September 2026
Volume 61
Issue No. 3

CEA National News & Notes

A Message from CEA President Terri Fazio

Dear CEA Members,

It is both an honor and a privilege to introduce myself as the newly elected President of CEA. I am grateful for the trust and confidence you have in me, and I am excited to serve alongside such a dedicated and talented group of individuals.

I spent over 35 years in the correctional education setting within the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections. I spent 15 years in the classroom working as a GED instructor, moved into the administrative realm as the school principal, worked as a staff assistant for the Regional Deputy Secretary, as a regional liaison for the Bureau of Correction Education and ended my career as the Director for Correction Education. I have experienced many of the same successes and frustrations you see every day when working with your students. But the bottom line for me is the services we provide are the key to our students' success upon their reentry into society.

Our organization has a strong foundation built on the commitment, passion, and contributions of its members. As President, I am committed to strengthening our organization, creating new opportunities, and having a meaningful impact on your programs and students.

I look forward to working with the executive team, individual members and our educational partners to assist with providing the assets you need so your students have the best opportunities for success.

Thank you for your continued dedication to our organization. I am excited about what we can accomplish together and look forward to a productive and successful future.

Terri

Contact Us

443-459-3080

www.ceanational.org

PO Box 14429 | Norfolk, VA 23518

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THIS ISSUE

- Financial report
- Conference Wrap-up
- CEA 2026 Award Winners
- CEA 2026 Teachers of the Year
- 2026 Lunch & Learn Schedule
- Welcome New Members

Correctional Education Association®

"Transforming Lives"



Mark Your Calendars

April 4-6, 2027
CEA Forum
Embassy Suites by Hilton Charleston Convention Center
North Charleston, South Carolina

July 25-28, 2027
81st International Conference & Training Event
Hyatt Regency Long Beach
Long Beach, California

SAVE THE DATE

2027 CEA FORUM

APRIL 4–6, 2027

CHARLESTON, SC



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Correctional Education Association

Annual Report FY 25-26

From thePeriodOct.1,2025throughJune,30,2026

	Oct'25-Jun'26
Income	
Audit Standards	60,500.00
Audit Training	0.00
Advertising	0.00
Conference Income	39,637.50
Membership	97,182.84
Publications	10,000.00
Royalties	5,574.93
Other Income	995.27
Donations	33,000.00
Total Income	246,890.54
Expenses	
Program Expenses	
Audit Travel	14,395.63
Audit Training Travel	5,138.67
Audit Fees	4,800.00
Audit Training Fees	0.00
Juvenile Justice Advocate	0.00
Standards Commission Meeting	3,342.87
CEA Conference	2,789.00
CEA Forum	8,901.43
Program Supplies	0.00
Membership Rebates	15,495.00
Publications Expense	10,603.85
Scholarship	0.00
Total Program Expenses	65,466.45
Salaries & Related Expenses	
Admin Salary	38,847.02
Admin Stipend	4,022.11
Admin Travel	7,431.71
ED Office Supplies	49.56
ED Salary	50,240.37
ED Travel	3,201.02
Payroll Taxes	2,971.79
Total Salaries & Related Expenses	106,763.58
Overhead Expenses	
Advertising	12,293.97
Bank Charges	509.09
Board Meetings	1,051.41
Credit Card Fees	6,481.04
Depreciation Expense	789.93
Dues & Memberships	2,993.00
Insurance	5,634.15
Internet & IT	7,928.62
Licences & Permits	320.00
Office Supplies	2,619.63
Postage	532.02
Rent	0.00
Softw are	4,056.67
Telephone	2,024.42
	343.14
Travel	47,577.09
Total Overhead Expenses	
Professional Services	
Accounting	37,253.71
Total Professional Services	37,253.71
Total Expense	257,060.83
Net Increase/(Decrease) in Assets	**(10,170.29)**

Celebrating a Successful CEA Conference

By Tracie Hightower, CEA Vice President and Bellevue Conference Co-Chair

The 80th CEA International Conference and Training Event was held August 2nd through August 5th in Bellevue Washington with over 300 people in attendance. Bellevue was a beautiful place for the conference with lots of restaurants and events close by to attend including a Mariners game. Some of the highlights from the conference were the Release and Reentry Simulation and the Teacher of the Year Gala. The Release and Reentry Simulation had 150 participants and gave them the ability to see what it is like for our students as they release into the community. Many people stated this was the best learning experience they have ever had. The Teacher of the Year Gala was a grand event with wonderful food and everyone wearing green and gold. We were able to honor our teachers of the year with gifts and recognition. With all the interesting workshops offered, there were many lessons learned and great discussions around education in corrections.

