

May 10, 2010

CASE Honors Award Winners

On April 30, CASE held its annual awards reception to celebrate the accomplishments of our 2010 award winners. Generously sponsored by **longtime CASE supporter Jostens**, the event took place at the Brown Palace Hotel in Denver and there was record turnout. This year's honorees were outstanding and included:

- **Cindy Stevenson** (*Jefferson County Public School District*), Aramark Education/ING Foundation/AASA 2010 Superintendent of the Year (she was also one of four finalists for National Superintendent of the Year!)
- **Mark Strakbein** (Eagle Valley High School, *Eagle County School District*), MetLife/NASSP 2010 Colorado High School Principal of the Year
- **Lori Smith** (Cheyenne Mountain Junior High, *Cheyenne Mountain School District*), MetLife/NASSP 2010 Colorado Middle Level Principal of the Year
- **Mary Kay Sommers** (Shepardson Elementary School, *Poudre School District*), VALIC/NAESP 2010 Colorado National Distinguished Principal (Elementary) of the Year
- **Lori Wagner** (Lewis-Palmer High School, *Lewis-Palmer School District*), NASSP/Virco 2010 Colorado Assistant Principal of the Year
- **Neil Schaal** (Director of Technology, *Keenesburg Weld RE-3 J School District*) and **Kent Tamsen** (Director of Technology, *Widefield School District*), Consortium for School Networking Volunteer Hall of Fame

Attending the reception were award winners and their families, superintendents and principals who work with the winners, members of the CASE Coordinating Council, board members of CASE departments with an award winner, and several other special invited guests.

"CASE is proud of each of these honorees and was so pleased to celebrate their outstanding leadership," said **CASE Executive Director John Hefty**. "Each of these winners exemplifies the kind of energy and dedication to students that inspires all of us as public educators."

CASE department boards worked hard to select winners from a very deserving pool, and we appreciate their efforts. We congratulate our 2010 honorees on a job very well done!

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Healthy Schools Survey Results



Record number of survey responses reveals positive attitudes toward healthy schools

Over 550 CASE members responded to our recent survey that was designed to better understand how our members view the topic of student health and wellness and healthy schools. Among other things, this survey asked about whether respondents believe there is a link between student health and achievement, what role schools or districts should play in helping to make students healthier, and what programs and offerings are currently available in each respondent's school or district. The survey also inquired about the barriers our members face in implementing healthy school initiatives, and what kind of support would be helpful.

- Nearly 50% of respondents disagree that health and wellness is primarily the responsibility of schools, but nearly 95% say that it is the joint responsibility of schools, parents, the community, and other partners.
- There was general support for health and wellness offerings at school. Recess ranked the highest (about 70% support this), as did ensuring that all cafeteria food meets minimum health standards (67% in support). Nearly half the respondents believe that the state should mandate minimum health and wellness standards.
- When asked to rank how important various components are in helping to make students healthier, nutritious schools foods ranked the highest (over 81% say this is most important). Other top priorities include health and nutrition education, recess, and counseling/mental health services. Ranking lowest in importance were school-based health centers and district wellness policies (less than 50% of respondents say these are important).
- 85% or more of respondents say the following is available in their school or district: P.E. classes, health education, recess, and school nurses. What's the least available? School-based health centers, employee wellness programs, community partnerships for healthy schools, and healthy choices in vending machines.
- Nearly 90% of survey respondents say that the biggest obstacle to implementing more healthy schools programs is a lack of school funding. Other challenges include too many competing demands and lack of staff to develop and sustain these initiatives.
- When asked what would motivate your school or district to place a greater emphasis on health and wellness, two clear answers emerged: improved school funding (nearly 88% of respondents say this would make the biggest difference) and grants to fund healthy schools initiatives (about 75% asked for this).

Many thanks to the CASE members who responded to this survey. As we continue to engage in our work related to healthy schools through our grant with the Colorado Health Foundation, your responses are enormously important and will help us identify next steps.

If you'd like more information about the survey results please email Melissa Gibson at mgibson@co-case.org.

