



GS Bulletin board

April 10, 2009

Internal Weekly Announcements
for Grant Wood Area Education
Agency Staff and Board

Mark Your Calendars

- Apr. 10** Agency closes at 3 p.m.
- Apr. 10** EyeMed vision enrollment Forms due to the Business Office
- Apr. 15** GWAEA Board Meeting
5:30 p.m./33rd Avenue Bldg
- Apr. 22** Administrative Professionals Day
- Apr. 22** Earth Day
- May 7** GWAEA Staff Recognition and Partnerships Banquet
- Aug. 17** All Agency Inservice-p.m.



GRANT WOOD
AREA EDUCATION AGENCY

Customer Survey Results Are Now Available

Schools across the state have once again participated in the AEA customer survey, which has been conducted by the Iowa Department of Education for a decade. The survey is conducted electronically, and was open from March 9 until end of the day April 9. Out of a total of 14,979 respondents statewide, 2023 individuals in the Grant Wood AEA service area participated, representing 13.5 percent of all respondents.

Since the data is extremely fresh, we have not had time to begin to dig into the responses to a great degree; however, we can share with you top-line results. Overall, the responses from educators in Area 10 relatively mirror the responses received statewide.

We are pleased to report that for the statement, "Generally the AEA services that I have received or participated in met my professional needs," 95.1 percent of administrators in our area who took the survey either agreed or strongly agreed with this statement, and 91.9 percent of all survey participants in our area agreed. Approximately two percent of respondents did not have an opinion.

At this point, we have not even begun to wade through the comments provided to us. The survey offered educators several open-ended questions. We received over 2600 comments. Many of the comments were positive and thoughtful. We also had some negative ones. Educators offered 899 comments in response to the question, "How could AEA services be improved to help you in your work?" Here is a sampling of some of the comments to the various open-ended questions:

"The customer service has been the highlight. They want to help and for the most part are willing to do what needs to be done."

"The AEA no longer provides direct support to students and this is a huge loss. The district should look into hiring their own support personnel so that they can direct their actions."

"I would like more direct help with at-risk families. It is often hard to make a connection because they stay away from school and it is often difficult to make contact with them (maybe from their own negative experiences with school)."

"Thanks to the Iowa Department of Education and Iowa's taxpayers for supporting this essential tool for educators."

The table (see attachment) shows the overall responses to a key set of questions that are preceded by the statement, "Please rate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements about AEA services." Most of these statements have been evaluated every year the customer survey has been conducted, providing us with trend information both statewide as well as locally.

Tentative Contract Agreements – Information/Ratification Meeting

Tentative agreements have been reached for 2009-10 for both Contracted and Classified Staff. The Grant Wood Education Association will have a meeting for ALL classified and contracted staff on Monday, April 13, at 4:30, to review the tentative agreements reached with the Agency.

This Association meeting will be conducted at two locations. Chris Ask and Sheila Matheson will share information in Room 205 at the 33rd Ave facility in Cedar Rapids. Liz Hooley and Julie King will share information at the Coralville Facility.

After discussion, Association members will vote regarding ratification of the contracts.

Again, both meetings will be held Monday, April 13, 4:30 p.m. at the 33rd Ave and Coralville facilities.

Hope you can attend!

Liz Hooley, Association President

Congratulations!

•to John and Pamela Adams, Special Education Consultant, who are first time grandparents! Levi Thomas Adams was born March 29 to Justin and Allison Adams in Cedar Rapids. Levi weighs 6 lbs. 9 oz. and is 20 1/2 inches.

New IEC Student and Teacher Software Store!

Students and staff, and AEA employees have access to software discounts of up to 85% with the **NEW!** IEC Software Store powered by Journey Education. Partnerships with Microsoft, Adobe, NUANCE and Inspiration have been made that allow us to extend fantastic discounts to Iowa K-12 students, teachers and school staff. In addition, thousands of other software programs as well computer hardware, books, bags and more are available at discounted prices.



Journey Education products can be ordered online at www.JourneyEd.com/Select or by calling 800-874-9001. Any product ordered will be shipped directly to the customer's home.

Microsoft in Education

Pricing examples:

- Microsoft Office Standard 2007 - Retail \$399, **IEC Price \$59.98**
- Microsoft Office Professional 2007 - Retail \$499, **IEC Price \$89.98**
- Adobe Creative Suite 4 Design Standard K-12 – Retail \$1,399, **IEC Price \$219.98**
- Adobe Creative Suite 4 Production Premium - Retail \$1,699, **IEC Price \$319.98**
- Dragon Naturally Speaking Preferred 10.0 Student/Teacher Edition - Retail \$99, **IEC Price \$49.98**
- Inspiration Kidspiration 3 Student Single - **IEC Price \$29.98**

Area 10 School Calendars

This is the last year GWAEA will post district calendars. Starting in 2009-10, please visit the school district's Website to access their calendar.