Thank you to everyone who attended and hope you made new connections with other CEA members as well as something to work on in your state. If you could not attend this conference, we hope you will be able to attend the **2027 Forum** that will be held in Charleston, South Carolina, April 4 – 6, 2027, or the **81st CEA International Conference and Training Event** in Long Beach, California, July 25 - July 28, 2027. Hope to see you there!





The 80th Annual CEA Conference was a picture perfect event!





Check out the amazing honorees who were recognized at the conference on the following pages.





Lifetime Achievement Award

Kim Barnette, Ed.Sp.

In her 42-year career, Kim B. Barnette, Ed.Sp. has dedicated herself to expanding educational opportunities for incarcerated students. Beginning her career in 1984 as a high school math and science teacher, Kim soon discovered her calling in correctional education when she joined David Wade Correctional Center, where she served as School Principal for more than 11 years.

Her commitment to educating incarcerated individuals led Louisiana Secretary Richard Stalder to establish the position of State Director of Correctional Education and appoint Kim to lead the effort. In this role, she unified the state's correctional education divisions around the mission of "Reforming Lives and Reducing Recidivism," creating a single reporting division within the department. She subsequently developed a statewide reentry program that was adopted and published nationally by Houghton-Mifflin Company in 2010.

Kim has also been a tireless leader and advocate for correctional and adult education at the state and national levels. Her professional service has included leadership roles with the American Correctional Association (ACA), Louisiana Association for Public, Community & Adult Education (LAPCAE), Louisiana Correctional Association (LCA), and, most notably, the Correctional Education Association (CEA). Within CEA, she has served as President's Council Chair, Region V Director, member of the Council of Directors and Standards Commission, and President. In 2015, Kim led Louisiana into a new era of correctional education by expanding online learning opportunities for incarcerated students. Working with Ashland University of Ohio, she helped establish postsecondary online programming that rapidly expanded across the state. When online high school equivalency testing created significant challenges for correctional institutions, Kim partnered with local technicians—who would later become ATLO—to develop a secure pathway for institutional online testing, helping Louisiana become one of the first states approved to offer online testing at every correctional institution.

After retirement in December 2017, Kim continues to work with local and state correctional and law enforcement agencies to improve and expand education prospects to the incarcerated population by helping these agencies in obtaining federal assistance through grant opportunities. Her work through this advocacy has aided agencies in obtaining more than ten million in state, federal and local grant dollars to enhance education offerings within correctional facilities. Kim's work continues today with no plans of stopping until every agency leader realizes that reformation, and not punitive action, is the answer.



Advocate Award

Michael P. Jackson, Ph.D.

A native of Hampton, VA, Dr. Michael P. Jackson has 28 years of educational experience with 23 years serving in administrative roles in K-12, juvenile correctional education and higher education settings. He began his tenure as a Deputy Director and Superintendent of the Buckeye United School District in the Ohio Department of Youth Services (ODYS) in 2023.

Dr. Jackson holds a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Multicultural Equity Studies Education and Administration from The Ohio State University. He also holds a Master of Arts (MA) in Early and Middle Childhood Education from The Ohio State University. Dr. Jackson proudly earned his Bachelor of Science (BS) in Physical Education from Hampton University in Hampton, VA. He earned his certificate of Diversity and Inclusion from Cornell University.

Dr. Jackson is a proud Life Member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. When not working, he dedicates his time to various community and college-based organizations like “Families Flourish,” a Columbus, OH based program that is dedicated to helping low-wage working families reach economic mobility and wellness through life-coaching, rent support and monthly required programs that promote housing and economic stability, career advancement, and generational change for their children. He is also a professor at Franklin University in Columbus, OH.

Dr. Jackson sits on the Education Advisory Boards for both Capital and Franklin University. He is an active member of the American Education Research Association (AERA), Buckeye Association of School Administrators (BASA), School Superintendent’s Association (AASA), National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice (NABCJ), and the Correctional Education Association (CEA) where he was recently elected Region III Assistant Director. Dr. Jackson and his leadership team were awarded the 2026 OH - State Support Team (SST) 11 Frank B. Walter Outstanding Education Team Award.

As a life-long educator, Dr. Jackson is a firm believer in the saying, "if we can reach them, we can teach them," and this holds true no matter the academic environment, socio-economic status, or other challenge students may face.



