

CALIFORNIA TEACHERS ASSOCIATION



URBAN
ISSUES
CONFERENCE



FEBRUARY 24 - 26, 2006
SAN JOSE MARRIOTT

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In its most recent release of data for Program Improvement (PI) schools, districts and county offices of education, the California Department of Education estimates that, of the approximately 5,887 Title I schools in the state, approximately 30 percent are now PI designated.

Focusing on Program Improvement and the spillover from the No Child Left Behind Act, the 2006 CTA/NEA Urban Issues Conference will feature site visits, special speakers and workshops highlighting best practices from schools and districts around the state.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS – Sunday, February 26



Noted author Jonathon Kozol

The keynote address will be given on Sunday morning by noted author and lecturer, Jonathon Kozol. Filled with the passionate voices of children and their teachers and some of the most revered and trusted leaders in the black community, his newest book, *The Shame of the Nation*, is a triumph of firsthand reporting that pays tribute to those undefeated educators who persist against the odds, but directly challenges the chilling practices now being forced upon our urban systems by the Bush administration. In their place, Kozol offers a humane, dramatic challenge to our nation to fulfill at last the promise made some 50 years ago to all our youngest citizens.

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE – Friday, February 24 and Saturday, February 25

Pre-conference events begin on Friday morning with visits to one of two selected school sites in the San Jose area to observe first-hand best practices for schools that have been designated as Program Improvement schools. Included in Friday's activities will be an address from Ron Gonzales, mayor of San Jose, outlining some of the steps his city has taken to provide services through the city library system to help tutor students. Check out the special area on the registration website to indicate your participation in these activities.

Saturday will feature an address by CTA President Barbara Kerr. Following her presentation, the conference will offer workshops with topics such as:

- Challenges presented by PI districts
- The impact of contract negotiations on PI schools and districts
- Success stories from high achieving Title I schools
- Challenges of teaching in PI schools

Also on Saturday will be a series of panel discussions featuring practitioners from all levels of elementary and secondary schools, and those schools in Years 1 and 2, Years 3 and 4, and Years 5 and 5 plus of PI. These discussions will be filled with tips and information from those in the field about how to make PI work in your school and in your district.

CONFERENCE FEES

The conference fee for participants is \$85.00 per participant. Included in the conference fee are all materials and handouts, a light meal at a reception on Friday evening, breakfast and lunch on Saturday and breakfast on Sunday. There is no additional charge for participation in the pre-conference school site visits on Friday.

CONFERENCE AND HOTEL REGISTRATION

Visit us today at www.cta.org to register online and secure your place at the 2006 conference. On the opening page of the CTA website, click on "CTA Conferences." Then click on "Urban Issues Conference" and you will be directed to the link for the registration form. The deadline for conference registration is **February 10, 2006**.

You may register for your hotel accommodations while you are in the conference registration site by clicking on the hotel link. You will be asked for a credit card number to guarantee the hotel reservation. If you prefer to contact the hotel directly, call 408-280-1300, or you may call the Marriott toll free number, 1-800-228-9290. Ask for the CTA Conference rate when you call. You may also go directly to the hotel website at www.sanjosemarriott.com, and give the group code CTACTAA.

In order to receive the CTA contracted hotel rate of \$115.00 plus tax per night, you must make your hotel reservation by **February 10, 2006**. Register today to secure reservations at the conference hotel.

All expenses for accommodations are the responsibility of the individual, the chapter or the UniServ unit.

TRANSPORTATION

CTA will reimburse the following transportation costs for five (5) members from each UniServ unit.

Air:

Reimbursement is based on the most economical coach round-trip airfare, purchased at least 21 days in advance. Participants may fly into San Jose International Airport or San Francisco International Airport.

United Airlines is offering a 10% discount on unrestricted fares and a 5% discount on all other fares in effect when tickets are purchased through the United Convention Desk. To take advantage of this discount, you or your travel agent must call the United Convention Desk at 800-521-4041 between 8:00 a.m. and 11:00 p.m. Eastern time. The CTA account number for United reservations is 510CZ.

Automobile:

Mileage will be reimbursed at the IRS rate of reimbursement per mile, not to exceed the cost of the most economical coach airfare. Currently the IRS rate is 48.5 cents per mile, but that amount is expected to change January 1, 2006.

Reimbursement does not include the cost of airport parking expenses, shuttle or taxi service, nor travel between home and the local airport unless the roundtrip distance between your home and nearest airport is more than 100 miles.

All other transportation costs are the responsibility of the individual, the chapter or the UniServ unit.

MINORITY INCENTIVE GRANTS AVAILABLE

Fifteen minority incentive grants are provided by CTA for the conference. These grants, awarded to participants who represent ethnic minority groups, cover conference registration fees and transportation costs. Application forms are available from chapter presidents, online at www.cta.org, or by calling the CTA Conference Coordination Center at 650-552-5355. Deadline for application is December 3, 2005.

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR THE PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED

It is the goal of CTA to permit full participation at all conferences by people who are physically challenged. The Association will provide services to facilitate the participation of people who are physically challenged. Please let us know if you are physically challenged and need us to accommodate your needs. Call the CTA Conference Coordination Center at 650-552-5355 with any requests or questions.

UNIVERSITY CREDIT AND PROFESSIONAL GROWTH

One semester unit of credit is offered for attendance at the full Urban Issues Conference Saturday and Sunday. The cost is approximately \$55 per unit, and is payable by cash, check or credit card at the time of registration. Professional Growth credit will be available, and will be awarded based on the number of workshop(s) attended.

FROM THE *SHAME OF THE NATION* BY JONATHON KOZOL:

"I went to Washington to challenge the soft bigotry of low expectations," the president said in his campaign for reelection in September 2004. "It's working. It's making a difference." It is one of those deadly lies, which, by sheer repetition, is at length accepted by large numbers of Americans as, perhaps, a rough approximation of the truth. But it is not the truth, and it is not an innocent misstatement of the facts. It is a devious appeasement of the heartache of the parents of the poor and, if it is not forcefully resisted and denounced, it is going to lead our nation even further in a perilous direction.



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Conference Coordination Center

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