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# CEA National News & Notes

A Message from CEA Executive Director Kaiser

**Dear CEA Members,**

As we close out the year, we extend our sincere thanks to our members for your continued engagement and support.

This year was marked by important milestones and meaningful progress. We successfully hosted two conferences, bringing professionals together to share knowledge, strengthen connections, and advance best practices across the field. In addition, we offered eight Lunch and Learn sessions, providing accessible and timely professional development opportunities throughout the year.

We also established a partnership with the Pitzer Family Education Foundation, a nonprofit organization that provides scholarships and financial aid to children affected by parental incarceration. Additionally, CEA launched an electronic version of the Journal of Correctional Education (JCE), thereby increasing accessibility and broadening the publication's reach.

These accomplishments reflect the dedication of our members and the collective strength of our Association. As we look ahead to the new year, we are excited to build on this momentum and continue advancing our shared mission.

Thank you for being an essential part of our work. We wish you a joyful holiday season and a wonderful New Year.

With gratitude and excitement for what's ahead,

*Peggy*

**Contact Us**

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[www.ceanational.org](http://www.ceanational.org)

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## THIS ISSUE

- 2026 Forum Information
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## Mark Your Calendars

**January 26, 2026:**  
Region III Lunch & Learn  
online

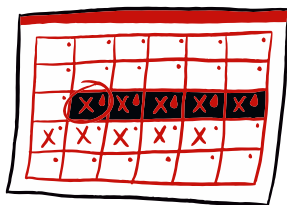
**May 3 - 5, 2026:**  
CEA Forum  
Baltimore, MD

**August 2 - 5, 2026:**  
80<sup>th</sup> CEA International Conference  
and Training Event  
Bellevue, WA

# 2026 FORUM

**LEAD BOLDLY, TEACH FEARLESSLY**

**May 3 - 5, 2026 | Baltimore, Maryland**



**Schedule at  
a Glance**



**Exhibitor  
Information**



**Attendee  
Registration**



**Hotel  
Information**



# *CEA Announces Constitutional Changes*

CEA needs to make amendments to the constitution. Changes to the constitution must be voted on by the membership. Please review the recommended amendments below, which will be included on the February election ballot. To review the existing constitution, please click [here](#).

## Change Section 2:

*CEA represents professionals working in the field of education in corrections and other related disciplines.*

## Change Section 3:

*Education in corrections refers to education and/or training in any field that provides skills to assist in the rehabilitation of incarcerated, formerly incarcerated, and at-risk individuals.*

## Change Article II Purpose:

*The purpose of this organization is to:*

- *Serve as the leading professional organization for educators working within correctional settings.*
- *Promote public awareness and understanding of the importance of education in corrections.*
- *Provide leadership and opportunities for professional development for educators in both adult and juvenile facilities.*
- *Strengthen and enhance the organization's structure and operations.*
- *Establish and support meaningful awards and scholarship programs.*

## Remove from Section 4 -Membership Categories:

- *Non-profit*

## Change Article IX -Meetings:

*Section 1- The Association shall hold an annual membership meeting at the time and place of the annual CEA International Conference and Training Event.*

## Remove from Article XII: Standing Committees

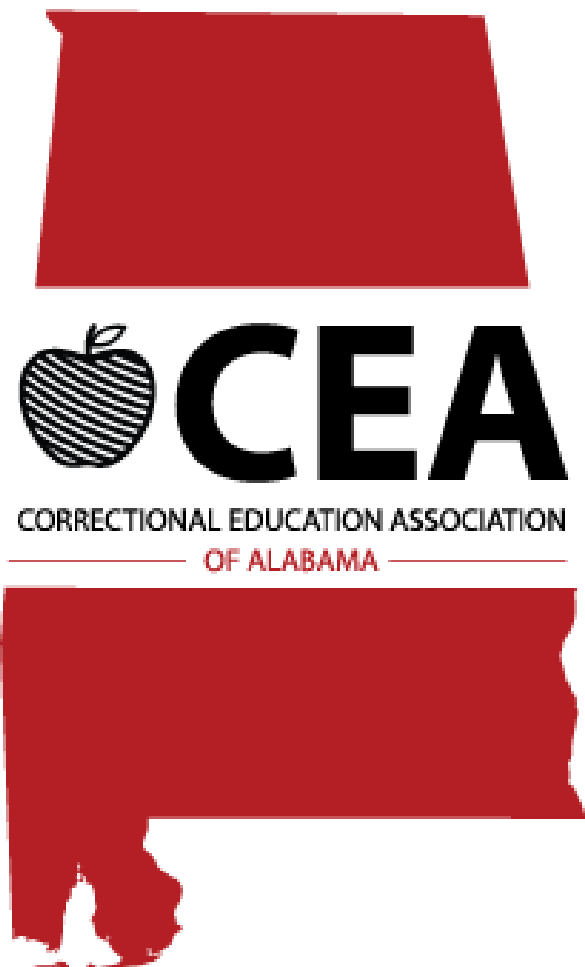
- *Membership/Public Relations Committee*
- *Technology Committee*