Youthful Impact Award

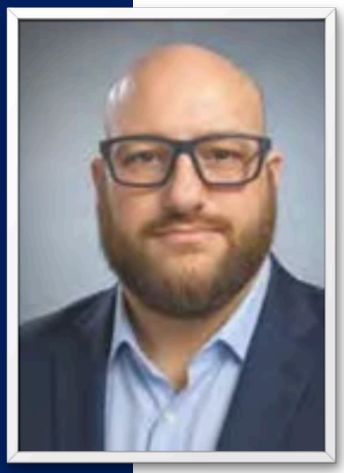
Deborah Bacon, M.Ed.

Deborah Bacon has worked as an educator in corrections for 30 years both in the Ohio Department of Youth Services and the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction. For the past two and a half years Deb has worked for the Ohio Central School System in ODRC as a career counselor with the incarcerated under 22 years of age.

Deb has a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education (1-8), Master of Arts in School Counseling, and Master of Arts in Conflict Analysis and Engagement. She has held multiple positions in the correctional setting to include Title I teacher, PGED teacher, Discipline Treatment Unit (DTU) teacher, school counselor, and school administrator.

Deb has been privileged to work in two youth prisons and four adult prisons prior to her current position where she travels to 14 ODRC institutions to meet with under 22-year-olds for career counseling. Deb has presented workshops at many CEA conferences over the years.

Her passions include traveling with her husband, crafting, and loving on her two Yorkshire terrors (terriers).



Executive Directors Award

Robert Vehock

Robert serves as the Program Manager for the Louisiana Department of Public Safety & Corrections, Office of Reentry, Education, and the Chaplaincy, where he oversees a variety of initiatives designed to support successful offender rehabilitation and reentry. In his current role, he manages several Office of Justice Programs (OJP) grants and coordinates multiple statewide programs that focus on education, workforce development, reentry services, and faith-based programming within Louisiana's correctional system. His work is dedicated to improving outcomes for justice-involved individuals and strengthening public safety through evidence-based practices and collaborative partnerships.

With more than 20 years of professional experience, Robert has built an extensive career primarily within the criminal justice field. Throughout his career, he has held leadership and program management positions that have allowed him to develop expertise in grant administration, strategic planning, program implementation, and interagency collaboration. His commitment to advancing correctional education and reentry services has contributed to the development of innovative programs that support individuals as they transition from incarceration back into their communities.

Robert earned his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette and later obtained a Master of Public Administration (MPA) from the Louisiana State University Public Administration Institute. His educational background, combined with decades of hands-on experience, has equipped him with a strong foundation in public service, organizational leadership, and criminal justice administration. Robert remains passionate about creating opportunities for rehabilitation, promoting successful reentry, and supporting initiatives that positively impact individuals, families, and communities across Louisiana.



Presidents Award

LaKeshia Adams, Ph.D.

LaKeshia Adams, Ph.D. is an accomplished organizational leadership consultant, researcher, speaker, and founder of Intentional Perceptions, LLC, a consulting firm dedicated to helping individuals and organizations achieve meaningful growth through intentional leadership, professional development, and strategic workforce solutions.

As a Maxwell Leadership Certified Team Member and Global Career Development Facilitator, Dr. Adams combines evidence-based research with practical leadership strategies to empower professionals, strengthen teams, and drive organizational success.

With more than a decade of experience spanning education, workforce development, and corrections, Dr. Adams has built a reputation for helping people and organizations navigate complex challenges while remaining focused on purpose, performance, and impact. Her work has been particularly influential in supporting those on the front lines of reentry and rehabilitation efforts, where she provides expertise in leadership development, career readiness, employee engagement, and organizational culture. Through training, coaching, and consulting, she equips professionals with the tools and confidence needed to create positive change in the lives of the individuals and communities they serve.

As a researcher and thought leader, Dr. Adams is passionate about exploring the connection between leadership, personal development, and organizational effectiveness. Her approach emphasizes intentional action, continuous learning, and the power of human potential. Whether she is facilitating workshops, coaching leaders, conducting research, or speaking to diverse audiences, she is known for bringing both insight and authenticity to every engagement.

Dr. Adams often describes herself in a way that audiences never forget: “If Nike and The Salvation Army had a child, she would be her.” In other words, Just Do It. Do the Most Good. That unique blend of action, service, and purpose perfectly captures her leadership philosophy. Known affectionately as “Dr. A,” she is driven by a commitment to helping individuals and organizations move beyond limitations, embrace intentional growth, and create lasting impact in their workplaces and communities.



