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: Our CASE 2019-20 Award Winners**

CASE is proud to present our complete list of award winners for 2019-20. Each and every one of these school and district leaders are outstanding representatives of Colorado public education, and we’re grateful for their meaningful impact and
leadership.

2019-20 Outstanding Assistant Principal of the Year for Colorado (Elementary)

KIM FREES
Garfield County School District 16

What led you to a career in public education?
“I have always had a love for children and learning. I never thought of being anything other than a teacher. Throughout my journey, I was inspired by many educators who encouraged me to become an administrator. I listened and followed my heart and the rest is history.”

2019 Assistant Principal of the Year for Colorado Secondary Schools

SARA LINSACUM
Moffat County School District

What advice would you give to someone just beginning their career in public education?
“My advice to someone starting their career is to have a growth mindset, be coachable, listen, and share when you can. Good leaders will grow people who are willing to learn and grow. It’s okay to not have it all figured out, but be willing to ask for help.”

2019 CoSN National Volunteer of the Year

ANDREW MOORE
Boulder Valley School District

What is your proudest moment or accomplishment as a school leader?
“I had the fortune to travel to India to visit schools in the most wealthy and impoverished areas of the country. Directly seeing first-generational learners on farms and in dense urban areas helped me put into perspective that it doesn’t matter where you’re from, if you don’t have Internet, you are not fully participating in learning and the economy. This fundamental learning is what has driven me to develop programs to provide free Internet to homes of our students in need.”

2019 Colorado Superintendent of the Year

RICO MUNN
Aurora Public Schools

Where do great ideas come from in your organization?
“We try to be open to great ideas coming from anywhere. We try to also set up specific structures to invite ideas from our community, our schools and community stakeholders.”
Register Today for the 50th Annual CASE Convention!

We hope you plan to join us at our 50th Annual CASE Convention, July 24-26, 2019 at the Beaver Run Resort in Breckenridge, Colorado. Early bird registration opened yesterday, and will continue through June 13, 2019. Make sure to register as soon as possible to take advantage of these early bird registration rates.

In honor of CASE’s 50th Anniversary, this year’s special theme is “Standing on the Shoulders of Giants,” and we look forward to celebrating the outstanding leadership of former CASE members who helped make our association what it is today.

AASA's Leaders Matter Campaign Highlights Colorado Superintendents and Women in Administration

AASA, The School Superintendents Association, launched its Leaders Matter campaign...
this month, in order to "showcase school districts where the exemplary leadership of the superintendent has resulted in meaningful, measurable outcomes for the schools, students and communities they serve."

**Colorado Leadership**

Aurora Public Schools superintendent and 2019 Colorado Superintendent of the Year Rico Munn and Greeley-Evans School District superintendent Deirdre Pilch were highlighted as Colorado representatives in this campaign.

Munn was highlighted for his strong leadership, representing one of the largest and most diverse school districts in Colorado, in which 70 percent of students qualify for free/reduced lunch. "Since becoming superintendent in 2013, district graduation rates have increased by more than 15 percent, and the dropout rate is at a 12-year low of 2.5 percent," according to AASA.

Superintendent Pilch was nominated for developing productive relationships with her local business community, in support of the Greeley-Evans School District's strategic plan. She also attained broad community support for the district's mill levy override.

"In 2017, voters approved a mill levy override, resulting in more than $14 million a year for seven years coming into the district," AASA wrote. "Colleagues and community members largely credit Pilch with this success, citing not only her perseverance and hard work, but also her intentional efforts to create more trust among local businesses about the work of the district."

**Highlighting Women in School Leadership**

AASA's Leaders Matter campaign is also making an effort to showcase women in education leadership. According to the organization, women comprise 70 percent of the education workforce, but very few occupy top leadership roles.

They have launched an inspiring, nine-part video series to provide a firsthand account from nine different female superintendents on their leadership experience.

"Learn about their journeys—the successes and challenges and how they overcame them to secure the superintendency, gain insights, life lessons and practical tips and advice to help you nail the top leadership job, and discover proven strategies to help you break through the barriers to success."

Watch the videos and learn more about the AASA Women in School Leadership Initiative by clicking here.
CASE Communications Clearinghouse is available for use

As a reminder, the CASE Communications Clearinghouse is public and full of helpful resources from districts all over the state, as well as the Colorado Department of Education. With resources on everything from communications during school crises, to examples of monthly parent newsletters, we hope this can serve as a valuable tool for you, as we know that communicating with different stakeholders in your community can be a challenge. If you would like to provide communications examples or resources from your own school or district, please send them to CASE Director of Communications, Melissa Gibson, at mgibson@co-case.org.

In The News

- Sex ed, the environment and affordable housing: Colorado General Assembly has 5 days to go and a lot left to do (The Denver Post, 4/29/2019)
- Colorado’s teacher evaluation system won’t get a makeover this year (Chalkbeat Colorado, 4/25/2019)
- Full-day kindergarten for Colorado gains Senate OK, nears governor’s desk (Chalkbeat Colorado, 4/25/2019)
- Students with special needs get boost in Colorado school finance bill (Chalkbeat Colorado, 4/25/2019)