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## **Allegany County Education Association**

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**[aceamsea.org](http://aceamsea.org)**

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

**September 2021**



*The*



# **Advocate**

## **Welcome new ACEA Members!**

### **Unit 4**

Lori Christo	CA
Danielle Livengood	BE
Rich Mellott	AD
Patrick Stevens	AL
Angela Valentine	FS

## **Sick Leave Bank Enrollment Window Open**

The Sick Leave Bank was established through contract negotiations in 1999, and began in the subsequent year 2000. The purpose was to create a bank of sick days for severe medical hardship such as catastrophic illness or serious accident that has depleted all accumulated sick leave and vacation days where applicable.

To join the SLB, you would be required to donate *two sick leave days* to the bank, and complete the Sick Leave Bank Sign-up Form. The form can be found and downloaded from our website at [aceamsea.org](http://aceamsea.org), and can be found under the Important Documents” tab. Once completed, you must return it to the ACEA to arrive no later than Friday, September 24, 2021, for processing before the enrollment deadline.

## **Meet our Interim UniServ Director: John Gates**



We are pleased to introduce John Gates. John will be serving as our interim UniServ Director\* for Unit 1 and Unit 4 ACEA members.

John will serve ACEA in this capacity until MSEA hires a permanent replacement For Mr. Evan West.

John has extensive experience as a labor relations representative. John was employed with Maryland State Education Association (MSEA) for the past 25 years and was assigned to Frederick, Maryland. He has many years of experience representing members who are Teachers and Educational Support Employees, who consist of many different titles and Administrators, while employed with MSEA.

John has served as chief negotiator for contract negotiations, legal representative for members in disciplinary hearings, mediation, workers compensation, and other due process procedures. John will assist the President of ACEA and Board of Directors in an advisory capacity, and he will aid the association on issues relating to ACPS policies and regulations.

John may be reached at our local office number at 301-729-8280, or on his work cell at 240-405-9651.

## **Welcome and thank you, John!**

\*For more information about the role of a UniServ Director, please see [Who and What is a UniServ Director?](#) on our ACEA website.

## UniServ Minute

Welcome Back Teachers and ESP Staff,

ACEA is aware of the tremendous challenges and circumstances that you will face this new school year. ACEA is your willing partner and advocate. The pandemic will continue to cause School Boards across the State to update policies and procedures based on Covid-19 numbers either increasing or decreasing.

While our primary purpose is to protect and represent you with regards to the negotiated contracts, we like to keep you informed and advised regarding school district policy. Please know that while the ACEA President currently sits on the ACPS Policy committee, we do not negotiate policy, and hence cannot grieve it.

Currently, ACPS is in the process of updating their policy titled ([Employee Use of Social Media](#)) which is linked for your review. Please be aware of number (5) in the proposed update to this policy GBDA: *Personal social media use is prohibited during work hours or on ACPS devices.* Please be cautious when you are on social media. Unless you are using social media during a negotiated break or lunch time, you may be in violation of ACPS policy.

If you have any questions or concerns about the referenced policy or any other one, please call ACEA for clarification. I hope you have a great year.

*'Teaching is the highest form of understanding.'*- Aristotle

## Welcome new ACEA Members!

### Unit 1

Erica Alkire	GC
Jasmine Bensen	WA
Lauren Bird	BE/CA
Kameron Brooks	SP
Brittany Chojar	MR
Sara Crosten	BR
David Dempsey	FS/BL
Erika Dicken	WS
Amanda Duvall	JD
Michaela George	GC
Krista Hardy	MR
Taylor Hughes	JD
Lacey Hutcheson	SP
Nickolas Imes	SP
Cody Jefferys	CA
Jamie Kamp	AD
Leland Kessell	WA
Courtney Lancaster	CA
Christa Martin	FO
Bobbie McIntyre	BR
Katelyn Mehrling	FO
Travis Metcalf	AL
Emily Michael	BR
Joshua Miller	FO
Lou Montgomery	WM
Julia Moore	FO
Alyssa O'Neal	MT
Natalie Orange	WT
Emily Potts	GC
Teagan Powers	BE
Karlee Raines	WS/FO
Gineva Rutt	NE
Kaylee Sivic	CW
Mary Ann Snyder	VT
Cameron Spence	AL
Erica Steedman	FS
Jewelein Stevenson	SP
Chesni Ultis	NE
Andrea Wade	SP
Katie Wilson	PA/FS
Staci Wilson	WT

### Madeline R. Cullen



### 2021-2022 ACEA FSU Scholarship Co-Recipients

On February 4, 1992, the Allegany County Teachers Association fully endowed a scholarship fund at Frostburg State with the purpose of assisting and encouraging future educators with their studies. Since that time, we have provided scholarships to 30 future educators. We are pleased to introduce the 2021-2022 co-recipients of the Allegany County Education Association Scholarship.

Madeline is a native of Frostburg, Maryland and graduated from Mountain Ridge High School. After attending ACM, she is completing her studies in early childhood education at FSU. Once completed, she hopes to teach kindergarten. In her letter of thanks to ACEA, Madeline stated "...it makes me feel as though someone is out there rooting for me. I feel I am supported in becoming a productive member of society. I appreciate this scholarship."

Noah is also a native of Frostburg and graduated from Mountain Ridge High School. He also began his higher education at ACM, and is now a senior enrolled in Elementary/Middle Education at FSU. He plans to pursue a master's degree at FSU as well, and hopes to teach here in Allegany County once completed. In his letter of thanks to ACEA, Noah expressed "Thank you for believing in me and helping to fund my education."

Congratulations and best wished to both Madeline and Noah!

### Noah Loar



### ACEA Calendar >>>

We know how much you love the annual ACEA/ACT 1<sup>st</sup> Calendar, but due to circumstances beyond our control, it could not yet be published. We will continue to work towards getting these produced. However, in the meantime, we are including with this newsletter a combined ACPS/ACEA Calendar for both September and October 2021.

Back by popular request...the

**ACEA**  **Get Happy Hour!**

each Thursday starting September 2 at 4 p.m.

Simply click on the Zoom link found on the home page of

[aceamsea.org](http://aceamsea.org).