## Add to Article XII: Standing Committees

- *Membership Committee*
- *Public Relations Committee*

# *Congratulations* ALABAMA

We're excited to recognize **Alabama**  
as an active state chapter.



## *A Message from a CEA Member* *by Lisa Preston*

**Rio Salado College** (RSC) had the honor of being represented at the **79th CEA International Conference and Training Event** in Pittsburgh, where we were selected to present “**Got Laptops? Lessons Learned in the Second Chance World.**” Preparing for this session was exciting, but what really made it meaningful was the group of people who showed up to listen and engage. Although the audience was small, their energy and curiosity filled the room. They asked thoughtful questions, challenged us to reflect on what we’ve learned, and thanked us sincerely for sharing our experiences—the successes as well as the struggles. It reminded me that in presentations like these, it’s often the attendees who truly make the session come alive.

CEA conferences are valuable because they give us the **chance to connect** with others who understand the unique world we work in. We meet educators who face the same hurdles we do when it comes to introducing and managing technology inside prisons. Hearing their stories, swapping advice, and simply knowing we aren’t alone in these challenges is both validating and inspiring. There is something powerful about realizing **we’re part of a larger community working toward the same mission**: to bring **education, growth, and opportunity** to justice-impacted students.



**“CEA conferences don’t just share information—they recharge our commitment to this work.”**

One of the biggest surprises of the conference came before it even officially began. As we were descending into Pittsburgh and flipping through the program, we noticed Apple listed as a exhibitor. Apple—at a prison education conference! We could hardly believe it, and our excitement immediately shifted into strategy mode. We circled as many of their sessions as possible and made it a priority to connect with their team. Our conversations with them were encouraging, and we left knowing we’d meet with them again. The **possibilities for partnership** are thrilling, and we’re eager to see how this could impact the lives of students in correctional settings.

This was my third time attending a CEA conference, and each year I'm reminded why I prioritize saving my professional growth funds to attend. It is an event filled with not just **information**, but **inspiration**. Being surrounded by people who believe in second chances, who work every day to make **education accessible and meaningful for incarcerated learners**, recharges my commitment to the work we do.

I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to my amazing team who joined me: Dr. Patricia Scalzo, Faculty Chair, and Casey Werhanowicz, Program Manager. Traveling and learning alongside colleagues makes the experience even richer, and their insights continue to push programing forward. Finally, thank you to the wonderful individuals we met from other states and to the CEA board members who dedicate so much energy to supporting this community.

Keep up the **good fight**, everyone. **What you are doing matters, it works, and it is changing lives.**

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CEA is proud to offer its “**Lunch & Learn**” series. Lunch and learns are opportunities for members to connect and learn about the latest developments in correctional education. Check out the schedule, and be sure to register online via the [membership portal](#).

|            |                 |
|------------|-----------------|
| 1/26/2026  | Region III      |
| 2/23/2026  | Region IV       |
| 3/16/2026  | Region V        |
| 4/20/2026  | Region VI       |
| May        | FORUM           |
| 6/15/2026  | Region VII      |
| 7/20/2026  | Region VIII     |
| August     | 80th Conference |
| 9/21/2026  | Region I        |
| 10/19/2026 | Region II       |
| 11/16/2026 | Region III      |
| December   | Happy Holidays  |



PITZER  
**FAMILY EDUCATION**  
FOUNDATION



At **Pitzer Family Education Foundation**, we believe that graduating seniors are not just students; they are the leaders of tomorrow. With fresh ideas, energy, and determination, they are in the perfect position to make a significant difference in their schools, communities, and the world.

