

Newsletter



In this issue you will find:

- Information on how to update your profile. It's a good idea to review your profile every once in a while just to make sure things are up to date.
- Upcoming Events at Central Rivers AEA. We now have a place where you can locate classes, trainings, and workshops and other events at Central Rivers AEA by date! YAY!
- What's new in our On-Demand Library? We now have over 200+ content pieces where you can engage in smaller portions of learning when you need it. Check it out!
- What Mandatory Reporter training do I take? We'll help you navigate the maze of mandatory reporter training!
- Iowa BOEE Updates. Did you know that you may not have to take classes for License Renewal? Check this out to see if this pertains to you!
- ParaPost! Last year's rejuvenation of the ParaPost, a newsletter for paraeducators was a huge success! Check out the last year's archives and let us know if you would be interested in serving on our paraeducator advisory board.

Kay's Corner

Welcome to the 2023-2024 school year! Our professional learning team is excited to serve you in your professional learning needs. We are rolling out a newsletter in order to communicate important information, updates, and announcements. I hope that you connect back with us!

We are excited to announce our new **Central Rivers AEA website!** All your professional learning needs can be found under the Light Bulb on the homepage. Check it out and let us know what you think!

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Thank you for all you do for the students and families you serve. Have an **AMAZING** start to your year!

“What the teacher is, is more important than what he teaches.”

~ Karl Menninger

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Meet the Team



L to R: Rebekah Robbs, Kay Schmalen, Corlene Collum, Angie Gansen



Kay Schmalen, Director of Professional Learning

As a proud graduate of both the University of Northern Iowa (go Panthers!) and the University of South Dakota (Go Yotes!) I began my education journey as a Middle School ELA/Science Teacher in Canton, SD in 1993. In 2004, I joined Central Rivers AEA as Literacy/Instructional Technology Consultant and throughout the years have had many roles, Consultant for Secondary ELA, Science, TAG (Talented and Gifted), Instructional Technology, and School Improvement and now Director of Professional Learning.

My favorite part of working at the AEA is the opportunity to work with such a diverse group of people. Student events are some of my favorites- the excitement and energy that students bring to our offices is contagious!

3 Facts

- Mom of Boys - Ryan (27) MS PE Teacher/Coach at Charles City & Bryce (25) Staff Sergeant Air Force currently stationed in Hawaii
- I was the head boys swim coach in Charles City when student teaching
- My mom was a 4th grade teacher for 44 years in Charles City

Favorite Quote

"No matter how big or small, acknowledge your victories. Be happy with your accomplishments. Pat yourself on the back."

Favorite things to do when I'm not working

Spending time with family. My youngest is in the military and we don't always get to see him so I cherish those times when we are all together.

Remember

Don't be afraid to ask the 'dumb' question, everyone else will be relieved you had the guts to ask!

I feel honored and lucky to work with such amazing people at Central Rivers. Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Director of Professional Learning!



Angie Gansen, Professional Learning Coordinator

My journey in education began non-traditionally. Not wanting to become a teacher it wasn't until I served as a Work Experience Paraprofessional for the AEA that I wholeheartedly decided teaching was for me. Originally starting in Occupational Therapy, I switched majors and moved to UNI. I graduated from the University of Northern Iowa with a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education/ Special Education and 10 years later, received my Master of Arts in Curriculum and Instruction: Literacy Education. I completed a remarkable 20-year-long career in K-6 classrooms, spanning 2 states and 3 districts, primarily in K/1 grades. Wanting to expand my reach, I moved into higher education as an Assistant Professor of Education at Upper Iowa University and the Curriculum Director for Osage and Riceville School Districts before taking on the Professional Learning Coordinator position at CRAEA in 2022.

My favorite part of my role at CRAEA is getting to use my prior experience and passions to work with the entire agency, districts, in a variety of work that ultimately benefits all students.

3 Facts

- I do not like chocolate. The smell and the taste are appalling
- I am obsessed with all things tropical. **OBSESSED!**
- I will soon be an empty nester (I have an adult son and a daughter who is a senior in high school)

Favorite Quotes

"When a flower doesn't bloom, you fix the environment in which it grows, not the flower." Alexander Den Heijer

"Every child is ONE caring adult away from being a success story" (I also believe that is not limited to children.)

Favorite things to do when I'm not working

I love to travel! Give me a book, a beach, a large body of water and I am content.

Remember

I am here to help. Don't ever hesitate to call, email, or stop by my office!



