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A full color electronic version of this newsletter can be found on our website.

November 2022



The Advocate

President's Message >>>

Welcome new ACEA Member!

Unit 1

Breann D'Atri

CCTE



**Meet the
2022 ACEA
FSU Scholarship
Recipient:**

Katelyn Turbin

My name is Katelyn Turbin, I am from Flintstone Maryland.

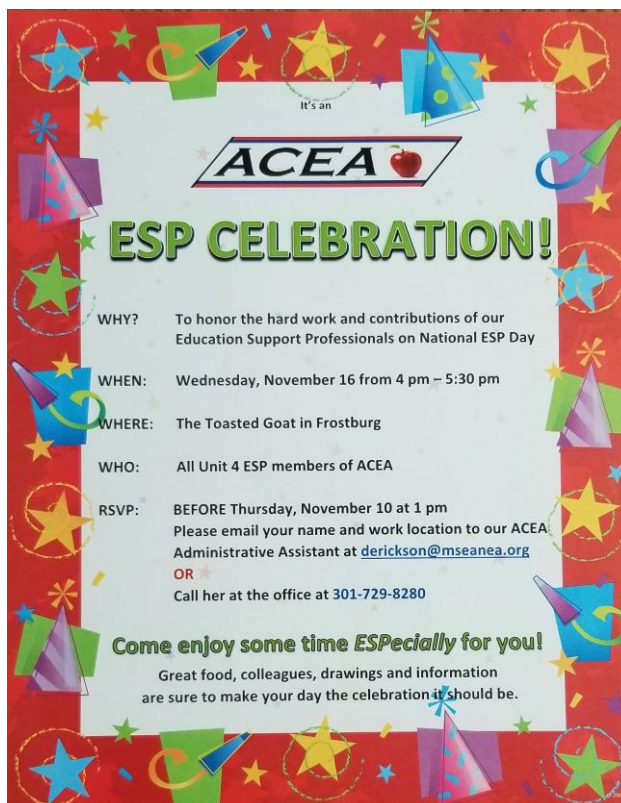
I started my educational journey at Allegany College of Maryland where I earned my associate degree and I am currently working towards finishing my degree In Elementary Education with a concentration in Integrated Arts. I will graduate this May and plan to pursue my master's degree at Frostburg State as well. I plan to stay in the area to teach in hopes to make an impact as my prior educators did to me.

Thank you so much for reaching out to me and helping to fund my education. College can be overwhelming, but I am so grateful to have such a caring and generous community behind me!

The holiday season is approaching, but before all of those begin, there is another very important day to celebrate: National Education Support Professionals (ESP) Day on November 16, 2022.

Since 1987, when the NEA Representative Assembly (the Association's decision-making body of nearly 8,000 member delegates) called on the organization to honor the contributions of all school support staff, National ESP Day has been observed on Wednesday of American Education Week.

And since the merging of ACTA and ACESC into ACEA in 2015, ACEA has committed to honoring our ESPs each year with a token of our appreciation. This year, we have an ESP Celebration planned *ESpecially* for our ESP members as shared on the flyer below. While this is a collective thank you from ACEA, please be sure to take time to thank the ESPs in your building. They truly are *ESpecially* important educators!



It's an

ACEA

ESP CELEBRATION!

WHY? To honor the hard work and contributions of our Education Support Professionals on National ESP Day

WHEN: Wednesday, November 16 from 4 pm – 5:30 pm

WHERE: The Toasted Goat in Frostburg

WHO: All Unit 4 ESP members of ACEA

RSVP: BEFORE Thursday, November 10 at 1 pm
Please email your name and work location to our ACEA Administrative Assistant at derickson@mseanea.org
OR
Call her at the office at 301-729-8280

Come enjoy some time *ESpecially* for you!
Great food, colleagues, drawings and information are sure to make your day the celebration it should be.