That's why we are *inviting graduating seniors across America to join us* in a powerful movement: One annual fundraiser hosted by each graduating class, with up to \$200 contributed toward breaking the cycle of incarceration through education. All proceeds from schools' donations will go toward providing scholarships to children affected by parental incarceration. This is a shared mission to reduce our prison population by empowering the estimated 2.7 million children through education. They are 5 times more likely to be incarcerated than their peers.

With approximately 24,000 high schools and 3.6 million seniors graduating each year, even a small percentage of partnerships can create a massive impact. Together, we can ensure every child has the opportunity to thrive, no matter what their circumstances.

The **Correctional Education Association (CEA)** is a professional association of educators and administrators serving in adult and juvenile correctional settings. CEA proudly supports the **Pitzer Family Education Foundation's** work to provide life-changing educational opportunities for the children of incarcerated or formerly incarcerated parents and is committed to partnering with the Foundation to help expand its scholarship program.



A WARDEN'S PATH: Authored by Percy Pitzer



DONATE at [www.PFEFScholarships.org](http://www.PFEFScholarships.org)

# CEA 2026 ELECTIONS



We are excited to announce that the 2026 CEA Executive Board election process is about to begin! **Nominations will open on January 12, 2026**, for several key positions, including:

- Executive Board Secretary
- Two Standards Commissioner positions
- Standards Commissioner At-Large with a focus on CEA audits
- Region II Director
- Region III Assistant Director (1-year term)
- Region IV Director
- Region IV Assistant Director
- Region IV Treasurer
- Region VI Director
- Region VI Assistant Director of Membership,
- Region VI Secretary
- Region VIII Director-elect
- Region VIII Secretary

Additional Regional Board positions will also be up for election.

The **timeline** for this year's election is as follows: **nominations** open January 12 and **close February 6**; acceptance of nominations is due by February 18; a "Meet the Nominees" email will be sent on February 23; voting will take place from February 25 through March 3; election results will be shared with the Executive Committee on March 12; candidates will be notified by March 20; and an email announcing the newly elected officers will be sent out by March 23.

We **encourage all current members to participate** in this important decision-making process. Please note - membership as of January 1, 2026, is required to participate in voting. To ensure you receive all communications, contact the national office or your Regional Director to confirm your email address is up to date.

Thank you for your continued commitment to CEA—together, we shape the future!



# Welcome

## CEA'S NEWEST MEMBERS

### *Alaska*

Amy Banks  
Jonathan Pistotnik

### *Washington D.C.*

LaTonya Hill  
Eurielle Kiki  
Tamara Sanders

### *Kansas*

Xavier Hoover  
Melody Lawrence  
Tracy Wisdom

### *Alabama*

Charleen Kendrick  
Jennifer Braden

### *Florida*

Cristal Clark  
Corinne Tate  
Michael Boyd  
Rex Lee Phillips

### *Kentucky*

Javan Reed

### *Arkansas*

Kimberly Dawn Duffie  
Marcella Dalla Rosa  
Cindy Willis

### *Louisiana*

Heidi Coleman

### *Hawaii*

Lea Kinikini

### *Massachusetts*

Michael Fischer  
Trevor Fronius

### *California*

Jawad Piorek  
Tae Mauk  
Meghan McBride  
Randal Tillery  
Renee Collins  
Antonio Fuentes  
Carolyn Schaupp  
Zazi Villarreal  
Catherine Lynn Wilson  
Mikal Abdul-Mateen

### *Iowa*

Marcia Hamilton

### *Idaho*

John Braker  
Tony Cade

### *Maryland*

Michael Grossman  
Miriam Suldán  
Tanja Murphy  
Jarren Jeffery

### *Illinois*

Sohni Mallhi

### *Michigan*

Baron Warren

### *Colorado*

Charissa Brammer  
Johanna Leal  
Alexandra Walker

### *Indiana*

The CTM Academy



# Welcome

## CEA'S NEWEST MEMBERS

### *Minnesota*

Suzanna Meredith  
Bety Rios-Christeusen  
Marty Scofield  
Mark Wackerfuss  
Kelly Tenner  
Melissa Heinz