Learning with Technology Award

Akeyla Ragland, M.Ed.

Akeyla Ragland is an accomplished educational leader and technology strategist who serves as the Director of Technology and EMIS for Buckeye United School District within the Ohio Department of Youth Services (DYS). As a member of the district's executive leadership team, she plays a critical role in advancing educational excellence through innovative technology solutions, data-driven decision-making, and strategic program implementation that support student achievement across Ohio's juvenile correctional education system.

Akeyla holds two master's degrees from The Ohio State University and brings more than a decade of experience in education. Throughout her career, she has served as both an educator and academic coach, specializing in supporting English Learners and students with disabilities. Her passion for equitable educational opportunities has been the foundation of her work, enabling diverse learners to reach their full academic potential through high-quality instruction, individualized support, and evidence-based practices.

In her current role, Akeyla oversees the district's educational technology initiatives, ensuring students and staff have access to innovative digital learning tools that enhance instruction and engagement. She also manages the district's Education Management Information System ensuring accurate state reporting, regulatory compliance, and the integrity of critical educational data. Her expertise in educational technology and data systems has been instrumental in strengthening district operations and supporting continuous school improvement efforts.

Akeyla is recognized for her collaborative leadership style, strategic thinking, and unwavering commitment to educational innovation. She works closely with administrators, educators, and stakeholders to implement technology-driven solutions that improve teaching, learning, and operational efficiency. Her ability to bridge instructional best practices with technology has helped position the Buckeye United School District as a leader in education in the correctional environment.

An active member of the Correctional Education Association (CEA), Akeyla remains engaged in the advancement of education in correctional settings at both the state and national levels. She is committed to lifelong learning and professional growth, consistently seeking opportunities to share best practices and contribute to the field.

CEA Scholarship Receipents



Jude Leary

Correctional Education Association
"Transforming Lives"



Melissa Kline

Correctional Education Association
"Transforming Lives"



Ron Pannell

Correctional Education Association
"Transforming Lives"

ASHLAND
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Since 1964, Ashland University has partnered with state and local correctional systems to deliver fully HLC accredited associate and bachelor's degrees - with an on-site coordinator at every facility, from enrollment through graduation.

"During one of the darkest times in my life, I feel like Ashland University extended this sliver of hope that turned into something much bigger. I have been given a gift that I can take with me for the rest of my life and use to better the world. That is something that you can't put a price on and I am forever grateful."

JOSEPH - CLASS OF 2019

Correctional Education | au-cep@ashland.edu | 419-207-6922
ashland.edu/correctional-education

CELEBRATING CEA'S TEACHERS OF THE YEAR



Each year, the Correctional Education Association (CEA) proudly recognizes outstanding educators who make a lasting impact on the lives of justice-involved learners. Representing CEA's geographical regions and teaching disciplines across the field of correctional education, these Teachers of the Year demonstrate exceptional dedication, innovation, and commitment to student success. Please join us in celebrating this year's honorees and recognizing the important work they do. Check out the profiles of CEA's Teachers of the Year on the following pages.

CEA 2026

TEACHER OF THE YEAR



Region I
Bill Bush

Bill Bush began his career as a diesel mechanic after studying at the Mercer County Career Center. He went on to serve as head mechanic for both the City of Sharon and City of Hermitage before discovering his passion for teaching. In 2015, he became an automotive mechanics instructor at SCI Mercer. While teaching, Bill returned to Indiana University of Pennsylvania to earn his degree. As an instructor, he has become a mentor and role model, sharing his extensive industry experience with students preparing for careers in automotive and diesel mechanics.



Region III
Katherine Clausius-Thompson

Katherine “Kate” Clausius-Thompson has 21 years of teaching experience, including the past five years as an ABE teacher at Sand Ridge Secure Treatment Center in Wisconsin. She teaches Science and Social Studies for the HSED program while coaching students and offering a variety of practical electives. Kate also serves on institutional advisory and trauma-informed care committees and trains staff in trauma-informed practices. She was selected for the DHS Foundations in Leadership Program and is the 2025–26 CEA Wisconsin and Region III Teacher of the Year.

CEA 2026

TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Region IV
Michelle Candy



Michelle Candy has 11 years of experience in correctional education with the North Dakota Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. With a background in English literature and language instruction, Michelle became passionate about evidence-based reading instruction after discovering its impact on students who need additional academic support. She became a certified EBRI trainer and now provides professional development and conference presentations across North Dakota. Her work has strengthened literacy instruction, increased student confidence, and helped educators better identify learning disabilities.

