



Governor Roy Romer told "CDM Gathering II" that Los Angeles schools have made teacher training a "very high priority."

Former Gov. Roy Romer: Tough Curriculum, High Standards Make A Difference

Former Colorado Governor Roy Romer has been doing lots of reading lately – the complete works of Marcel Proust, some Plato, and "A Beautiful Mind: The Life of Mathematical Genius and Nobel Laureate John Nash."

He's 73 years old now and has lots of time to read. After all, the only other thing occupying his mind is managing Los Angeles Schools, which serves a mere 735,000 students (about 10 times the size of Denver Public Schools).

Romer offered a vivid picture of an active, engaged mind during a speech in January to "CDM Gathering II," a morning-long assembly and series of workshops for the many parents, teachers, and community members who serve on Collaborative Decision-Making (CDM) teams. The conference

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Call Center Will Handle HR Questions

Even on slow days, the Department of Human Resources is deluged with hundreds of phone calls. Questions about job openings, job application status, benefit questions, and teacher licensing questions keep HR's phones tied up throughout the day. This has resulted in frustration for DPS employees and job applicants alike. Assistant Superintendent of Administrative Services and Human Resources, André Pettigrew, has created a Call Center to better manage this phone traffic and ensure callers get their questions answered in a fast, efficient manner.

Effective immediately, all HR inquiries will go to the new Call Center phone number **303-764-3900**. HR staff, specially trained and equipped to handle phone traffic, will respond to frequently asked questions and route more complicated calls to the appropriate HR staff member. The old HR main phone number (303-764-3289) will be deactivated.

The new HR Call Center will be state of the art. Modeled after the Department of Technology Services' Hotline, HEAT software helps managers with statistics on call types and identify trends to quickly get to the question or issue that requires the call. Emergency calls can be quickly identified and handled by the appropriate person. Inquiries that require research are tracked to ensure the answer gets back to the caller after the information is located.

HR Call Center staff will have quick access to the HR "knowledge tree." This software will be the mirror image of information to be placed on the DPS HR website (<http://hr.dpsk12.org>) only with additional features that will assist the Call Center staff in handling the call. Certain inquiries like maternity leave are too complicated to be handled by the phone staff. These calls will be immediately routed. Other calls about job closing dates, interview times, and licensing documents can be handled right away. Call stacking software will place callers in a queue to the next available operator. Extremely busy periods will direct the overflow callers to voice mail where their inquiry will be tracked and the phone call returned.

Look for more information about this Call Center phone number and start date on the HR website at <http://hr.dpsk12.org>.

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DPS Middle Schools Have H.O.P.E.

Students attending Rishel, Martin Luther King Jr., Kunsmiller, Cole, and Kepner middle schools are securing funds for their collegiate careers through the Helping Other People Emerge (H.O.P.E.) scholarship fund established by Minority Enterprise & Educational Development, Inc. (MEED) and King Soopers.

In an effort to reduce the financial burden of attending college, MEED, since 1996, has been awarding H.O.P.E. scholarships to middle school students achieving academic excellence and to those showing signs of significant improvement in their educational studies. Because these students are attending middle school, the \$500 scholarship is deposited into a personal interest-bearing trust account until the student award winner graduates high school. At the time of graduation, award winners can then apply for the matured trust to be released to his/her college of choice.

Additionally, the H.O.P.E. scholarship in partnership with Community Colleges, awards up to 15 credit hours at a community college of choice to the parents of the award recipient. Parents have three years from the time of the award to utilize credit hours.

"Every little bit helps," said Sara Fuentes, Meed Board Chair. "H.O.P.E. offers financial support to the student dreaming of attending college."

Students are nominated by middle school teachers from each grade level in the categories of academic excellence and most improved. Each nominee must then complete an academic packet, which includes an essay, a project, teacher recommendation and a letter from their parents to the panel for evaluation.

"We have gifted students," said DPS Special Projects Manager, Troy Garner, who sits on the judging panel. "This scholarship is a wonderful blessing for DPS students and their families."

Because MEED has experienced great success with this program, H.O.P.E. will expand to two additional middle schools during the second semester of this year, with plans to eventually offer H.O.P.E. at every middle school.

