



IEA SP Student Speak

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SAVE THE DATE:

- **Saturday, September 26th: Fall Advisory Board Meeting**
- **October 5th: Deadline to be paired up with a Retired Mentor**
- **Oct 8th: School service project**
- **Oct 14th: Reach 1400 members!**
- **Nov 4: Nomination forms due for IEA RA nominations**
- **Nov 18-19: IEA SP Fall Conference; Hyatt Hotel, Lisle**

A Word From the Chair: Michael Ruggless

Greetings IEA SP!

I wanted to take a few moments and introduce myself. I attend Southern Illinois University Edwardsville where I am studying secondary education with an emphasis in geography and social science. The education world has always been an influence in my life while growing up. I have spent countless hours in the school system both in the classroom and assisting administration. From those experiences a passion for education has evolved. I hope to inspire others with a passion and love for teaching much like those that have influenced me along my journey thus far. I encourage you to contact me with any questions that you might have. I am here to help you and your local chapter reaches its goals! If you need any further promotional items, etc.

please let me know! Also, remember to contact the state executive team to attend your kickoff meetings and local chapter



Michael Ruggless, IEA SP Chairperson

derful start as well! Our goal as a student program this year is to reach 1,400 members by October 14th! I have already heard of many successful meetings and kickoff events from around the state! Keep up the great work!

Reminder: Fall Advisory Board is coming up on Saturday, September 24th in Bloomington. Please plan to attend this event and remember the incentives that are included for your attendance and others you bring with you! I hope to see you all at the Fall Conference on November 18th & 19th. Registration will begin soon!

Sincerely,

Michael Ruggless
State Chairperson
SIUE
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meetings throughout the year!

I hope the beginning of your school year is off to a great start! The year is in full swing and our program is off to a won-



The 2011-2012 State Officer Team

We are so excited to start the year with our 2011-2012 state executive team! The newly elected positions are: Kristin Walker as Chairperson Elect, Matt Hiser as Vice Chairperson, Brittany Archibald as Secretary/Treasurer, Kathleen Malloy as Community Outreach Coordina-

tor, Jessica Hourigan as the Public Relations Coordinator, and Aaron Porzelius and Breanna Pustai as the Political Activists. Michael Ruggless, who was our Chairperson elect last year has gladly stepped into the second year of his position as IEA SP Chairperson. The team has a lot

of enthusiasm, excitement, and goals for the year ahead. One of the biggest goals is to reach 1400 members statewide by October 14th. Let's look forward to a great year!

A Note from our Political Activists



Aaron Porzelius and Breanna Pustai; IEA SP Political Activists

“We are very adamant about keeping the Student Program more informed than ever before!”

Hello IEA SP! As your state Political Activists for the 2011-2012 school year, we are very excited to keep you informed with the political issues that affect our future profession! We have a few ideas to get the year off to a good start, and we hope that you will take advantage of the ideas and opportunities that we want to provide for your local organizations.

One thing that we are very adamant about this year is keeping the Student Program more informed than ever before. We plan to accomplish this by sending out by monthly e-mails to the Presidents of your campuses that contain updates in educational politics. The Presidents can then read the email and relay that information to the rest of your chapters during your meetings or forward that information to their members if they so choose.

Another way to keep yourselves and your chapters informed is using the tool

that we know best, the internet! leanea.org and nea.org both have links from their home pages to legislative information (issues and action tab under nea.org) that will keep you up to date on all of the important information that you may need to help you along the way! Of course there are other outlets like newspapers, the news on TV, and other websites on such topics (i.e. news websites or other political information sites). If you come across other ways to stay updated, please share them with us so we can inform other chapters as well. Our goal is to make it easier for our members to stay updated.

Finally, donating to the PAC (Political Action) Fund at all of our state level meetings is a great way to be involved with politics on the IEA level. We will always be standing at a set of computers for you to donate to this fund! This fund goes directly to benefit us as future teachers, and not to

our politician’s bank accounts. We use the funds to endorse the candidates that we feel will best benefit us, our students, and our careers.

Some political topics to keep an eye on right now are Senate Bill 7, IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act), and the upcoming presidential election of 2012. Don’t worry if you are not completely informed on all of that information right now, because we will keep you informed as the year goes on. As always we are extremely happy to help you in any way we can by talking with you in person, on the phone, via e-mail, or even coming to present at one of your meetings.

Have a great school year, and let’s all be a little more politically active!

Best,

Aaron Porzelius, EIU and Breanna Pustai, Loyola
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Student Leadership Conference Awards



Attendees of SLC displaying IEA SP’s awards

This year’s Student Leadership Conference was in the amazingly close location of Chicago! The Conference started at the end of June, and by the end, Illinois had some amazing awards and accomplishments to take home! Two of our state board members

were elected to NEA positions. Matt Hiser, our Vice Chairperson, was elected to the NEA Board of Directors, and Jessica Hourigan, our Public Relations Coordinator was elected to the NEA Resolutions Committee. Both Matt and Jessica are extremely excited to

take on these amazing opportunities. The IEA Student Program took home the prestigious awards of State excellence, Local Excellence for a school with 200+ members, and many local chapters were recognized as well. Way to go IEA SP!

Outreach to Teach Project: Cannon Elementary



Hello everyone! My name is Matt Hiser, and I am currently serving as the Vice Chairperson of the IEA Student Program. Last year, I served as the IEA SP Community Outreach Coordinator. The Illinois Education Association Student Program completed an Outreach to Teach project in Danville last spring. The project was a long time coming, and it was the biggest statewide project that we have ever done. Meredith Byers and I worked with various members of the Danville District #118 staff and faculty, including Mark Denman, superintendent of the district, Ron Henton, Director of Buildings and Ground, custodians from across the district, and various Danville Education Association members. After several months of communication and planning

Getting ready for a long day of painting!

The school had not received a paint job in many years, so we decided painting would be the most beneficial thing we could do to help Cannon Elementary.

with these dedicated educators, we decided that the school which would receive our project was Cannon Elementary, a nearly 90 year old school building. After all of the planning, gathering supplies and volunteers, the IEA Student Program, along with IEA Active and Retired, and District 118 custodians, arrived at Cannon on March 26th. It was a brisk morning, but everyone was ready and excited to get to work. After splitting into teams, volunteers began taping doors and windows. It was only an hour and a half later that the first coat of paint was done in the entire school, something I could not believe. Along with painting the halls, one IEA SP member, Breanne Kanak, went above and beyond and painted a mural of a tiger, Cannon's mascot, for the main entrance to the school. The volunteers who

helped work on this project continued working hard until about 3:30 in the afternoon, completing a miraculous three coats of paint in a matter of about six hours.

This year, the plans for another Outreach to Teach project are already in the works. This time, by our new Community Outreach Coordinator, Kathleen Malloy. I have complete faith that this year's Outreach to Teach will be just as successful, and I hope many of you are already excited to take part. The date of the project will be Saturday, October 8 at Lindop School in Broadview, west of Chicago.

Thank you again to everyone who took place in last year's project, and good luck to everyone on another semester of classes!

Matt Hiser
IEA SP Vice Chairperson
UIUC

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