February 27, 2020

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 Director of Communications Melissa Gibson with your story or shout-out for a chance to be featured in a future Communication Matters. Email her at mgibson@co-case.org.

Next CASE Executive Director Bret Miles to Start Role May 1
As CASE shared with you earlier this month, we are so pleased to welcome Bret Miles as the next CASE Executive Director. Bret brings to the role a wealth of public education leadership experience as a longtime CASE member, former superintendent and currently the Executive Director of the Northeast BOCES. He was unanimously selected by a hiring committee of CASE members representing all seven association departments, concluding a months-long intensive national search process.

Current CASE Executive Dr. Lisa Escárcega is retiring and her last day at CASE is April 30. She is running for the State Board of Education seat in the 1st Congressional District in Denver and looks forward to continuing her work in public education.

Lisa and Bret are working closely together to ensure a smooth transition, and Bret looks forward to connecting with as many members as possible.

"From my own experience as a CASE member, I know personally the value that the organization brings to public school administrators,” expressed Bret. "It has empowered me over the years to grow as a leader to work with others to positively impact student learning and achievement in meaningful and lasting ways. I have had the good fortune to work for and with some amazing leaders, most of whom I met through CASE. The opportunity to work with my colleagues in this new role is truly humbling and I look forward to helping advance CASE’s influence and service to members in every district across the state.”

**Spotlight On: Innovation the Focus at Cherry Creek Campus**

The Cherry Creek Innovation Campus is still in its infancy, but the strides it’s taking for its students far exceeds its age.

The new building opened its doors to 11th and 12th grades this past August, and provides students the opportunity to earn either college credits or certificates in a wide array of fields, including: advanced manufacturing, health and wellness, infrastructure engineering, culinary arts, hospitality, aviation and automotive transportation, and more.

The Innovation Campus’ focus on STEAM can be found in every classroom. Much of the instruction centers around launch-design thinking and project-based learning; the goal is to allow students to develop on their own and learn in ways that work for them.
“We want to impact the 55,000 students that go to Cherry Creek schools,” said Sarah Grobbel, Assistant Superintendent, Career & Innovation. “I believe for the first time, with this type of campus, we can cater to that and meet that reality. What we’re doing isn’t just a singular focus on either career or industry, but really a perfect combination of both.”

This tactic has offered students the chance to explore various career opportunities and gain an understanding of what that can really look like by participating in internships and apprenticeships. The campus has even teamed up with CareerWise Colorado to provide a 3-year commitment in a selected industry for students seeking an alternate pathway after high school.

“It’s so important for students, especially in today’s world, to have the option of a non-traditional path for post-high school life,” said Grobbel. “The way our students learn is changing, and with that we need to consider how we prepare them for life outside of our school’s hallways.”

The campus itself exists in large part due to the efforts of the community – the funding was gained after a ballot measure passed with majority support.
"We want to continue to build and allow more students to be a part of this," said Grobbel. "We sit on about 40 acres of land and are currently using only about 18. We want to show our community stakeholders the positive impact we’re having on the students, as well as the added economic growth, and hope they will support us in continuing to expand the campus."

**CASPA Teacher Job Fairs Coming This Spring**

Are you looking for teaching options in and around the state of Colorado? CASPA is hosting three events this Spring, two in March and one in April, to allow job seekers the chance to meet with schools hiring in different regions. For more information, or to register for one of the events, visit the [CASE website](#).  

**Western Slopes Superintendents Spring Conference**

Save the date for this year’s Western Slopes Superintendents Spring Conference, which is taking place in Grand Junction April 16-17. Registration for the event opens on March 6, and the agenda will be announced on March 20. Be sure to keep tabs on the [CASE website](#) for more information as it becomes available.

**Calling All Artists!**
CASE would love to add some student artwork to our office! If your school or district has any student art that you would be willing to loan us, we would love to display it proudly! Please reach out to Carrie Yantzer at cyantzer@co-case.org if you are able to help. Thank you!

In The News

Colorado Teachers Plan to Rally at the Capitol Again This Year – And at Least One District Will Cancel Classes (Chalkbeat Colorado, 02/26/2020)

Colorado School Districts to Work With Local Health Departments Amid Coronavirus Threat (Chalkbeat Colorado, 02/26/2020)

Denver to Explore Reopening a Traditional High School in Montebello, 10 Years After Decision to Close It (Chalkbeat Colorado, 02/21/2020)

Denver School Connects Students to WWII Veterans Before Stories are Lost (The Denver Post, 02/23/2020)

A Middle School Requires Kids to Dance With Anyone Who Asks. One Mom is Fighting for Her Daughter’s Right to Say ‘No’ (The Washington Post, 02/27/2020)

An Old and Contested Solution to Boost Reading Scores: Phonics (New York Times, 02/15/2020)

Empowering Colorado education leaders through advocacy, professional learning and networking to deliver on the promise of public education.

Colorado Association of School Executives

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