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2010-11 CASE Membership Year Now Open!

We opened the renewal process for the 2010-11 CASE membership year in early April and have been very pleased by the strong number of individuals who have renewed. We have a greater number of renewed members now than we did at the same time last year. Although this is positive news, we also know that it's early and that budget constraints are challenging districts in very difficult ways. CASE is so appreciative that our members continue to make belonging to their professional association such a high priority, and be assured that we'll always work hard to show value for your dues.

To renew your CASE membership, just visit www.co-case.org or call us at (303) 762-8762. The membership year starts on September 1, and you won't owe us dues before then. New this year is the chance to renew with CASE through 2012. Those who take advantage of this special option will receive a \$50 coupon to use at future CASE events.

Professional Development Opportunities



41st Annual CASE Convention

July 26-27, 2010 – Pre-Convention Sessions

July 28-30, 2010 – CASE Convention

If you haven't already, we encourage you to register for the 41st Annual CASE Convention. We're looking forward to another outstanding professional development event; we have an exceptional line-up of keynote and distinguished speakers and will be offering over 90 breakout sessions on the topics that matter most to you as school leaders. In addition to these learning opportunities, we've also factored in plenty of networking time too. We know that some of the most important connections and professional growth happen in conversation among colleagues between sessions and during meals.

Only about a month remains to take advantage of low early bird registration prices, so sign up for Convention today! Just log on to www.co-case.org or give us a call at (303) 762-8762. We look forward to seeing you in Breckenridge.

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Free Workshop on Healthy School Food

CASE is offering a complimentary workshop on June 11 from 9am to 12pm at Adams City High School. Called “Lunch Money,” this engaging session will uncover how schools can offer healthy food during tight budget times. Among other things, the workshop will teach participants how to revisit their commodities ordering process to save money, how to improve breakfast program participation rates, and how to make the most of meals per labor hour.

Although this workshop is geared towards superintendents, CFOs, and other school business officials, all CASE members are welcome. You won't want to miss out on this practical and common-sense professional development event! Call us at (303) 762-8762 or e-mail lsacry@co-case.org to sign up. Both breakfast and lunch will be provided.

News and Notes

4-Day Week on the Rise in South Dakota; Study Shows Student Achievement Is Dropping

In a cost-cutting move in response to contracting budgets, some South Dakota school districts have announced that they will be moving to a four-day school week starting next fall. The *Argus Leader* reports that “at least 31 school districts plan to hold classes only four days a week, doubling the number from two years ago.” Yet a study of those districts who currently have a shortened school week indicates that student achievement has been negatively impacted. Students in those districts tend to have lower scores than the statewide average on South Dakota's student assessment. (Source: *Argus Leader*, May 4, 2010)

Click [here](#) to read more.

Is Technology the Answer?

A new report asserts that technology can play a critical role in helping to meet the challenges that public education will soon face. *The Online Learning Imperative: A Solution to Three Looming Crises in Education* was written by former West Virginia Governor Bob Wise in conjunction with the Alliance for Excellent Education. It argues that public education is up against three imminent crises: “global skill demands vs. educational attainment, the funding cliff, and an upcoming teacher shortage.” Technology may be the answer in addressing these problems, says the report. Not only is it a cost-effective way of offering instruction, but it also can expose students to subject matter that they wouldn't otherwise receive if they are in a school with a shortage of teachers. (Source: *ERS e-bulletin*, May 2, 2010)

Click [here](#) to read more.

Teachers and Administrators May Be Fired at Low-Performing North Carolina Schools

May 5th's North Carolina News and Observer reports that school district officials are considering whether to fire and/or reassign the principal and teachers at an elementary school with persistently low student achievement. Last week, “Guilford County Superintendent Mo Green described a plan to hire new staff at a High Point elementary school that has bad test scores,” says the article. Citing a 1997 court ruling that assures a quality education for all students, the superintendent is vocal in his desire to shake up the school in an effort to provide a better educational experience for local kids. No final decision about staffing has been made. (Source: *News and Observer*, May 5, 2010)

Click [here](#) to read more.