### *Missouri*

Kardell Sims

### *Montana*

Allyson Briese

### *Nebraska*

Darla Acton  
Stacey Brickey  
Anthony Britten  
Laurie Combs  
Lance Davis  
Ashley Dawson  
Robin Lewis  
Diane Murphy  
Josh Murtaugh  
Jeffrey Powell  
Brooke Rinehart  
Garrett Slezak  
Scott Wilcox  
Reid M Helford

### *Nebraska*

Katie Bruggeman  
Chad Cole  
Dr. Mitchell D. Evans, Ph.D.  
Steve Fannon  
Kathleen Fimple  
Greg Glass  
Diane Good-Collins  
Jeff Hendred  
Rachael Jensen  
Monica Miles-Steffens  
Janee Pannkuk  
Ken Quinn  
Tracy Rocolle  
Carolyn Sommers  
Tim Steinbach  
Liz Venable  
Sharri Wirth

### *North Carolina*

Tracey Lamont Monroe  
Veronica Powell

### *New Hampshire*

Kimberly Piper

### *New Jersey*

Scott Bollwage  
Melissa Lerner

### *Ohio*

Ryan Terrell Smith  
Eric Bowles  
Andrew Sleet  
Ellen Irene Businger  
Liana Owens  
Michael P Hayden  
Brooke Rodgers  
Ryan Bacon  
Yolanda Battle  
Jennifer Coles-Shesko  
Duston Donaldson  
Jodi Donaldson  
Christopher Jones  
Nicholas Kottman  
Ernest Mack  
Nicole Marsano  
Peter Morris  
Akeyla Ragland  
David Schmitt  
Tyler Seyfang  
John E Stegall  
Bryan Steward  
Jordan Velazquez  
Jacob Wayne  
Florence Madueme  
Stacie Stillion  
Todd Angelo  
Angie Botsko  
Stacy Browning  
Mary Deloe  
Mike Frazier  
Keith Fulton  
David Gerber



# Welcome

## CEA'S NEWEST MEMBERS

### *Ohio*

Jason Guild  
Diana Jackson  
LaTonya Jackson  
Marsha Johnson  
John Kelly  
Laura Kukay  
Erin Miko  
Cliff Rubenstein  
Matt Sysack  
Tonya Thompson  
Terry Vanbuskirk  
William Walker  
Paul Workman  
Coleen Wright  
Gary Antonio Mullins

### *Oklahoma*

Marcus Ripp

### *Oregon*

LexisNexis  
Ashley Justine Robinson  
Megan Cogswell

### *Pennsylvania*

Nicole Sparra  
Erin Lake  
AniciaLelich  
juliannPicklo  
KaytlinSummer  
Charles Colditz  
Tanya Jo Grenoble  
Joseph Jurewicz  
Kevin Lyash  
Kristin R Lyons  
Rodney Snyder  
Hilary Bryan  
Molly DeSarro  
Melanie Ferris  
Susan Robachefski  
Lara Thomas  
Sue Williams

### *Rhode Island*

Carolyn Romano  
Maizie Dyess

### *South Carolina*

Natasha C.P. Sprattling  
Michael Arnold  
Miyesha Bates  
Kherissa Burgess  
Sharon Chafin  
Robert Cottingham  
Stephanie Donaldson  
Lisa Engram  
Shaquetta Ferguson  
Vanessa Harris  
A'Mya Hilton  
Alaetra Jones  
Yvette Lakin  
Relus Lucear  
Jennifer McDuffie  
Harry McFadden  
Meg McKessy  
Kenyatta McLeod  
Sharon Patterson  
DavidPoindexter  
Saskia Santos  
Charlette Taylor  
Matthew Thompson  
Jennifer Wheeler  
George Whitehead  
Michelle Boyd  
Noah Reynolds  
Michelle Boyd