Juneteenth Corridor Celebration of Freedom Event

The African American Museum of Iowa and the University of Iowa African American Council, will host a Juneteenth Celebration with A Taste of Freedom, a soul food dinner, honoring African American veterans and military on June 19, 2009 at the Celebration Hall of the African American Museum in Cedar Rapids.

The dinner will be held from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Cost is \$10 per adult and \$5 for children 12 and under. African American military and veterans are free upon registration for the dinner; their guests are full price. All are welcome.

Following the dinner, a semi-formal dance, Light up the Night with Freedom, will be held from 9:00 p.m. to 1:30 a.m. Cost for the dance is \$10 per adult. The cost for the dinner and dance combination is \$15 per adult.

Juneteenth is the oldest known celebration of the end of slavery in America. On June 19, 1865, some of the last slaves in America were freed when word of the Emancipation Proclamation finally reached Galveston, Texas after the Civil War had ended. Since then the celebration has spread to all the cities in the United States and is now an official observance in Iowa that is celebrated every year.

For more information on both events please visit the Nikee Museum Store at the African American Museum of Iowa or go online to www.blackiowa.org. You may also call 319-862-2101 for tickets and more details.

Our Sympathy...

•to those who knew former GWAEA social worker, Julie Paulsen. She passed away April 5 in Johnston, Iowa.

Burning Up the Asphalt for Autism!

New Event! - Benefit Motorcycle Ride

Saturday, April 25, 2009
 McGrath Power Sports
 Registration 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.
 Leave @ 11 a.m.
 \$10/single rider - \$15/couple

Last in at 4 p.m. at the Chrome Horse where 8 Seconds Band will play at 5!

Go to www.eciautismsociety.org for more information.

Professional Development Opportunities

- 4/14/09 Conflict in the Workplace
- 4/15/09 SINA Capacity Building Workshop
- 4/18/09 Altered Imagery: Mixed Media Techniques
- 4/20/09 Crisis Prevention Intervention Recertification
- 4/20/09 Crisis Prevention Intervention Recertification-Autism
- 4/24/09 Physical Education: New Ideas New Approaches
- 4/28/09 Working with Templates, Tables & Formatting
- 4/30/09 SINA Capacity Building Workshop
- 5/8/09 Substitute Authorization
- 5/12/09 Working with Clip Art
- 5/18/09 Coping with Anger in the Workplace
- 5/28/09 Teacher@ Work

For location, more information, or to register, go to the Professional Development web page.

You're Invited...

GWAEA Retirement Party
 Honoring

Larry Allen
Sue Connell
Barb Lueder

Friday, May 1, 2009
 2-4 p.m.
 Coralville AEA
 Rooms A/B

Cake and punch provided.
 Hors D'Oeuvres accepted.

Kernels Game Day!

Take me out to the ball game...

What: Cedar Rapids Kernels
 Baseball Game

When: Sunday, June 7, 2009
 2:05 p.m.

Where: Veterans Memorial Stadium
 Cedar Rapids

Who: GWAEA employees and their families

Ticket prices and more information will be coming soon.

Buy, Sell, Trade...

FOR SALE: Two fire pits; 26" girl's bike. Call Nancy at 573-5877.

FOR SALE: In-stock GWAEA logo items. Contact Karen Michalec in the Communications Office at Ext. 6415.

Agency Blood Draw



Grant Wood AEA will be facilitating a Health Screen Blood Profile in April. Due to budget constraints, employees will be responsible for the full amount charged to the Agency. Cost of the blood profile is \$19. Spouses of employees may also participate at this cost. Please bring a check made out to Grant Wood AEA that morning.

You do not need an appointment; just leave your name, by phone or e-mail, with the location secretary listed below.

Please let Barb or Nancy know by April 15 if you plan to participate.

33rd Avenue Facility-Room 221

Wednesday, April 29, 2009
 7:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.
 Nancy Lochner, Ext. 6737
nlochner@aea10.k12.ia.us

Coralville Facility-Room C

Thursday, April 30, 2009
 7:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.
 Barb Aanonson, Ext. 6211
baanonson@aea10.k12.ia.us

Be sure to fast at least 12 hours before the test. A light snack will be available after the blood draw.

Bulletin Board is published and distributed weekly to all GWAEA staff and Board members. Buy, Sell or Trade items will be run for 2 weeks. Staff wishing to submit items should do so by Wed. of the week they wish the item to be printed. Send to Karen Michalec, Editor. When submitting news, please remember that agency staff work in a variety of locations, and it may take two weeks to reach them with printed material. Please note: the **Bulletin Board** is posted on the agency's Web site. We recommend you use your office or voice mail phone number instead of your home telephone number for any items listed in this newsletter.