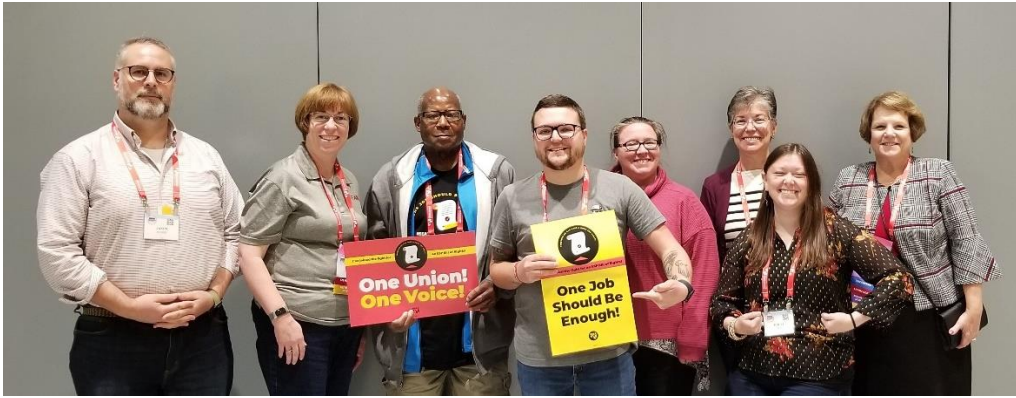
In solidarity and service,

Kim

ksloane@mseanea.org



2022 MSEA REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY AND CONVENTION



It is evident that our eight ACEA delegates were excited to back in-person for the first time in three years for the annual MSEA Representative Assembly and Convention from October 20-22 in Ocean City. Among the items on the agenda were three bylaw amendments which were considered, debated, and passed. In addition, seven of eight new business items (NBIs) were passed. There was much excitement about the ESP Bill of Rights and we had the opportunity to sign the document in solidarity with our ESP colleagues. In addition, we also heard from candidates for various MSEA leadership positions hoping to be elected in the forthcoming election. Among them was our very own Kim Sloane, who is a candidate for the position of MSEA Treasurer. It was also wonderful to see ACEA Member, Florence Saku (AL), after she presented a workshop on National Board Certification and who serves as a mentor for MSEA. If you would like to attend the 2023 MSEA Convention and RA as an ACEA delegate, **you must be nominated and elected** during our 2023 election cycle which will commence in January. If interested, please contact the ACEA office for more information. Pictured L to R, are Jason Huber (CO), Kelly Griffin (SP), Stewart Monroe, Jr. (CCTE), Nick Amick (AL), Dawn Riley-Shepetuk (AL), Debbie Weisenmiller (MS), Holly Itzo (MR) and Kim Sloane, ACEA President.



"We found the least common denominators in math, ran a half mile in gym, and learned about eighth notes in music. If there are any fractions in today's English lesson I'm going to scream!"



"Did the Pilgrims get any good deals the next day on the first Black Friday?"

TOYS FOR HAPPINESS 2022!

Since 2005, ACEA (formerly ACTA), in conjunction with ACPS, has hosted an annual *Denim Day for Toys for Happiness* collection to support this local charity and help spread the spirit of giving in our community. Over the past 17 years, this event has collected more than 5,000 toys and \$30,000 dollars in donations for this worthy cause!

This year, **Tuesday, November 29** will be designated as the *Denim Day for Toys for Happiness*. This year we will again collect both toys and monetary donations. Toys and monetary donations (cash or checks) will be accepted at each work location that day, and can be given to one of your building representatives or another designated individual, who will forward all to ACEA. Checks should be made out directly to *Toys For Happiness*.

We encourage staff to consider making a \$5 minimum donation. In exchange for your support of this event, Mr. Blank has once again agreed to permit the wearing of seasonal garb and denim to work on this day.

A Union Break

Rich Calhoun

As we approach American Education Week, I wanted to take this opportunity to thank all of you for the amazing work you do for students across Allegany County! I have enjoyed getting into your buildings, meeting you, and seeing the awesome work you've done so far this year. I continue to look forward to meeting with you, building an understanding for your needs, and helping you make Allegany County schools better and better. This year, it is especially important to focus on our amazing ESPs! I cannot stress enough that in my career in education, I have always found that it is the ESPs who keep the school running. From ensuring kids get where they are supposed to be when they come in the doors, to helping with assignments and classwork, to the love and care that ESPs give to the students, it's clear that schools are built on a foundation of our ESPs.

I wanted to remind our ESPs of several perks of the Unit 4 contract as well, because ESPs deserve our respect and fair treatment. As outlined in Article 4.3 in the contract, it is important for our Unit 4 members to be given a half hour paid lunch during their duty day, as well as two 15-minute breaks, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. In the current contract, ACEA was also able to negotiate a salary increase for each of the contract years through the 2025-2026 school year, which is a significant step in the right direction for protecting and compensating our ESPs! If you're not getting your contracted "union breaks" please reach out and let me know.

I am very excited to see many of you at the Toasted Goat on November 16th! I'd love to spend time meeting with you and learning about your perspectives and experiences, so please come!