

# The UACT Chronicle

Volume 11, Issue 2  
Monday, January 6, 2020



UACT will be awarding TEN scholarships to the Good Teaching South Conference March 13-15 in Garden Grove. UACT will cover the registration, hotel and

parking, and Saturday dinner. For those attending the pre-conference, the District has agreed to cover the cost of the substitute up to 10 people. For more information on the conference including workshop listings go to <https://ctago.org/events/2019-good-teaching-conference-south-2/>

**FRIDAY PRE-CONFERENCE** - The Art of Inclusion: Inclusive Practices, IEP Rights and Responsibilities, and Supporting Our Most At-Risk Student Population (9:00am - 3:15pm)

Many of our general education teachers are working with an increased number of students with IEPs. **This ONE DAY Pre-conference will address:**

- IEP rights and responsibilities of general & special education teachers & education support professionals
- Inclusive instructional & behavioral practices at the elementary and secondary level
- Understanding the universal tools, designated supports, and accommodations of the Smarter Balanced Assessment

## CVUSD School Board Update

There were some fireworks at the December 17th CVUSD school board meeting with coverage in the local papers and letters to the editor. The board was reorganized that evening with Cindy Goldberg elected as President, Jenny Fitzgerald, Vice President, and Bill Gorback as Board Clerk. During a discussion on adopting *Just Mercy* (adapted for Young Adults) to be included on the approved literature list, Lou Lichtl, Asst. Supt. Of Instruction did an excellent job supporting our teachers, their ability to handle sensitive topics, and the need of students to read literature that exposes them to a world that may be different from their regular experiences. Sandee Everett expressed a concern that the book might re-traumatize students who may have experienced past trauma. She asked Jordan Scott, our student trustee, if she knew students who had been raped and if they would be affected. This question was inappropriate for an adult to be asking a student especially when these meetings are televised. Ms. Scott did a fine job answering the question, but that question should not have been asked. As the meeting progressed, there were several instances where Ms. Everett was called out of order,

asked to allow other members to have time for discussion, and was called out for name calling under her breath, but caught on the microphone. Finally, Dr. McLaughlin called her out for creating a hostile workplace. He read a list of false accusations she made against him and the CVUSD staff. The Acorn article can be found at <https://www.toacorn.com/articles/supe-calls-out-trustee-for-false-allegations/> As UACT president, I am tired of the amount of Board time being spent on side issues and not on the work that needs to be done for our staff and students. I am tired of time spent on accusations with little or no substance. The District has not and is not adopting sex education materials for K-5. Yet forums are being held in the community leading folks to believe that materials have been adopted. These and other issues are taking up valuable time and items keep getting pushed off. This must stop. Our elected representatives need to come to meetings prepared act professionally and be ready to do the business that must be done for the education of our students. If you have not attended a board meeting, I encourage you to do so in person or online. These members are setting the stage for our jobs, our profession, and our students.

## CENSUS RESOURCES

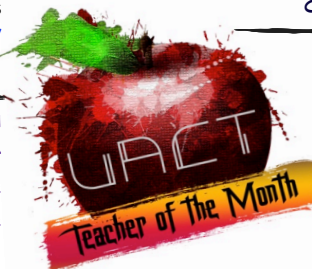
Why is the census so critical for students and educators in public schools?

The importance of the U.S. Census to the well-being of children and the strength of public schools cannot be overstated. Using census data, the federal government allocates tens of billions of dollars in education funds to states and localities annually using formulas that factor in population and poverty levels. These programs provide supports for children with special needs and from low-income families. They help reduce class sizes, hire specialists, fund professional development, offer preschool to low-income families, and ensure that hungry students can get breakfast or lunch to help them pay attention in class. Census data are also critical to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), which keeps millions of families out of poverty. You can increase participation by getting your students involved. Here are some resources for integrating census information & activities in your curriculum. <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/sis.html>



## ELECTION 2020

**ELECTION COMMITTEE FOR 2020 SCHOOL BOARD CAMPAIGN**  
**UACT IS LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS TO SERVE ON THE SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION COMMITTEE. WE WILL NEED VOLUNTEERS TO INTERVIEW POTENTIAL CANDIDATES AND HELP PLAN AND EXECUTE THE CAMPAIGN. WE WILL MEET IN FEBRUARY TO BEGIN PLANNING AND ARRANGE FOR CANDIDATE INTERVIEWS. WE WILL MEET MONTHLY UNTIL FALL 2020 AND THEN WE WILL BE MEETING BI-WEEKLY. PLEASE CONTACT THE UACT OFFICE IF YOU ARE INTERESTED.**



In September Eric Levy, Westlake High School special education teacher was honored and in October, Vickie Calle from Conejo Elementary received the award. November's honoree was Stacey Wasson, a math/algebra teacher at Redwood. And in December, Teri Sweet, a first grade teacher at Lang Ranch was honored. These presentations are coordinated by the Greater Conejo Valley Chamber of Commerce based on nominations submitted each spring. Many of these awardees are nominated by their peers.