MEED is a non-profit organization that also offers scholarships to minority high school students, college freshman and sophomores, and elementary students. For more information on MEED or H.O.P.E. contact Sara Fuentes 303-455-3099.



To help kick off open enrollment, the district put its Public Information office on wheels and took to the streets. The yellow mini-bus loaned to the district by the Jared Polis Foundation carried a wealth of information provided by schools and the district. It included copies of *DPS Today 2002* (the district's Resource and Enrollment Guide), information on the choice process, and, of course, brochures from schools across the district.

Parked in at least three locations in each area quadrant, the bus was draped in a banner that read, "There's a World of Choice in Denver Public Schools." Volunteers such as principals and area superintendents manned the bus providing information to curious parents on all the choices in DPS. Volunteers also gave away balloons, t-shirts, rulers, and magnets to children.

Summer Scholars — Positions Open Now; DPS Summer School Getting Set Too

Last year, Summer Scholars served 1,238 elementary school-age children in 20 schools in northeast Denver. The program offers an intensive six-week morning literacy program and an afternoon recreation program for students who are reading below grade level and are at-risk of failure.

Summer Scholars usually hires about 300 teachers, paraprofessionals, teen interns and recreation staff. If you have experience with elementary school-age children and would like to be involved please call 303-355-0290. Most applications are due March 8.

What about DPS Summer School? By the time you read this, the February 4 deadline to apply for teaching slots may have already passed.

The dates of the summer program are June 3 to June 28, 2002.

More details about grade levels and programs are still being nailed down. The Summer School office can be reached at 303-764-3495 for any questions, or visit the website at <http://extendedlearning.dpsk12.org>.



At a ceremony at Denver Police Department headquarters, money found – and unclaimed – by students Luis Granillo and Luis Figueroa was returned. Paraprofessional Barbara Skeens, right, said the two "did the right thing."

Computer Magnet Students Drawn To StorageTek

In December, Computer Magnet program students at North and Thomas Jefferson high schools came to StorageTek to tour the facilities and get a taste of their potential future careers in the technology industry.

"The goal of the program is to give the students skills in information technology by the time they graduate from high school," said Gary Goodnight, Computer Magnet coordinator for DPS. "We would hope the students take these skills on to college, but we recognize that there are students who don't go any further than high school, and we wanted to show them there are a lot of jobs available in the field for those with a high school education."

Chairman, President and CEO Pat Martin kicked off the tours by speaking to the students about StorageTek's role in the industry and the value of diversity in the business environment. Martin engaged the students immediately with his description of the dawn of computer technology.

"The first computer I worked on was larger than this room and less intelligent than my wristwatch," said Martin. Martin spent much of his 15 minutes discussing the power of a diverse workforce. His support was evident in his parting comments: "Technology is color-blind and gender-blind. Your hard work, dedication and focus are the keys to your success."

Many StorageTek employees volunteered their time to make these tours a success. "These people are the reason the tours went so smoothly and the response from the kids was great," said Ken Coblentz, StorageTek engineering advisory manager. "We had compliments about every area. Kids wanted to know how they can get a job here and if we had internships. They were very impressed," he said.

This is the first year for the DPS Computer magnet program at North and TJ. Storage Tek is the corporate sponsor for the DPS computer Magnet program.

Morey Murals Honored

The Morey Middle School community was honored at the annual meeting of Capitol Hill United Neighborhoods with a 2001 Good Neighbor Award for "Beautification of a Public Space."

That space, of course, is the series of murals painted by students alongside East 13th Avenue, just south of the school building. (Morey's actual address is 840 E. 14th Ave.)

Morey was the only recipient of the "Beautification of a Public Space" award. Tom Knorr, a well-known contributor in the Capitol Hill community presented the award. Tom spoke highly of the after-school programming available to the community through Morey's Neighborhood Center. He also lauded the hard work and dedication by students last summer to complete the mural series. The Neighborhood Center organized an open house/ dedication ceremony this past September (highlighted in the October issue of Inside DPS) and honored the talented artists who developed the murals.

Congratulations!

