Believe in a Better Colorado campaign kicks off

Nearly 200 school board presidents, superintendents and CEA local presidents from across the state met on August 3 in Breckenridge to kick off Believe in a Better Colorado – an unprecedented alliance among the state’s three largest education associations. The initiative aims to inform public school employees and citizens about the need to more effectively fund essential public services – such as K–12 and higher education, health care, and transportation.

At the August training, CASB, CASE and CEA unveiled the Believe in a Better Colorado DVD, Web site, tool kit and PowerPoint presentation.

The first phase this fall is to energize and educate our 40,000-plus members and other public school employees. The next phase in early 2008 is for educators to share information with neighbors, friends, and others in every Colorado community.

We will continue to provide resources to share with employees and school board members. Visit www.believeinabettercolorado.org for updates. We’ll also share what other school districts are doing to spread the word – such as podcasting the DVD and incorporating Believe in a Better Colorado into American Education Week activities in November.

There’s no time to lose. The ultimate goal is to adopt a new tax system by 2011 – the same year today’s high school freshmen will graduate.

Questions? Need help? Visit www.believeinabettercolorado.org or contact Tanya Caughey at 303-549-1778 or tanya@believeinabettercolorado.org.
Mary Kay Sommers tapped as president of NAESP

Congratulations to Mary Kay Sommers, who was installed in late July as the 2007-2008 president of the National Association of Elementary School Principals. A CASE and CAESP member, Mary Kay is on leave from the Poudre School District where she is principal of Shephardson Elementary School. Mary Kay has a demanding but exciting year ahead traveling both nationally and internationally as NAESP’s chief spokesperson. CASE will stay closely connected to Mary Kay this year and keep our membership posted about her work. Look for photos of Mary Kay at her installation in Washington D.C. on the CASE Web site soon.

38th Annual CASE Convention scores a hit
Record numbers attend
Passing of the gavel
Dan Maas, chief information officer of the Littleton Public Schools, is the 2007-2008 CASE president. Dan delivered a rousing challenge to participants at the Friday session of the 38th Annual CASE Convention to “prepare students for a dynamic and globally competitive future.” He accepted the gavel from Past President Sally Stanley. Earlier that day, George Voorhis, superintendent of the Montrose School District, was voted president-elect. The three comprise the CASE Executive Committee that guides the CASE Coordinating Council. CASE is fortunate to have leaders like Dan, Sally, and George who have accepted the challenge of state leadership roles. Congratulations and thank you!

DVDs and blogging
Convention goers heard four outstanding keynote presentations from Michael Fullan, Doug Reeves, Michael Gurian, and Daniel Pink. DVDs of all keynote presentations are available from CEAVCO Audio Visual Company. Call Saundra Lamden at 303.539.3511 to order your copies. A new feature at this year’s convention – CASE President Dan Maas initiated the first CASE blog, commenting on the ideas presented by Daniel Pink. CASE members are encouraged to comment on the CASE blog throughout the coming year on topics of interest.

Grand prize winners
Six lucky convention participants went home as grand prize winners:

1. Carmen Avalos, Pueblo 70, one-year CASE membership
2. Shonie (Deanna) Pachelli, Trinidad, three nights at Beaver Run Resort and lift tickets
3. Dick Thomas, Windsor, Broncos tickets
4. Randy DeHoff, State Board of Education, two nights at Great Divide Lodge
5. Barry Spence, Salida, two nights at The Village
6. Stuart Larson, Deer Trail, Frontier airline tickets

Click here to look at photos of conference goers. CASE has a collection of lost and found items from the convention. Contact Sherry at seitel@co-case.org or call 303.762.8762 about missing items.

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COLORADO LEARNING
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New from CASE
Hot off the press

*The New Debate about Education Reform* is the latest CASE issue brief, presented at the CASE Convention. This publication outlines the multiple state-level conversations that are underway regarding the direction of public education in Colorado as we look at how best to prepare students for successful lives in the 21st century. This timely brief presents context and highlights each initiative. Contact information is provided for those who want to learn more.

The summer 2007 issue of the *CASE Leadership Series: Colorado Schools – Making Progress* has been mailed to all CASE members. Featuring articles written by Colorado principals, this issue highlights elementary, middle level, and high schools throughout the state that are engaged in the hard work of school reform. Read their stories and pick up ideas for your school.

Access these publications at [www.co-case.org](http://www.co-case.org). Click on Membership, then Members Only. Your member codes are required. Follow simple instructions to access your member codes if you do not have them. If you need assistance, contact Pam Bump at pbump@co-case.org.