Grant Wood Area Education Agency extends equal opportunities in its employment practices, educational programs and services, and does not discriminate on the basis of color, gender, race, national origin, religion, creed, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, disability, veteran status or as otherwise prohibited by law. If you believe you or your child has been discriminated against or treated unjustly, please contact the Agency's Equity Coordinator, Maria Cashman, at 319-399-6847 or 1-800-332-8488 or TDD 319-399-6766, Grant Wood AEA, 4401 Sixth St SW, Cedar Rapids, IA 52404.

**VACANCIES
2009-2010**

MANAGEMENT

Regional Administrator (Closing date: April 17, 2009) (1.0)
(Agency Center TBD/Region TBD)

CONTRACTED

Teacher: Off-Site Programs (Recommendation to the Board) (1.0)
(A.W.A.R.E./Off-Site Region)

ANTICIPATED

Child Support Specialist (.6)
(Southern Facility/Southwest Region)

Curriculum Consultant Science (1.0)
(33rd Ave/Northeast Region)

Inclusion Resource Specialist (.6)
(Southern Facility/Southwest Region)

School Social Worker (up to 2.2)
(Southern Facility/Southwest Region) (.6)
(Northern Facility/Northeast Region) (.6)
(Northern Facility/Cedar Rapids Region) (up to 1.0)

Speech-Language Pathologist (Recommendation Pending) (1.0)
(Agency Center TBD/Region TBD)

Inclusion Resource Specialist
School Psychologist
Special Education Consultant

**2008-2009
CONTRACTED**

Occupational Therapist (1.4)
(Northern Facility/Cedar Rapids Region) (.4)
(Northern Facility/Agency-wide) (1.0)

SALARIED

Financial Accounting Assistant (Closing date: April 10, 2009) (1.0)
(Northern Facility/Business Services)

Network Administrator (Closing date: April 17, 2009) (1.0)
(Northern Facility/Technology Center)

Programmer (Recommendation Pending) (1.0)
(Northern Facility/IMS)

ASSIGNMENT OPENINGS

In addition to the vacancy posting, assignment openings may also be available to contracted staff members for a period of five days. For a listing of those assignment openings, staff may call voicemail box x6302. (In-house: 6555, x6302; Cedar Rapids calling area: 399-6555, x6302; WATS line: 1-800-798-9771, x6302). Staffs wishing to be considered for a change in assignment are to submit the request in writing to both the identified Regional Administrator and the Associate Administrator. (For further information regarding assignment requests, please see Article 10, Paragraph D, of the Master Agreement for Contacted Staff)

All Survey Responses to Key Questions

Statements:	Administrators – Principals and Superintendents in AEA10		All Survey Respondents in AEA10		Statewide Survey Responses	
	I don't have an opinion	Agree or Strongly Agree	I don't have an opinion	Agree or Strongly Agree	Have no opinion	Strongly Agree or Agree
a. Generally the AEA services that I have received or participated in met my professional needs.	2.10%	95.10%	2.40%	91.90%	2.10%	92.00%
b. The AEA is responsive to my school's student learning needs.	7.00%	84.50%	9%	81.20%	9.90%	80.40%
c. The AEA provides leadership to meet emerging educational needs.	9.20%	81.70%	13%	76.80%	12.80%	77.20%
d. The AEA delivers current and timely services to meet my district or school's needs.	4.90%	83.80%	7.70%	80.20%	8.10%	80.10%
e. The AEA delivers cost-efficient services to meet my district or school's needs.	22.50%	68.30%	24.60%	68.00%	21.70%	70.00%
f. The AEA delivers services that assist our district in meeting federal and state mandates (NCLB, IDEA, etc.)	12.00%	81.00%	19.10%	74.90%	20.20%	74.50%
g. The AEA services that I have received assisted in improving my students' achievement.	14.80%	76.70%	12.40%	78.50%	12.80%	77.30%
h. The AEA services I have received have assisted in improving my instruction or job-related practices.	7.70%	83.10%	7.40%	84.10%	7.40%	83.90%
i. The AEA staff I have contact with have the knowledge and skills needed to have a positive impact on our school(s).	3.50%	93.70%	6.80%	85.40%	6.60%	85.50%
j. The AEA staff I have contact with create and maintain good working relationships with people in my school and/or district.	4.90%	91.50%	6.60%	86.20%	7.10%	85.10%

The N's for the data above are as follows: 142 Administrators in AEA 10; 2023 respondents in AEA 10; 1913 responded to the above set of statements; 14,085 respondents statewide answered this question.

Respondents by Discipline Areas

Art	48	Reading	316
English/Language Arts	319	Science	249
Elementary Education	559	Social Science	222
Foreign Language	40	Special Education	302
Mathematics	373	Vocational Education	80
Music	57	Other	190
Physical Education	43	Administrator	142