Region V
Kallie Riche



Kallie Riche serves as a Literacy Instructor at Raymond Laborde Correctional Center through the Louisiana Special School District. With more than 12 years of teaching experience, including five and a half years in corrections, she specializes in special education, literacy, and assessment. As the only certified special education teacher within the Louisiana Department of Corrections, Kallie leads statewide efforts to identify and support students with special education needs. Her advocacy and individualized instruction have helped students achieve academic growth and High School Equivalency success while building confidence and hope for the future.

CEA 2026

TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Region VI
Gary Rickard



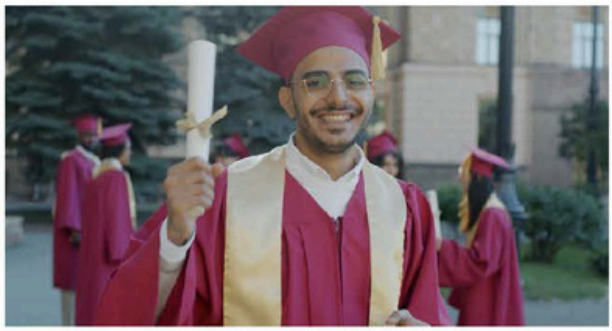
Gary Rickard joined the Wyoming Medium Correctional Institution in 2024 as a Plumbing Instructor and has quickly transformed the program through hands-on training and innovative curriculum. He developed a functional plumbing lab and expanded instruction to include HVAC, electrical, and framing skills. Gary also builds employment pipelines, develops community partnerships, and oversees a Plumbing Integrated Education and Training program connecting workforce preparation with adult education. His dedication to student success and career readiness exemplifies excellence in correctional education.

Region VIII
Diana Gordon



Diana Gordon brings an interdisciplinary background in business administration, Christian counseling, and family studies to her work in correctional education. Her classroom emphasizes positivity, structure, creativity, and individualized support, helping students who have experienced academic failure rediscover their potential. Through encouragement, high expectations, and achievable goals, Diana helps students build confidence and prepare for successful reentry. Her commitment to service extends beyond the classroom through community outreach and initiatives supporting families and individuals in need.

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

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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.

Date	Host
9/21/2026	Region VII
10/19/2026	Region I
11/16/2026	Region II
December	Happy Holidays

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

81ST CEA INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE AND TRAINING EVENT

JULY 25–28, 2027

LONG BEACH, CA



Welcome

CEA'S NEWEST MEMBERS

Alabama
David Walters

Arkansas
Timothy Wesley Stewart

California
Dennis Shaylor

Colorado
David Carrillo
Dallas Fraterelli
Nathan Howell

Florida
Kay Allen

Iowa
Katie Mucha

Idaho
Carol Fitzgerald

Illinois
Torrin Suedmeyer

Kansas
Jay Hertel
Brandon Gay
Brian Fordlee
Michael Reynolds
Noel Schneeberger

Massachusetts
Heather Luhn

Michigan
Clayton Burch

Minnesota
Derek Aldridge
IsaacHartman
OliviaMathson
Brian Miller
Katherine Niedzielski
Matthew Temte
Tracee Bradley
Hannah Cushing
Jo Ann Erickson
Jon Garbacz
Ryan Heiniemi
Ember Johnson
Carol Kline
Mandy Lindemann
Shawn Emslander
Kristen O'Connell

Missouri
Rosa Mayer

North Carolina
Lucy Lawrence

New Mexico
Shanycole Martinez
Lana Maes
Haven Scogin
Daniel Whelan

Ohio
Rhonda Lee Grys
Kamodjia M. Williams
Steven Douglas Keeler
BobbieTurben
Jessica Caldwell-Lehr
Deborah Lynn Turner
Sarah Murray
Sally P Tamborski

Oklahoma
Letha Bauter

Oregon
Jennifer Condon
Miranda Cryns
Jayde Loya-Chamberlain

Pennsylvania
Andrew Bathgate
James Brumbaugh
Brian Caldwell
Sarah Deaven
Lumont Shannon
Tara Stasi
Scott Weyman
Mary Irvin

Welcome

CEA'S NEWEST MEMBERS

Pennsylvania

Burr Edsall
Dorenda Hamarlund
Samantha Aloisio
Jean Bahner
Jim Becker
Elizabeth Orner
Dante Picarelli
Marc Romanelli
Alexis Rosini
Harold Smith
Lori Turofski
John Wardigo
Karina Posey