CASE Web site sports new design

Check out the new look of the CASE Web site. The redesign is part of the CASE technology upgrade that is currently underway. New features will continue to be added, including opportunities for members participate in the CASE blog and to weigh in on issues of importance through our survey feature.

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Upcoming CASE professional development

*Leadership Matters: Creating High-Performing Schools*
Sept. 17-18, 2007, Metro Denver  

*Superintendents 2007 Retreat*  
Sept. 20-21, 2007, Keystone

*CSAP 101: A Practical Guide to the Colorado Student Assessment Program*
Sept. 27, 2007, Metro Denver  
Oct. 10, 2007, Glenwood Springs  
CASPA (Colorado Association of School Personnel Administrators) Fall Conference  
Oct. 3-5, 2007, Keystone

*Working Through Conflict By Embracing Multiple Perspectives*  
Nov. 2, 2007, Metro Denver

*Legal Issues*

- Special Education – Oct. 8, 2007, Metro Denver
- Effective Student Discipline – Oct. 22, 2007, Metro Denver
- Hiring, Supervision, Evaluation, and Discipline of School Employees – Feb. 15, 2008, Metro Denver

Aspiring to the Superintendency  
Nov. 9, 2007, Metro Denver

Aspiring to the Principalship  
Nov. 29-Dec. 1, 2007
Other CASE-sponsored events

The Healthy School District
For superintendents, school business officials, and human resources managers
Does your health plan save your school district and employees money while providing exceptional healthcare? Probably not. You pay too much for school district healthcare, and despite what your healthcare advisors might say, there are options available today that offer you better benefits and reduced costs for both staff and the school district. Bring your insurance team to this vital one-day seminar to learn more about your school district’s health care options and leave with tools to assist in your district’s decision process.

The Healthy School District
Wednesday, September 12, 2007
9:30 a.m. — 3:30 p.m.
Denver Marriott South at Park Meadows
Brought to you by CASB and CASE

For more information, visit click here or contact Nancy Weiss, CASB director of conferences, at nweiss@casb.org.

Courageous leadership for school success
Failure Is Not an Option, Hope Foundation International Conference
Oct. 23-26, 2007, Denver

Other professional development opportunities

The Colorado Symposium on Character & Leadership
Half-day symposium on September 10, 2007, Denver Botanic Gardens

The Symposium is an opportunity for education policy makers and key stakeholders to participate in discussion and hear distinguished leaders from business and education share proven character education strategies that are leading to increased academic achievement and reduced at-risk behavior in schools throughout America. Click here for more information. Registration deadline: Sept. 5.
In Memoriam…
Recently CASE learned that Dale F. Graham, a charter member of CASE, passed away June 17, 2007. Dale retired in 1986 after serving as teacher, elementary principal, director of personnel, and assistant superintendent in several Colorado school districts. A World War II veteran, Dale earned degrees in political science and school administration from Denver University. Our condolences to his wife and family.

CASE was chartered in 1969. Remaining charter members are Art Partridge (Greeley), Larry Vibber (Fowler – still superintendent), and Bill Weatherill (Canon City).

Teens and ‘Tweens Using Technology For Educational Purposes
Key findings of a new study by the National School Boards Association and Grunwald Associates LLC exploring the online behaviors of U.S. teens and ‘tweens show:

- 96 percent of students with online access use social networking technologies, such as chatting, text messaging, blogging, and visiting online communities such as Facebook, MySpace, and Webkinz. Further, students report that one of the most common topics of conversation on the social networking scene is education.
- Nearly 60 percent of online students report discussing education-related topics such as college or college planning, learning outside of school, and careers and 50 percent of online students say they talk specifically about schoolwork.
- Students report spending almost as much time using social network services and Web sites as they spend watching television. Among teens who use social networking sites, that amounts to about 9 hours a week online, compared to 10 hours a week watching television.
- 96 percent of school districts say that at least some of their teachers assign homework requiring Internet use.


Seeking stories for “Leadership Lite” column
For AASA’s publication The School Administrator, editor Jay Goldman is seeking short, humorous anecdotes (that generally can be told in no more than four or five paragraphs) that relate to some telling aspect of life in educational administration or the day-to-day work in a school district or a state association serving educators. Anecdotes should be based on the contributor's own experience — something you’ve seen or heard or that’s been shared by a colleague — in a school setting, administrative office, board meeting, educational administration class, etc. Please submit your stories to jgoldman@aasa.org.

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