Dr. **Tim Brown, Vocal Music Teacher** at Ebert and College View elementary schools, recently won first place in the American Music Education Initiative sponsored by the National Music Foundation. Brown won the award for a unit on choral music by Samuel Barber. He received a \$1,000 award on January 15th. The American Music Education Initiative is a program designed to encourage the teaching of American music in schools. Winning units in the annual competition are available at <http://www.usamusic.org/amei.html>

Leslie Moore, Director of Athletics & Student Activities was presented the National Federation Citation Award by the National Federation of State High School Associations. Moore was presented the award in Orlando, Florida at the 32nd annual National Convention of High School Directors of Athletics on December 15, 2001. This distinguished award was presented to her at a banquet in Orlando and it recognizes her as an "outstanding athletic administrator in recognition of contributions to interscholastic athletics at the local, state and national levels." Only five other Colorado Athletic Directors have ever received this award.

Rachael Smith, Hamilton Middle School student, was the second recipient of a 2001-2002 Colorado Avalanche/Seagate Technology Scholarship. Rachael received a \$2,000 scholarship and special recognition during the Colorado Avalanche vs. Anaheim Ducks game in December. The Colorado Avalanche/Seagate Technology Scholarship program is offered to middle school students in the six-county Denver metropolitan area. One scholarship is awarded each month during the 2001-2002 NHL regular season. Martin Luther King student Niq'Terre was awarded the scholarship in November.



Appointments

Josephine Darlene Ledoux-Renteria:

Assistant Superintendent SCH/COMM Partnership, Cabinet

Paul F. Lemp: Speech Language Specialist, Education**Cheryl C. Rooke:** Speech Language Specialist, Education**Jessica L Chait:** Teacher, Morey**Naomi Chavez:** Teacher, Mitchell**Amber Dryer:** Teacher, Green Valley**Janice R. Fenton:** Teacher, Schmitt**Aleksandr Gorodinski:** Teacher, CLA Prep Center**Lettecia A. Kratz:** Teacher, Remington**Emily E. Lentz:** Teacher, Knight**Angela Limpus:** Teacher, Knapp**Barry E. Norenberg:** Teacher, Marrama**Kimberly G. Rohn:** Teacher, Columbine**Barbara L. Salem:** Teacher, Mitchell**Sharlyn J. Flaxer:** Secretary I, Samuels**Jacqueline A. Jenkins:** Secretary I, West,**Nubia E. Shipley:** Secretary II, North Central School**Teresa J. Torres:** Secretary II, Manual**Martha A. Cenicerros:** Custodial Helper, George Washington**Jeffery L. Garnica:** Custodial Helper, West**Miguel A. Lopez:** Custodial Helper, Hill**Rebecca E. Thornton:** Custodial Helper, Administration**Hien A. Tran:** Custodial Helper, George Washington**Francis K. Chang:** Hubs Coordinator, Administration**Joseph A. Jaksha:** Network Technician I, Administration**Troy A. Porter:** Human Resource Specialist, Administration**Robert B. Snelling:** Supervisor Patrol Operations, Safety And Security**Debra C. Turner:** ERS Specialist, Education

Change in Assignment

Carlos Casias: Assistant Principal, Kunsmler Middle**Jeanne Ross:** Distance Learning Director, Administration**Laurine R. Anderson:** Accounting Technician I, Education**Valerie Ayala:** Secretary I, West**Rosita Gomez:** Office Support II, Education**Loyce A. Wong:** Secretary II, Stedman**Nadine C. Zamora:** Secretary II, Lake**Anthony J. Castillo:** Crew Chief, Operations**Gilbert R. Gonzales:** Facility Manager III, Rishel**Grant Lutz:** Facility Manager I, Southmoor**Jacob L. Bustamante:** Custodial Helper, John F. Kennedy**Lorraine S. Chavez:** Custodian Assistant I, Goldrick**Luis Galvan:** Custodian Assistant III, Baker**Jacqueline Jackson:** Custodian Assistant II, Oakland**Frank J. King:** Custodian Assistant I, Cowell**Oswaldo M. Mata:** Custodian Assistant I, Barrett**Gary Melillo:** Custodian Assistant IV, Lake**Stevie Palmer:** Custodian Assistant I, University Park**Lyntyna C. Bedford:** Human Resource Specialist, Administration**Wanda Y. Rael:** Route Scheduler II, Transportation**Ronald C. Rose:** Computer Operator III, Administration

