

## **Colorado Coalition for Retirement Security**

On April 17, 2006, AFT Colorado, along with the Douglas County Federation, held a two-hour PERA informational training session for members. Dave Sanger, President of AFT Colorado and Joanne Slanovich, Vice-president of the DCF conducted the session to inform members of the discussions being held at the state level concerning the Public Employees Retirement Association (PERA). Members were encouraged to share the talking points with members in their buildings.

The Colorado Coalition for Retirement Security will continue to meet with state legislators until an acceptable compromise is reached.

The State Legislature will be in session until mid-May. The Coalition would like to reach an agreement with the legislature before adjournment.

Members of various education and labor groups spoke with (D) Representative, Bernie Beuscher at the state capital. Members lobbied for a PERA proposal that would protect PERA retirement.



Dave Sanger, President, AFT Colorado and Joanne Slanovich, Vice-president, DCFT met with (D) Representative, Angie Paccione during the Lobby Day at the Capital to discuss upcoming PERA legislation.



## **ER&D Holds Annual Retreat and Work Session**



On April 11, 2006, Douglas County Federation held its annual ER&D Retreat and Work Session at the Douglas County Events Center in Castle Rock. This annual event allows the 50+ trainers to get the latest information concerning ER&D and provides the opportunity for strand coordinators to meet with their teams to share strategies and activities

implemented during the past year's Skill Block classes. Items on the agenda included a short explanation of the proposed Learning Center by President, Pat McGraw; introductions of new ER&D trainers; introductions of guests from the Denver Paraprofessionals; explanations of the strands and training opportunities now sponsored by DCF; dinner and work session.

# Personnel Selected to Attend Summer Institute

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*"Making Teachers  
Better Teachers"*

Douglas County Federation has chosen 4 certified and 4 classified personnel to attend a 7-day "Beginning Reading Instruction" ER&D Summer Institute training in San Antonio, Texas sponsored by the American Federation of Teachers. This research-based course focuses on how children learn to read and the best ways to teach beginning reading from kindergarten to the end of second grade. It is also useful for teachers and paraprofessionals working with older students who are still having difficulty with decoding and fluency.

Once trained, the participants will be required to compile the information/research into 18 hour Skill Blocks to be launched during the 2007-08 school year. Those attending are:

Kristie Krier	Timber Trail
Dawn Lang	Buffalo Ridge
Mary Whitney	Prairie Crossing
Lori Foglia	Trailblazer
Claudia Weller	Roxborough
Carol Adams	Pine Grove
Kim Werth	Buffalo Ridge, and
Janine Laignelot	Sierra Middle



## Student Awards

Douglas County Federation of Teachers will host its annual Student Awards Ceremony on May 9, 2006 at Chaparral High School. Students representing elementary, 8<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grades are chosen by their respective

schools based on scholarship, school and community involvement, creativity, cooperation with students and teachers, and responsibility. We look forward to seeing you at this very special event.



**Congratulations  
Graduates!!**

## Upcoming Events

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| <b>May 3</b>      | <b>Public Education and<br/>Business Coalition<br/>Luncheon</b> |
| <b>May 9</b>      | <b>DCFT Student<br/>Awards; CHS</b>                             |
| <b>June 19-26</b> | <b>ER&amp;D Summer<br/>Institute</b>                            |
| <b>July 18-22</b> | <b>AFT National<br/>Convention</b>                              |

