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: The Pikes Peak Business and Education Alliance

When students in the Pikes Peak community want to take advantage of a work-based learning opportunity—say, an internship, or even just a site visit—historically, they’d be limited to the constraints of their school districts. But a group of 13 Pikes Peak-area school districts have joined together to change that.
“We recognized that we have a vested interest in having a real consistent and fluent pipeline for our students to access work-based learning, like industry tours, job-shadowing and ultimately, internships, and that we couldn’t do it on a scale that we wanted to,” said Colorado Springs School District 11 Director of CTE, Duane Roberson, who also co-chairs the Pikes Peak Business and Education Alliance (PPBEA).

PPBEA is a grassroots organization that aligns the resources of the industries in the Pikes Peak region to the school districts’ educational missions. Along with Roberson, it is co-chaired by Bob Gemignani from District 49.

The Alliance allows for several things that lead to the ultimate goal, Roberson said: making work-based learning opportunities equitable for all students in the Pikes Peak region. Through PPBEA, CTE directors and job-alike colleagues from the area get together and work out the most difficult parts of work-based learning programs—think, liability issues, workman's compensation, academic credit distribution—collaboratively.

The Alliance also created a website called The Marketplace for students to access and find all the opportunities available to them, many of which would allow them to take advantage of possibilities outside their district borders.

In fact, Roberson added, the entire construct of school district borders is “alien to industry, and it’s a construct that’s, frankly, been getting in our way.”
Culinary learning has been one of the most successful work-based learning programs.

"We had one business partner who basically said, 'I don't care which district I'm working with.' He lived in one district, he owned and operated a manufacturing company in a separate school district, and his children went to a third district," Roberson said. "Industry crosses all district boundaries."

Creating a system like this one isn’t easy. They’ve run into major hurdles. Transportation, for example, has been a difficult piece of the puzzle. Students without the means to transport themselves to opportunities further away can’t really participate, as of now—and that makes it inequitable, Roberson said, particularly since the root causes that lead them to not being able to self-transport tend to be based in financial need.

But in the short two years since it was formally founded, the Alliance has really made some headway, he said. "We’ve basically said, we can come together and drop in an educational opportunity uniformly."

In the short-term, he added, there are two main goals: one is to get the other four districts in the region on board. The other is to become an official part of the Pikes Peak BOCES. As they work towards that, though, the Alliance continues adding opportunities to expand work-based learning for all students across the board.

**School Security Disbursement Grant Funding**

The Colorado Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management announced on February 13 the award of more than $29 million in grant funding to 95 Colorado education providers, under the School Security Disbursement (SSD) grant program.

The program provides funding to improve security in public school facilities and vehicles, and to support training for school personnel. According to the announcement, 305 projects were submitted, and 95 were accepted. [Click here to read the full award recipient list](#).
Call for Chapter Proposals for Book on African American Principalship Experience

Earlier this month, CASE received notice from Dr. Aaron J Griffen, Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion at DSST Public Schools that he has extended the call for chapter proposals to April 5, 2019 for his book, “Fighting the Good Fight: National Narratives of the African American Principalship Experience.” Click here to download a PDF with more information.

Garfield County School District 16 Assistant Principal Named Colorado’s 2019 Outstanding Assistant Principal of the Year for Elementary Schools

Congratulations to Kim Frees, who earned the title through her hard work the last three years at Bea Underwood Elementary School. Frees has served in the Colorado public education system for a long time; prior to joining Bea Underwood Elementary, she spent 11 years as a classroom teacher and four years as an instructional coach in Garfield County RE-2. To learn more about Frees, please read our press release announcing her win by clicking here.

Thank you for coming to the 2019 Winter Leadership Conference!

We want to thank those who attended our 2019 Winter Leadership Conference, Excellence by Association, earlier this month for participating and helping us create another successful professional learning event. We were so happy to see both new and familiar faces join us in Westminster.

In order to continue hosting high-quality events, we ask for your thoughts on where we can improve and what you’d like to see continue. If you attended our conference, please take about 10 minutes to fill out this brief survey on your experience (click here to access the survey). We appreciate your help!

Reminder: CASE Legislative Committee Meeting this Friday, March 1, 2019

As we shared with you in BriefCASE, CASE is currently tracking and involved in a number of important bills at the Capitol, and some of the biggest pieces of legislation have yet to be introduced. We encourage all CASE members to join us in our advocacy efforts and stay involved. To that end, we hope you’ll join us this Friday, March 1 at 1:30 PM at the CASE office for our CASE Legislative Committee meeting.

If you’d like to participate remotely, please call 720-795-9754 and enter pin number 2253 when prompted.