Rhode Island

Maureen O'Gorman

South Carolina

Floyd Jawan Lyles
Wanda Govan

Texas

Debbie Hicks
Amy Lemoine

Utah

Rachel W Lott

Virginia

Lindsay Unger

Washington

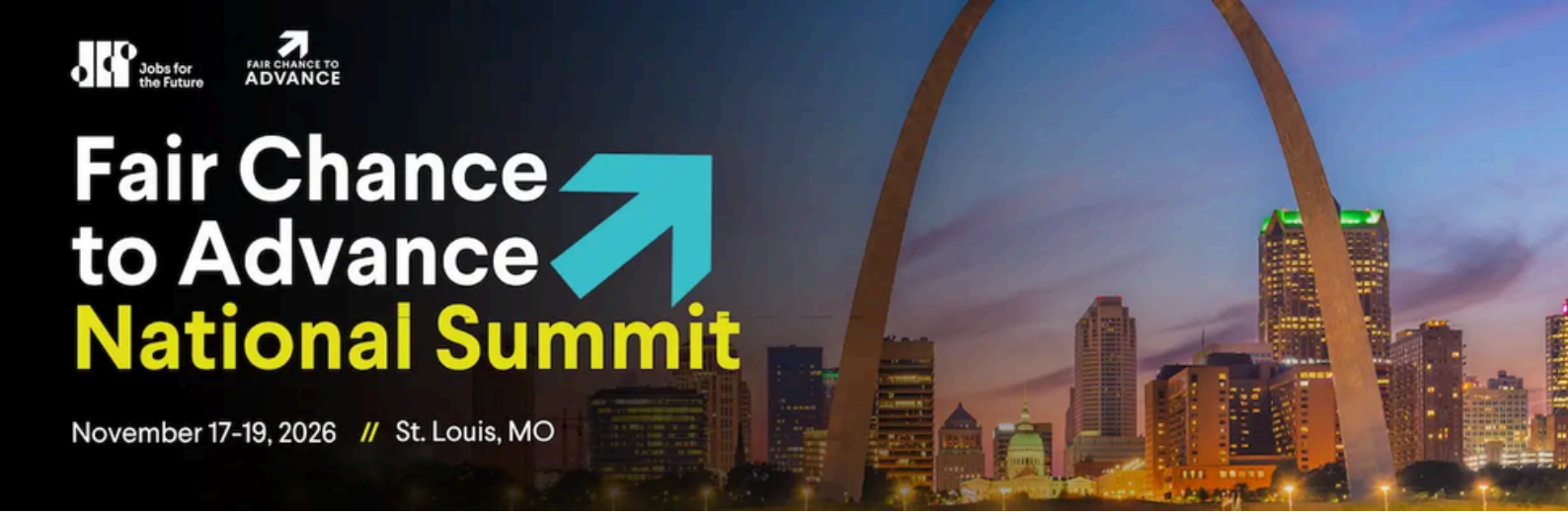
Kristina Lindsey
Mustafa Alshehab

Wisconsin

Kristin Joy Jones
Sarah Koenigs
Anthony Rodriguez
Melissa J Luedtke
Alexandra Jones

Correctional Education Association

Transforming Lives



There is a movement happening across the country.

Last year, more than 100 representatives from 45+ states and territories submitted proposals to partner with **Jobs for the Future (JFF)** and be part of the **Fair Chance to Advance (FC2A) State Action Networks**, expressing interest in FC2A-aligned efforts. This showed us that state leaders aren't waiting for someone else to solve the challenges preventing people with records from accessing quality jobs—they're already building solutions.

This November, we're bringing that energy together in St. Louis for the inaugural FC2A National Summit.

If you're working at the state or local level to connect workforce, education, corrections, employers, policy, or other systems around opportunity for people with records, this gathering is for you.

November 17–19, 2026

St. Louis, Missouri

Register **online**



Make-A-Smile

BUILDING SMILES. BUILDING HOPE.

HELP US REBUILD. *Restore Hope.*

Make-A-Smile is currently fundraising for our upcoming project in *Spruce Pine, North Carolina.*

We plan to rebuild **Riverside Park**, devastated by **Hurricane Helene**.

Together, we can bring back more than a playground—we can bring back **joy**, **hope**, and a place for children and families to **thrive**.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, *TO DONATE, OR TO VOLUNTEER*

VISIT

MAKE-A-SMILE.ORG

TO MAIL IN DONATIONS:

Make-A-Smile | Attn: Julie Vantiger
PO Box 604
Burlington, IA 52601

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**.

www.ceanational.org

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