

# IEA SP Student Speak

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## Important Dates!

- Sign up for Retired Mentor Program: Oct. 5!!!
- Deadline to register to vote Oct. 9
- Save money by registering for fall conference before Oct. 31
- Election Day Nov. 6
- Fall Conference: Nov. 16 -17 Lisle
- 2nd semester Grant deadline: Nov. 30
- Advisory Board Jan. 26 Springfield
- Mini Resumes due Jan. 31

## Welcome from our Chairperson: Kristin Walker

Hello! My name is Kristin Walker and I am the chairperson of the Illinois Education Association Student Program. I am so glad that you are a member, and I want to officially welcome you to our organization! In our program, we focus on three pillars—teacher quality, political action, and community outreach. We believe that by focusing on these pillars, it helps put you a step ahead of your peers as you go into the professional field of education. We have events throughout the year that help you better yourself as a future teacher and network with other teacher candidates, active teachers, and retired teachers around the state.

We are always offering the opportunity to join our program at any point throughout the year. Everyone is welcome! Please share what you have learned by being in our organization with your friends, classmates, and peers. We would love to have them join too! If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me personally. You can also find more information and receive updates by going to our website, joining our Facebook page, or following us on Twitter!



### Preparing for careers in education

Thanks again for your commitment to our program and to education! I am looking forward to a great year!

-Kristin Walker  
Chairperson

## Advocate and Activate 'til you're Red, White and Blue!

This past June, three delegates and the E-board of the 2012-2013 year joined 250 other college students from around the country and traveled to Washington D.C. for the National Education Association Student



Leadership Conference. At this conference, attendees were able to attend lead-

ership development sessions, network with other student members, and give back to a school in need during Outreach to Teach. We are now even more fired up to lead this school year's student program!

## Meet the new 2012-2013 Executive Board!



### Chairperson, Kristin Walker

School: Illinois State University, Senior  
Hometown: Champaign, IL  
Hobbies: being with family and Pinterest!



### Vice Chairperson, Brittany Archibald

School: Illinois State University, Senior  
Hometown: St. Joseph, IL  
Hobbies: family, friends, drawing, and painting!



### Chairperson Elect, Katie Meyers

School: Illinois State University, Junior  
Hometown: Naperville, IL  
Hobbies: Cooking and baking



### Secretary-Treasurer, Elizabeth Wheatman

School: University of Illinois, Senior  
Hometown: Mahomet, IL  
Hobbies: traveling, discovering music, reading, my puppy, and movies!!!



### Public Relations Coordinator, Maggie Huttlinger

School: Loyola University Chicago, Sophomore  
Hometown: San Jose, CA  
Hobbies: Snowboarding, singing, and photography



### Political Activist, Jacob Sopiars

School: McKendree University, Senior  
Hometown: Trenton, IL  
Hobbies: Coaching Football, studying free market economy theory, and golfing



### Political Activist, Kyle Patterson

School: University of Illinois, Senior  
Hometown: Champaign, IL  
Hobbies: politics, and current events



### Community Outreach Coordinator, Krissi Gashaw

School: Western Illinois University, Senior  
Hometown: Morton, IL  
Hobbies: anything outdoors, especially disc golfing!



### Fresh/Soph Representative, Jen Jaroch

School: Illinois State University, Sophomore  
Hometown: Elk Grove Village, IL  
Hobbies: Being a Resident Assistant, reading, writing, and helping people!



## Retired Mentor Program

What can an IEA Retired Mentor do for you? Help you navigate your education program, provide lesson plan ideas, give unbiased critiques or evaluations, help you to get the most of your IEA SP membership and



much more. Upon signing up you will be paired with a mentor in your content area. Communication is key in getting the most out of your experience; most mentors are available to communicate via email,

phone and even face book! Sign up today and begin taking advantage of all the Retired Mentor Program has to offer!

-Brittany Archibald  
Vice Chairperson

## 2012 Election—Why it Matters to You

Every election is vitally important to education because elected officials control school funding, school curriculum, and school evaluations. Politicians essentially control every aspect of our classrooms and schools and they are NOT education experts. The IEA

makes endorsements for all state and federal elections and our goal this semester is to educate members on the candidates and get all members registered to vote. If we want to have an effective, healthy, and well funded



school system, then we must be informed and active members in this democracy or our school systems may deteriorate.

