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! Be sure to contact CASE Communications Specialist Elisa Wiseman with your story or shout-out for a chance to be featured in a future Communication Matters. Email her at ewiseman@co-case.org.

Spotlight On: Ponderosa High School’s The Stable Coffee Shop

If you happen to find yourself at Ponderosa High School in need of a caffeinated pick-me-up, you’re in luck—The Stable is the perfect destination for coffee drinks and baked goods. Run by the school’s special needs students, the coffee shop has been open for business since December 2018, thanks to the leadership of Alli Fabrizio, Ponderosa Significant Support Needs teacher.

Fabrizio came upon a school coffee shop when she was completing her Bachelor’s degree, working at Grand View High School.

“I knew right then and there that that’s exactly what I’d want to do,” she said. “It gives [my students] an opportunity to practice real life skills before they graduate and enter the real world.”

She works with 14 students, ranging in age from freshman to seniors, all of whom work at
The Stable.

Coming to Ponderosa as a first-year teacher, she said her idea had to sit on the back burner for a while, as she learned the ropes.

“My goal was that we were going to make this coffee shop happen for our students, but especially for this particular graduating class and their parents,” she said, adding that this year’s graduating class has played a major role in the preparation for the shop.

“We wanted to give back to them, and to be able to say that they were part of this.”

Fabrizio applies for a couple grants, eventually being named a finalist for the Colorado Succeeds grant. After that, she said, her principal was so impressed by the idea that he committed to helping fund it completely.

Another administrator in the building donated some empty space—an old school store that had been sitting empty for a while—in the cafeteria. With funding and venue in place, Fabrizio got her students involved in the planning. Everything from logistics, to budgeting and the menu still had to be figured out.

Planning for all of those things, Fabrizio said, ties back to the skills they’ve been working on in class everyday.

“A lot of the students in our program struggle with the concept of money, but we’re throwing them into an environment where they need to learn to use [it] and count it,” she said. “The customer service and time management pieces are big ones, too; you have a job, and an assignment, and you’re expected to complete it.”
The Stable is open for one 90-minute period a day, and two students—a barista and a cashier—work there at a time in 45-minute shifts. 50 percent of monthly sales go to back to the Significant Support Needs program, 20 percent goes back to Ponderosa as rent for the space, and 30 percent goes to a monthly charity of the student’s choosing. In January, they donated to a K9 Rescue organization, and in February to the Make A Wish Foundation.

Students and parents alike are extremely enthusiastic about The Stable, Fabrizio said. Parents are thrilled to see their kids coming home beaming with confidence, and talking about their days—a trait that isn’t typical to students in the SSN world, she said—and students are proud and excited everyday to go to work.

Next for The Stable, Fabrizio added, is a new mobile initiative, bringing a coffee cart to sporting events, or to younger students at other schools.

“We’re hoping that it goes for all eternity,” Fabrizio joked. “It would be great for these 30 or 40-year-old students to come back someday and say, ‘we started this.’”

**Important 50th Annual CASE Convention Updates**

The CASE team is hard at work planning an outstanding and memorable 50th Annual CASE Convention! We’re looking forward to taking stock of our rich association history, and recognizing the strong previous leaders who helped us get to where we are today. We hope that you’re planning to join us this summer! Please note these important updates below.

- Lodging in Breckenridge at our discounted CASE rate is now available! Please [click here to book your room today](#).
- **April 29, 2019:** First day to register at our early bird prices! Make sure to reserve your spot by June 14 to secure the lowest possible registration rates.
- **July 22 – 26, 2019:** 50th Annual CASE Convention, Breckenridge, Colorado
  - **July 22-23, 2019:** Pre-Convention workshops
  - **July 24-26, 2019:** Main CASE Convention

Please [join us for the next CASE Legislative Committee meeting](#).

The 2019 legislative session continues to be a fast-paced and intense one, as we begin seeing the introductions of some of the most significant legislation we’ll work through this year. HB19-1262, concerning state funding for full-day kindergarten, was introduced last week and we expect other important bills, such as the School Finance Act and changes to the READ Act, to be introduced in coming weeks.

This is an important time to stay engaged in our advocacy work by attending a CASE Legislative Committee meeting. The next meeting is on **Friday, April 12, from 1:30 PM to 4:00 PM at the CASE Office (2253 S. Oneida St., Denver, CO 80224)**. If you’d like to
attend, please RSVP by emailing Elisa Wiseman at ewiseman@co-case.org, or by clicking here.

You may also participate via conference call by calling 720-795-9754 and entering pin number 2253 when prompted.

**Don't Forget: Full Day Kindergarten Advocacy Day, Wednesday, April 3**

On behalf of the Kindergarten NOW! Coalition, CASE hopes to see you at the Capitol this Wednesday, April 3 from 8:30 AM to 2:00 PM for the Full-Day Kindergarten Advocacy Day. We will be hearing from some experienced advocates for children on how you can make an impact, and from Governor Polis about why it’s so important that Colorado passes HB 19-1262 for full-day kindergarten this year.

We hope to see you there! Please click here to register.

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**Colorado Association of Latino/a Administrators and Superintendents Name Dr. Glenn McClain and Guillermo Medina as 2019 Outstanding Latino Leaders**

Earlier today, CO-ALAS shared that Superintendent Dr. Glenn McClain and Principal Guillermo Medina are being honored for their outstanding leadership and successes on behalf of their students. Dr. McClain has been the superintendent of Platte Valley School District for 20 years, and Medina has been a school principal for 13 years, most recently at Escuela Bilingue Pioneer in Boulder Valley School District. Click here to read CO-ALAS' statement.

**CASE Communications Clearinghouse**

We know that clear and effective communication with parents, students, staff and
community members is a critical part of your role as a public education leader. Last year, CASE launched an online communications clearinghouse that contains sample communications and resources that we hope you'll find useful in informing your own messaging within your school or district.

As we continue working on expanding and building out this resource, we would love to see examples of your own communications that we might be able to share for others on the clearinghouse. If you have examples that you'd be willing to share, please contact CASE Director of Communications Melissa Gibson at mgibson@co-case.org.

**Important reading about TABOR reform**

Yesterday, CASE Executive Director Lisa Escárcega testified on an important bill that would free up funds for school districts. To learn about this key legislation, we recommend reading this Chalkbeat Colorado article that does a great job of summing up why this bill is so crucial for public schools.

**In The News**

- Denver’s Susana Cordova named a ‘chief for change’ by national education group (Chalkbeat Colorado, 3/28/2019)
- As free full-day kindergarten nears reality in Colorado, advocates press their case (Chalkbeat, 3/28/2019)
- Denver-area schools say full-day kindergarten funding would help balance budgets, cut tuition (Denver Post, 3/27/2019)