# Welcome

## CEA'S NEWEST MEMBERS

### *Tennessee*

KC Alvarado  
Jay Christensen  
Gina Castleberry

### *Texas*

Troy Alexander  
William Autery  
Michelle Burns  
Christi Cox  
Jacque Dyer  
Patricia Franta  
Cayla Hoobler  
Nicole Hullum  
Brandy Jordan  
Jacqueline Joyner  
Kimberly Kidd  
Margaret Lima  
Anna Luce  
Rosamar Martinez  
Ilesia Minor  
Mary Partida  
Brenda Piatiak  
Jennifer Poole  
Leticia Rivas  
Rian Sikes  
Julia Smith  
Catherine D Netter  
Julie Pruitt  
Ginger A Bihm  
Charlene Carolyn Clark

### *Virginia*

Amanda R Lloyd  
Johnell Ferrell  
Washington  
Janece Levien  
Jamie Kinney

### *Wisconsin*

David Peters  
Chelsea Brehmer  
Diana Hammer  
Dawn Lueck  
Aleah Sauter  
Barbara J Hughes

### *Wyoming*

Matt Bullington  
Rob Colter  
Gary Rickard

### *British Columbia, Canada*

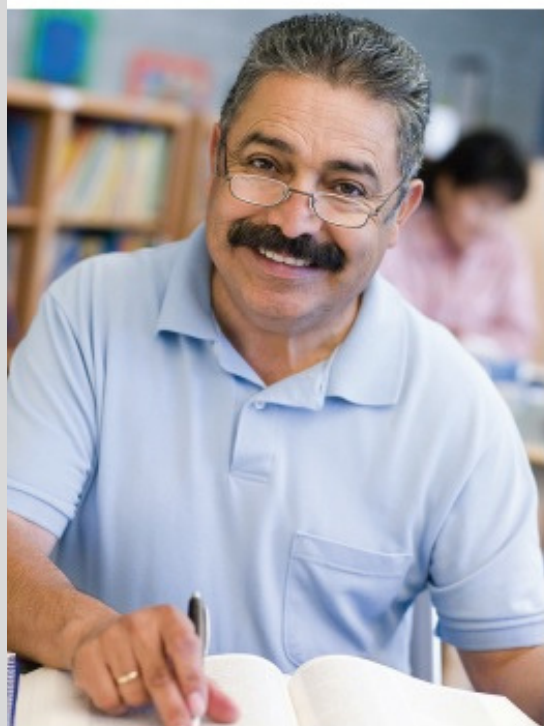
Oshrin Bhagawat  
Eugene Boos  
Kevin Heinze



**Welcome to our newest members!**

Stay in touch with CEA updates and connect with colleagues through the membership portal via the link [here](#).

## ONLINE DEGREE PROGRAMS For Formerly Incarcerated Persons



Ashland University believes in the power of a second chance. We've offered higher education programs to justice-involved individuals since 1964. We also want to help people who were formerly incarcerated complete a degree, to help them create a pathway to a brighter future.

### PROGRAMS

AU offers associate degrees in business and general studies, along with five bachelor's degrees:

- Business Administration
- Communication Studies
- Interdisciplinary Studies
- Multidisciplinary Studies
- Organizational Leadership & Development

### SUPPORT

We provide extra support for these students, from FAFSA assistance to orientation, advising and success coaching to help them succeed.



## REACH OUT TODAY

If you'd like to recommend individuals for this program, please contact Chris Schwan in Admissions at 419-207-4580 or [cschwan@ashland.edu](mailto:cschwan@ashland.edu)

# Prison Education at work



San Quentin Prison in California hosted its first ever father-daughter prom inside the facility. Read more about the event [here](#).



The Quilters follows a group of incarcerated men who dedicate their days to crafting personalized quilts for local foster children. Watch the 32-minute documentary on [Netflix](#).



'Sing Sing' Actor Jon-Adrian 'JJ' Velazquez reflects on the power of prison theater. Read more about his experience [here](#).

For questions, comments, contributions, sponsorships, and more

# Contact the CEA

**Want to connect with your CEA representatives? Then click the envelope to your right to find contact information for our current board members.**

**Board members are always excited to hear from you.**



CEA News and Notes is published quarterly with issues being distributed to all members in February, May, September, and December. All issues are posted in the [membership portal](#).

Articles are always encouraged and should generally be 500 words or less. All contributions are subject to editing for space and clarity. Contributions should be sent to [Peggy Kaiser](#).

CEA News and Notes accepts full and half-page advertisements. For deadlines and advertising rates, please contact [Peggy Kaiser](#) or [Kiara Graham](#).

