

DCF Attends Donnell-Kay Foundation Luncheon

On January 25, 2008, members of the office of Douglas County Federation attended a luncheon sponsored by the Donnell-Kay Foundation. The Foundation focuses on funding systemic reform and state level policy in the areas of early childhood, K-12, and higher education. The Foundation also provides operating and program funding to school districts and non-profit organizations statewide - with a focus on urban schools in metro Denver.

Douglas County Federation expressed interest in attending because of the guest speaker, Randi Weingarten. Ms. Weingarten is president of the United Federation of Teachers, the nation's largest union local representing 201,486 men and women of New York City.

She is also a vice-president of the American Federation of Teachers and of the New York City Central Labor Council (AFL-CIO) and heads the city's Municipal Labor Committee (MLC), an umbrella organization for 100 plus unions. Ms. Weingarten has led the UFT members into areas of reform rarely embraced by more traditional teacher unions. She spearheaded the opening of two union-operated public charter schools in East Brooklyn, N.Y.

Office Manager, Julie Weatherman shares question/answer time with Ms. Weingarten.



Courtney Smith, (l to r) Julie Weatherman, Randi Weingarten, UFT President, Joanne Slanovich, and Cindi Leitch pose for the *Rapping Paper* during the luncheon.

In her presentation to the group, Ms. Weingarten spoke of the success of the Union operated charter schools. UFT was eager to return the charter school movement to its original purpose of enabling educators to create schools based on classroom-tested best practice. To quote Ms. Weingarten, "By running our own school, we can blaze a trail to show what works in public education – for all students and for all of our educators. We are demonstrating that respect and collaboration are prerequisites for success. We're reallocating resources to create smaller class size. We're building an educational partnership with our parents. We're showing that a labor contract is an asset, not an impediment. Most importantly, we're providing our students with a top quality education – one guided each day by our core mission to promote academic excellence and strong citizenship."

Ms. Weingarten recognized the members of DCF during her hour-long presentation.

*Douglas County
Federation*

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Lesson Study



Teacher-led Professional Learning

(L to R) Julie Holtz, Jody Papini, DCF, Alice Gill, Associate Director for the Educational Issues Department of AFT, Makoto Yoshida, Ph.D. William Paterson University, Tad Watanabe, Ph.D., Kennesaw State University, Christine Jepsen, Jenna Askey, Patsy Wang-Iverson, Ph.D. Gabriella and Paul Rosenbaum Foundation.

The DCFT sent two teachers and an administrator to Florida for a conference on Lesson Study. Lesson Study is the most frequent form of professional development in Japan. Groups of teachers meet for intensive planning and study of two or three publicly taught lessons a year. Observation and discussion of the collaboratively planned lessons lead to learning that is transferable to daily practice. During the lesson study process teachers increase their knowledge of academic content, explore ways to engage students and observe how students think when learning. This process contributes to deeper understanding by teachers and greater learning by students. Julie Holtz, Jenna Askey, Christine Jepsen, Marci Imel-Thies, Aimee Batliner-Gillette, and Jody Papini will be participating in a lesson study at Eldorado Elementary this spring.



“Coffee Talks” Brew Positive Response

Members of the [Douglas County Federation](#), along with Membership Service Specialists, have been meeting with classified and certified Building Representatives to “touch base” and have conversations concerning member issues. All Building Representatives were sent invitations to contact the Union office to set times/dates to meet with Union personnel. DCF had a 70% response rate from buildings. If you did not respond, you missed a valuable opportunity to talk about what is working in your building and what might need Union attention. The Douglas County Federation would like to take this opportunity to thank the Building Representatives who took time out of their very busy days to meet with us. We valued the conversations and enjoyed sharing a “cup ‘o Joe” with you.

Save the dates!



March 10:
General Membership Mtg

April 12:
Apple Awards Ceremony

May 15:
Student Awards Ceremony