Reappointments

Anne M. Lawrie: Occupation Therapist, Student Services**Danielle Taro:** Speech Language Specialist, Education**Linda Alston:** Teacher, Marrama**Jennifer Bailey:** Teacher, Colfax**Mya N. Korb:** Teacher, Kepner**Alexander Magana:** Teacher, Lake**John McCall:** Teacher, South**Maxine Medina-Weber:** Teacher, Grant Ranch School, Correction—Resigned In Error**Louise Phipps:** Teacher On Special Assignment, Education

Retirement

Linda I. Levin: Teacher, Henry

Death

Charles R. Knadler: Environmental Safety, Operations

Safe City Grant Funds Available Now

Community groups, schools, individuals, and neighborhood organizations are encouraged to submit proposals

Mayor Wellington E. Webb, Denver City Council, and the Manager of Safety Ari Zavaras announced that for the eighth straight year, proposals are being accepted for over \$350,000 in Safe City grant funds.

Grant applications will be available on February 1, 2002 at all Denver Public Libraries; the Mayor's Office, Room 350 of the City and County Building, 1437 Bannock St; and through all City Council Members. The deadline for submitting these proposals to the Mayor's Office is 5:00 p.m on Friday, March 1, 2002. For more information on the grant proposals process, please call 720-913-6026.

Mayor Webb is encouraging community groups, schools, individuals and neighborhood organizations with programs designed to

combat violence by and against youth to apply for these funds.

Last year, over 30 organizations and community groups received funding from the Safe City Allocation Program. These grants helped fund employment training programs, violence prevention programs, mentorship programs, after-school and evening activities for youth, mental health counseling programs and many others.

"These programs that have been funded in the past are aggressively tackling crime and addressing other issues," said Mayor Wellington Webb. "These programs are providing our kids with alternatives to gangs and through helping local organizations to provide citizens with the necessary assistance to empower their families and neighborhoods."

Personal Notes On The Telluride Film Festival From The C.E.C. Movie Freaks' Club Sponsor

By Beth Kenny/Career Education Center English Teacher

If you were to ask someone, "What would happen if you stuck 15 high school students in a theater for a three-hour, black and white 1950s Indian musical with a strong social message?" the easy answer is that they would sprint for the doors before the first number ended. After attending the Telluride Film Festival (TFF) with 15 high school students, I know better. When I walked out of *Shree 420* with six students from the Career Education Center in Denver and nine kids from Burlington and Telluride over Labor Day weekend, I heard one or two kids saying, "It was cool." A few even said the sitar music was "tight."

The T.F.F. reminded me that when given a chance, teens can temporarily leave their comfortable cocoon of entertainment and *enjoy* viewing films that express fresh ideas and views of cultures rarely represented in mainstream media.

The C.E.C. digital film production teacher Robert Newman and I attended the festival through the student outreach program, City Lights Project, generously underwritten by the Edouard Foundation. The Project provided our group with a crash course in film, including a gift of the P.B.S. series, American Cinema. By festival time, we had reviewed early independent filmmakers like Ida Lupino, the history of international cinema and other material gathered by Canadian film professor/Telluride liaison, Jerry White.

On the ride down there was talk of potential Cruise/ Cruz sightings, but there was also curiosity about what City Lights had in store for us. Traditionally, T.F.F. doesn't reveal the agenda until the first day of the festival. There was no time to build up predisposed ideas about say, *Orphan of Anyang*, the story of an unemployed Chinese factory worker who takes in an abandon infant. Hollywood would turn this into an Asian version of *Three Men and a Baby*, including some slapstick with Jackie Chan changing his first dirty diaper. Here, the documentary-like feel evolved into moments of deep compassion.

After getting settled in our condos at the River Club, we were ready for our first film, *Amelie*, the story of a modern, Parisian Jane Austen-like do-gooder told at breakneck speed. I realized we were in for something that would challenge a group of kids who had seen their fair share of Jackass, MTV, and formula entertainment. For many of the kids, this was their first subtitled movie. Several of them ended up liking *Amelie* so well, that they returned for a second screening when it played at the outdoor cinema two nights later.

