

For immediate release, March 29, 2010

## **CEA on Race to the Top**

CEA is disappointed that Colorado was not selected for phase 1 Race to the Top funding. Colorado was one of 15 states and the District of Columbia named as finalists. A team of five went to D.C. and presented the state's proposal to a panel of reviewers for the U.S. Department of Education. Linda Barker, CEA Director of Teaching and Learning, was a member of the team.

CEA President Beverly Ingle said, "Winning Race to the Top funding in phase 1 would have been a significant feat. Our proposal was built on the outstanding work already done under the leadership of Governor Bill Ritter, Lt. Governor Barbara O'Brien, and Education Commissioner Dwight Jones. CAP4K, improved accountability measures, new content standards, and the Colorado Growth Model are major accomplishments and will serve as the basis for continued improvement, even without immediate federal funding.

"The strength of our proposal was the collaborative process used to develop it. When we receive feedback from Washington, the state will evaluate it and work to make the appropriate adjustments before applying for phase 2," Ingle asserted.

"The work we have done to prepare the initial Race to the Top application will guide the state going forward, because it's what's right for our students and what's right for our public schools. Federal funding would help us move more quickly, but regardless we will continue our efforts to improve student achievement and create strong public schools for the children and the citizens of Colorado."

Ingle continued, "Colorado's progress in strengthening our public schools is critical to our students and our educators. The new data tool, SchoolView, will provide teachers with the information they need to help every student succeed. We will support and work to renew our priority schools. And, through the Governor's Council on Educator Effectiveness, we will create a fair and objective evaluation system that will help us have a highly effective teacher in every classroom.

"We believe we have a good Race to the Top proposal and will look at ways to improve it. But our primary goal is to improve our public schools and help our students be 21<sup>st</sup> century successes. That's what is most important," Ingle concluded.

###

*The Colorado Education Association has over 40,000 members who work in the state's public schools. Members include K-12 school teachers, education support professionals, higher education faculty, retired members and students who are studying to become teachers. CEA is affiliated with the 3.2 member National Education Association.*