The calendars our members approved for the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 school years were sent to the board for information in December and will be voted on at the January 4th board meeting. They are posted on the UACT website at [www.conejoteachers.com](http://www.conejoteachers.com).

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Two of our members were honored as Inclusion Heroes for our district.

**Sammi Stewart** – Adaptive Physical Education Teacher, Newbury Park High School, Sequoia Middle School & Westlake High School was honored for her work with Unified Sports. This program unites student with and without disabilities to play as teammates together.

**Erin Nassar** – Special Education Teacher, Ladera STARS Academy was nominated for her work facilitating inclusion on her campus.

Also honored were **Debbie Hanna** – Sparkles Leader/Coach, **Susan Frisoli** – Para Educator, Acacia Magnet School for Enriched Learning, and **Patty Lewis** – Principal of Maple Elementary School. This was the first year for the Inclusion Heroes awards.

CTA Scholarship forms online at <http://cta.org/scholarships>. The deadline is Friday, January 31. There are scholarships for members who are returning to school as well as dependents of members. These are \$3,000 - \$5,000 scholarships funded by donations from CTA members.



The link to these scholarships and others is on the UACT website at <http://conejoteachers.com>.

UACT scholarships for dependents of UACT members planning to attend a post-secondary educational institution during the fall of 2020 are now available. All applications and supporting material must be returned to the UACT office by 4:00 P.M. on Friday, March 6th, 2020.



Those who have signed up should have received a letter from The Standard explaining their coverage and effective date as well as a certificate of insurance. The deductions will most likely begin the end of this month. Those who have switched from American Fidelity need to notify them that you are dropping their product. You also need to notify the District Payroll to cease deducting the payments to American Fidelity no later than January 10. Earlier is better so that Payroll has enough time to process the request. The drop form is on the UACT website.



## BARGAINING

**COURTNEY STOCKTON**

As you may recall, the entire contract is open this year. UACT asked for bargaining to start over the summer in the hopes that we could get everything, especially the benefits package, taken care of before the school year started. For reasons beyond our control, that did not happen. We started bargaining again in the fall, going through numerous language changes and other conceptual changes like a hybrid model for PD instead of three district lead days. Discussions have been respectful with a good back and forth between the two sides but nothing about a raise has been discussed yet. One thing we do want to make you aware of is a possible issue with regards to the Health Insurance Out of Pocket Maximums (OOP). When we got our last raise, part of the agreement was that we would explore a way to save the district \$250,000 in the Health Benefits plan by February 1st. If we did not find that savings, the district would be allowed to implement an increase to the OOP. All three employee associations believe that since the Health Benefits fund has over \$7 million dollars, there is no need to look for the agreed upon savings. At the last Health Benefits Committee meeting on December 10th, the employee groups presented a united proposal asking the district to waive the language regarding the savings and to freeze the employee only contributions. So far, while they have not specifically said no, they have not yet agreed to waive the language or freeze employee only contributions. Stay tuned for further updates regarding this issue. Our next bargaining session is on January 13th.

## UPDATE

## COMING SOON

THE BOARD HAS APPOINTED A COMMITTEE TO LOOK AT OUR BUDGET AND IDENTIFY AREAS TO REDUCE COSTS. SOME THINGS WILL BE ELIMINATED, OTHERS CHANGED, AND SOME WILL BE LEFT UNTOUCHED. SITE ADMINISTRATORS AND OPERATIONS MANAGERS HAVE BEEN ASKED TO IDENTIFY AREAS FOR CONSIDERATION. UACT WILL BE SENDING A SURVEY TO OUR MEMBERS AS WELL TO GIVE INPUT INTO AREAS THAT MIGHT BE ELIMINATED, CHANGED, OR NEED TO BE LEFT ALONE. THIS WILL BE SENT TO HOME EMAIL. PLEASE BE SURE UACT HAS YOUR CORRECT EMAIL ADDRESS.

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