-case.org.

Spotlight On: Aurora Public School's Efforts to Make College More Accessible for APS Students and Staff

Last summer, Aurora Public Schools announced the exciting news that they've partnered with the Colorado State University – Global Campus to increase access to college and postsecondary education for APS students, staff and graduates. The online university system's new headquarters building will be on APS land, and lease payments will be made in the form of major discounts and scholarships for those in the APS community.

"This revolutionary partnership will allow more students than ever to earn credentials that they may have considered out of reach," said APS Superintendent Rico Munn in a [press release from this summer](#).

The innovative project with CSU-Global was several years in the making, said APS Chief Communications Officer, Patti Moon.

"We were exploring ways that we could improve college access and affordability for students," she said. "Then, in 2016, Aurora voters approved a bond package that improved funds to build a building for the headquarters, so that kickstarted the process."

APS and CSU-Global worked out a deal in which APS staff, graduates and graduating students would receive significantly discounted tuition rates to attend the online university. The two institutions are still developing a plan for a scholarship option, as well.



Members of the APS and CSU-Global teams break ground on the new headquarters

Construction on the CSU-Global headquarters building is underway, Moon said, and it's expected to open in late summer or early fall of next year. More details about the scholarship program will be shared when the building opens.

One of the things APS is most excited about, added Moon, is the fact that CSU-Global is an online program.

"We have heard from students and families in this community that a barrier to college is sometimes that students need to be able to work and stay close to home," she said. "This is an opportunity that allows for that."

Some staff members have already signed up and are taking advantage of the partnership, Moon said, and feedback has been strong.

Find more information about the APS/CSU-Global Partnership [by clicking here.](#)

Register today for the CASE Winter Leadership Conference!

If you haven't yet registered for the CASE Winter Leadership Conference (February 6-8, 2019 at the Westin Hotel in Westminster), make sure you do so today to take advantage of the best possible registration rates. Some highlights to look forward to at the 2019 conference include a keynote presentation by *New York Times* bestselling author Gretchen Rubin, about 20 breakout sessions, a legislative and policy issues program, and ample networking opportunities. [Click here to register today!](#)

CASE Legislative Training Recap and Updates

We were pleased to be able to host a legislative training session earlier this week, in advance of the 2019 legislative session at the Capitol. CASE Lobbyist Elisabeth Rosen and

CASE Director of Communications and Strategic Partners Melissa Gibson led the group in discussions about everything from how Colorado's legislative process works and how CASE determines official positions and strategies on legislation, to how CASE members can get involved in our advocacy efforts.

The training focused also on key K-12 policy items that CASE expects will be hot topics at the Capitol this coming session. One of the most important conversations we're looking forward to will be the incoming Governor's goal of implementing free, full-day kindergarten across the state, and what that process will look like. CASE has reached out to superintendents for feedback about what this kind of proposal would mean for their districts.

We want to encourage our members to be proactive about building relationships with their legislators and representatives! Even if you aren't on our Legislative Committee, we invite all members to come join these important conversations. Save the date for these upcoming legislative committee meetings:

- **January 25, 2019:** CASE Member Day at the Capitol (morning) followed by CASE Legislative Committee meeting (1:30pm to 4pm) *First Baptist Church (across the street from state Capitol)*
- **February 8, 2019:** 1:30pm to 4pm *Westin Hotel in Westminster following conclusion of CASE Winter Leadership Conference*
- **March 1, 2019:** 1:30pm to 4pm *CASE office*
- **April 12, 2019:** 1:30pm to 4pm *CASE office*

And don't forget to join us for the CASE Member Day at the Capitol! This is a great opportunity to meet and network with your local legislators.

2019 CASE Member Day at the Capitol

January 25, 2019

8:30 AM – 1:00 PM

You're invited to join your colleagues and members of the CASE advocacy team at the Colorado Capitol!

This is a great opportunity to connect with state policymakers and gain a deeper understanding of the K-12 issues being considered during this 2019 legislative session.



Please RSVP by emailing CASE Director of Communications, Melissa Gibson at mgibson@co-case.org.

More details to come soon.



Assistant Principal of the Year

CASE shared the news yesterday that Craig Middle School (Moffat County School District) Assistant Principal Sara Linsacum was named the 2019 Colorado Assistant Principal of the Year for Secondary Schools. Congratulations to Sara and Craig Middle School! [Read more about Sara's accomplishments here.](#)

School Access For Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant Applications Are Due 12/3/2018

The SAFER Program provides funding for interoperable communication hardware, software, equipment maintenance, and training to allow for seamless communications between existing school communications systems. DHSEM will not be able to honor applications received after the 12/3/2018 deadline. All interested schools and school districts are encouraged to apply, regardless of whether or not they'll meet all application criteria by the application due date. Please find relevant documents below. Feel free to contact Austin Geddis, Program Manager at DHSEM School Emergency Response Section with any questions at austin.geddis@state.co.us.

- [2019 SAFER Application – School Districts Template](#)
- [School Emergency Response Grant Guidelines](#)

- [2019 SAFER Application – Public Safety Communications Network Owners Template](#)
- [MOU SAFER Community Partner Interoperability Template](#)

Governor-Elect Polis' Transition Committees Announce Upcoming Tele Town Hall Meetings

Governor-Elect Jared Polis' seven transition committees announced this week that they will host several upcoming telephone town hall meetings, in an effort to gather feedback and opportunities to connect with the Colorado public. The upcoming Town Hall dates are listed below (click on each date for more information about that specific event), and [you can find more information about how these will work by clicking here.](#)

- [Transportation, Infrastructure & Local Affairs - 29-Nov](#)
- [Energy & Natural Resources & Agriculture - 1-Dec](#)
- [Public Safety, Military & Corrections - 3-Dec](#)
- [Health & Human & Services - 5-Dec](#)
- [Education - 5-Dec](#)
- [Economic Development & Labor - 8-Dec](#)

In The News

- ['What are we supposed to feel here?' Education reformers look for answers amid a blue wave](#) (Chalkbeat Colorado)
- [I'm a Denver high school principal. Here's what we need in our next superintendent.](#) (Chalkbeat Colorado)
- [Denver superintendents search nearing end with one local name getting support — and calls for multiple finalists](#) (The Denver Post)