

Happy American Education Week and a grand ESP Day!

“American Education Week serves as a tribute to the team of people who work with our students, everyone from the classroom teacher and the bus driver to the cafeteria worker and the administration staff—plus countless others,” said NEA President Dennis Van Roekel. “We honor and thank them for the work they do every day to make sure that our students are safe and able to learn.” Read more at:

<http://www.nea.org/assets/docs/2011educationweek.prc.rel.pdf>

ITEM 2

Promoting healthy food in schools

“The rigorous culinary training that Donna West attended in Aurora, Colorado, involved much more than cooking classes.

“West is a lunchroom and child nutrition manager at Brownwood Elementary School in Scottsboro, Alabama. For five long days spent in a high school kitchen and classrooms, West and two dozen other public school food service workers immersed themselves in a course of study that encouraged participants to return home and trash the greasy chicken nuggets and packaged bean burritos.

Among the many challenges involved to make it all happen? Having roomy kitchens and sufficient storage capacity.

‘Even during these difficult fiscal times, expenses for upgrading kitchens can be offset by savings from cooking meat on site, for example, rather than paying a processor. For food service professionals to implement fresh cooking, district officials must be willing to “*modernize school kitchens and eating areas,*” says West.’

Read more at: <http://neatoday.org/2011/11/09/a-boot-camp-to-promote-healthy-food-in-schools/>

ITEM 3

DO YOUR STUDENTS HAVE THE SAFE, MODERN SCHOOLS THEY DESERVE?

Far too many students are learning in schools with leaky roofs and peeling paint in overcrowded classrooms with out-of-date or no technology. **Senator Brown (D-OH) and Representative DeLauro (D-CT) have introduced the Fix America’s Schools Today Act (S. 1597/H.R.2948), which would provide needed funds to ensure students the learning environments so essential to their success.**

Take Action Today:

[Tell your Members of Congress](#) to put Americans back to work and ensure our children the education they deserve by supporting school modernization.

[Share your story](#) -- We need your stories to help put pressure on Members of Congress to do the right thing.

For other issues needing your attention, please go to <http://www.nea.org/home/LegislativeActionCenter.html>

What do Education Support Professional members have to say about modernizing public schools? Check Education Votes for their comments on Wednesday! <http://www.educationvotes.nea.org/>

ITEM 4

NCAE President takes turn as teacher assistant for ESP Day

In celebration of American Education Week, NCAE President Sheri Strickland will return to the classroom to work as a teacher assistant at Hillandale Elementary school in Durham, NC. Strickland's time in class is on Wednesday, November 16, the day which highlights Education Support Professionals during the 2011 observance of American Education Week.

"It's always great to visit schools, and this one in particular reminds me not only of my years in the classroom, but of the importance of teacher assistants," Strickland said. "As we celebrate the importance of public education, we need to focus on the significant roles all educators play in helping children succeed."

Strickland, along with Meg Bell, an NCAE member who works as a TA in the Union County schools, [were interviewed for this story about the valuable role teacher assistants play in helping our students](#). Already having aired on 23 stations in North Carolina after its release this morning, this American Education Week piece has been picked up by radio stations nationally.

Activities in celebration of American Education Week are happening across the state and nation. Visit the Association's website -- www.ncae.org -- to watch a special video honoring members who work in North Carolina schools

If you had an activity on ESP Day that you can share via a link, please send the URL to slemken@nea.org We've started a news page on [NEA.org](http://www.nea.org) to post news of and from the states. Go to <http://www.nea.org/home/41810.htm> to see what we have up now. Thanks!

ITEM 5

ESP OPPORTUNITY: NEA's Human and Civil Rights department is looking for trainers

Interested in applying to become an NEA Human and Civil Rights trainer? NEA HCR is accepting trainers for the following Cadres:

- Bullying and Sexual Harassment Prevention/Intervention Cadre
- National Diversity Training Cadre
- Minority Leadership Training Cadre
- Safe, Bias and GLBT Issues Cadre
- Women's Leadership Training Cadre

Additional information and applications can be found at: <http://www.nea.org/grants/31059.htm>

Please share widely.

The deadline is **December 1**.