As the festival progressed, we chaperones started exchanging the proud, dorky grins of parents at a piano recital. We heard students ask documentarian Ken Burns questions about authenticity of image/text pairings. (e.g. "So, if you show a paddle boat and say Mark Twain started working on paddle boats that year, is that *the* paddle boat?") In addition, we also heard writer Salman Rushdie and Indian actor, Om Puri, field thoughtful questions from our students on Indian film and literature.

By the end of the festival, students were developing connections between the pop culture of Beverly Hills, 90210 and the Inuit (Eskimo) world presented in Zacharias Kunuk's *The Fast Runner*. Students also mention a fleeting awareness of brotherhood expressed in the relationship between a Bosnian soldier and a Serb, trapped together and forced to disarm a landmine attached to a wounded soldier in *No Man's Land*. In a post-film discussion with the director, Danis Tanovic, C.E.C. student, Daybra Thomas, pointed out a scene where it was inferred that in times of peace the two soldiers might have run in the same social circles.

It was a glimpse into another universe for both the kids and me. Sarah Babb, one of the City Lights participants from Burlington said at the closing ceremony, "Not to have an Aladdin moment, but this weekend has given me 'a whole new world.'"



(From left to right) CEC students Mariel Traiman, Daybra Thomas, Tiffany Hay, Kalee Jackson, Shannon Boller, and Montel Montecalvo (front) enjoy the outdoors while at the Telluride Film Festival.

Priscilla Shaw

**Director of Vocal Music/
Girl's and Boy's Tennis Coach**

Years with DPS: 5

Latest Accomplishment: Recipient of the 2002 Award of Harmony from the Denver Mountaineers Barbershop Chapter. This award is presented annually to an individual who has done an exceptional job in promoting harmony throughout the community.



The Most Challenging Part About My Job: Getting everybody to hold their parts and sing in tune!

The Most Rewarding Part About My Job: When parents tell me that choir is their child's favorite class and co-workers tell me how wonderfully they thought the kids performed.

I've also worked: In my mother's bridal shop. I've been a student recruiter for a junior college, summer camp counselor, and office manager for a computer software company.

When I'm not working I am usually: Playing or watching tennis, working out in the gym, or doing teacher union business.

Hometown: Ft. Hood, TX

Favorite movie: Remember the Titans

Favorite restaurant: Myong-Dong Korean Restaurant

Favorite book: *"Winning Ugly"* By Brad Gilbert

Family: Dad (retired army) & mom (retired store owner and detective), 4 older sisters, Judy (Attorney), Josephine (Financial Aid), Catherina (Computer Software), & Sylvia (Mechanical Engineer), older brother, Jr. (Computer Software)

Philosophy for life: Work while other people sleep. Whatever you do, do it better than anybody else. Listen to what elders have to say.

The most useless thing I ever bought: The Ab-Rocker

Gov. Romer ...continued from page 1

room at the Red Lion Inn was packed – about 500 CDM members in attendance. It was Romer who launched the CDM concept in 1991 after stepping in to dictate the terms of a new teachers contract as a way of averting a strike.

In his 18 months as superintendent of the Los Angeles Unified School System, Romer said he has come to several conclusions:

- Students need a "tough" curriculum and high standards.
- Teacher training is a high priority. "We are very, very focused on improving classroom instruction," he said. The training needs to be "authentic, intensive."
- Teachers need to understand the standards they are teaching and the curriculum needs to be aligned to those standards.
- Major effort is needed to bring secondary students to grade level on reading and writing. "We're struggling," he said about high school education. "We need something like a full court press in basketball."
- Every secondary teacher has to learn how to embed reading and writing instruction into what they do.
- Ongoing diagnosis of student performance is needed – as often as every six weeks. "There is no reason any one of these children has to fail," he said.

Romer passed out a chart showing his strategies are making a difference; in first grade, the district has seen some strong gains in reading, spelling, language, and mathematics.

Romer applauded Colorado voters and those who organized the campaign that yielded Amendment 23, which is generating more dollars for public education. He urged public education bureaucracies everywhere, including DPS, to "celebrate those willing to take a risk – whether they succeed or fail."

Showing his zeal for fresh thinking, Romer made it clear that quality education is the key to a bright economic future for this country. "Knowledge and ideas are going to drive the economy," he said, "and you can't get it done unless you invest in public education."

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