-Kyle Patterson  
Political Activist

### The CTU Strike

“Better schools are a right! That is why we have to fight!” “Students’ needs, not corporate greed!” These chants could be heard outside of schools everywhere when Chicago Teachers Union (CTU) agreed not to enter classrooms on September 10, leaving over 350,000 students out of the classroom.

Much of the media coverage had been in regards to salary but Chicago teachers were fighting for much more than that. Karen Lewis proudly proclaimed the success of agreeing to provide textbooks to students on the first day of school, rather than waiting for materials to be delivered. Negotiations were also successfully made to keep art, music, technology, physical education, and language teachers in the classroom. Even with an increasing emphasis on math and science performance on standardized tests, CTU successfully fought to keep a well-rounded curriculum. Despite these accomplishments, the focus on the topic of salary remained. After failing to receive their contracted 4% raise last year, CPS teachers were looking to receive a raise that took both this and the longer school day into account. Currently,



Chicago Public School teachers are estimated to earn a median salary of about \$71,000. However, most stories fail to recognize the fact that Chicago Public School teachers are required to live in the city in order to teach in the district, resulting in a higher cost of living and higher taxation. Another sticking point that remained was the new teacher evaluation model being pushed by the district. The fight over standardized testing represents a critical stance on the current shift in education. We all witnessed the first major move towards standardized testing through the introduction of No Child Left Behind, which tied federal funding to school performance on tests. However, the focus no longer rests on the school as a whole entity, but rather the individual teacher and his or her impact on the student. On September 9, Lewis voiced the union’s concerns saying, “We are also concerned that too much of the new evaluations will be based on students’ standardized test scores. This is no way to measure teacher effectiveness at all. Further, there are too many fac-

tors beyond our control which will impact on how some of our students perform on those standardized tests. Those factors include poverty, which no one wants to talk about, exposure to violence, which over this past summer, as we all know, has increased exponentially, homelessness, hunger, and other social issues beyond our control. Evaluate us on what we do. Not the lives of our children that we do

“...Evaluate us on what we do. Not the lives of our children that we do not control.” - Karen Lewis, CTU President

not control.” Chicago Public School students are some of the most diverse in the nation, and Lewis’s statement echoes throughout the nation: just how do you measure teacher quality with so many different variables affecting student achievement? Different news sources have both criticized and acclaimed the union for its actions. And this strike was one that gained national attention, demonstrating the power of unions to enact change.

-Jessica Bergmann  
Loyola University Chicago

## IEA SP Contact List:

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for Careers in Education

Join our Facebook page!

[www.facebook.com/groups/ieasp](http://www.facebook.com/groups/ieasp)



## A Note from the Editor:

Welcome back! As I begin my year as the Public Relations Coordinator, I welcome you with open arms for any questions you may have or article ideas you may want to be featured in the upcoming *Student Speak*. Please do not hesitate to call or email me!

Thanks, and here's to the start of a great year!

-Maggie Huttlinger



## IEA Student Benefits!

**Dues Rebate After Graduation**-A \$20 rebate (up to \$80 total) is available for IEA Student Program members as they enter the profession and become active, teaching members of the IEA in various school districts throughout the state.

**Many Publications**- Student members receive many publications distributed to practicing teachers and members. These include *NEA Today* and *The Advocate*. Both are excellent resources for any pre-professional. In addition, the IEA Student Program Officers write a newsletter called *Student Speak* that all student members will receive at least once a semester.

**Statewide Student Conferences** are held twice a year. Registration is typically \$55 for sessions and

overnight hotel if four students room together. A variety of sessions related to pre-professional needs are offered at the conference. Come join us to learn a lot and meet other college students with your same interests!

**Professional development workshops** - Campus meetings often include workshops, guest speakers, and panels of practicing educators and school administrators.

**NEA Grants**-Student members have an opportunity to write grants and to receive up to \$1000 per project for activities in local schools and communities, deadlines to apply are August 31 and November 30! Community service is a great way to get involved locally and provide valuable experience to you for your future career in teaching!

**Student Scholarships** -The IEA Student Program typically awards up to eight \$1000 scholarships each spring. The application process is relatively easy and the \$1000 can be used for almost any educational need identified by the recipient.

**Mini-resumes**-Our office will ask students who are graduating to complete a job survey form. The information is then compiled and distributed to all superintendents in the state of Illinois.

**Liability Insurance** - Each student member receives one million dollars in insurance liability.

**Only \$22 (plus local dues) to join!**