Corlene Collum, Professional Learning/Conference Center Facilitator

My path at CRAEA has been filled with diverse experiences. I began my career in the banking field before joining Area 7 (now known as CRAEA). Life took me to Minnesota, where I continued to work in banking. However, my roots brought me back to Iowa and worked as a Para at Holmes Jr. High School, nurturing the students with care and dedication. In 2019, I returned to Central Rivers AEA as Conference Center Facilitation

and Professional Learning Assistant. My experiences in both banking and education helps me contribute to the agency's growth and success.

My favorite part about my role is the people, both within the agency and outside of the agency.

3 Facts

- I love to learn something new
- I have 3 biological boys and 1 adopted son
- I have 2 chocolate labs and 1 kitten

Favorite Quote

"Kindness is one thing you can't give away. It always comes back."

Favorite things to do when I'm not working

I love spending time with my family, gardening, yard games, golfing, and camping.



Rebekah Robbs, Professional Learning Administrative Assistant

I graduated with a BS in 2014 and then started my educational career that fall as a Special Education Paraeducator at Kingsley Elementary in Waterloo! I accepted a Receptionist position at CRAEA in June of 2018 and then in October of 2018 I transitioned into my role as Administrative Assistant for Integrated Services. I've always been hungry to learn and grow so in February of 2023, I began learning my new role in the Professional Learning Department as an Administrative Assistant!

My favorite part about my current position is seeing and connecting face-to-face with the people I've built relationships with over the past 5 years! I am **THRILLED** to see every person that steps foot into our building!

3 Facts

- I am passionate about people and building relationships!
- My top 5 strengths are Individualization, Positivity, Developer, Empathy, and Learner (according to Gallup Strengths Finder quiz)
- I have 5 tattoos and each has a story- ask me about them sometime!

Favorite Quote

"Everyone you will ever meet knows something that you don't." -Bill Nye

It gets me curious and helps me learn so much from people of all walks of life!

Favorite things to do when I'm not working

I love being outside soaking up the sunshine and reading personal growth books. I'm currently reading "Win the Day", "The Happiness Advantage", and "Rising Strong"! I also enjoy exploring the beauty of Iowa and all it has to offer.. what a cool state we get to live in! In addition to those, I love making memories with my two children, Adaline and Maddox, and checking off activities on our "Calendar of Fun". I also Uber in my spare time.

Back to School

If you are new to CRAEA, switched schools, or have had any recent life changes (name change, moved, phone/email) it is important to update your **AEA Learning Online** Profile. It is important you DO NOT create a new account.

To edit personal information:

- Click on the Profile icon near the top of the screen
- Edit any of the fields located under Personal Info, then click Save Personal Info button.

To update your Employment information:

- Click on the Profile icon near the top of the screen
- Edit any of the fields under Employment Info, then click Save Employment Info button
- If you are changing districts (not new to teaching) you will need to change your affiliation
 - Select your district from the list, and enter in the district verification code to prove that you are in the district. To get your code, please reach out to your school administrator or secretary.

We also have a one-page document of extended **Training System directions** to assist you in navigating passwords, training courses, printing certificates, editing personal information, employment information, and additional help.

New Teachers

If you are new to the AEAs, follow the guide at <http://bit.ly/identaeadirections>. If you are new to Iowa schools or unsure if you have an AEA account you can follow the directions on the page or feel free to contact Angie Gansen, 319-268-7616 or agansen@centralriversaea.org.

Iowa Board of Educational Examiners (BOEE) Updates

Beginning July 1, 2023, HF 672 will eliminate renewal credit requirements for licensed educators who have completed a master's degree or higher and have at least 10 years of licensed experience in education. **Applicants will still apply to renew.**

Requirements for eligibility:

- Completed a master's degree or higher.
- Served at least 10 years in education
 - Any PK-12 education experience in which a BoEE license is required
 - Can also include out of state or out of country education experience
 - Education experience does not need to be after the higher degree has been earned
- Requirements at the time of application for renewal:
 - Valid Mandatory Reporter for Child Abuse and Dependent Adult Abuse certificates.
 - Verification of degree. (official transcripts from college/university).
 - Verification of 10 years or more of education (letters on school letterhead from current/previous school districts)
 - Administrators and evaluators will also need to include verification of Evaluator Training less than 10 years old.

Frequently Asked Questions

Quick Links



What's New in the On-Demand Library?

What do you want to learn today? Check out all our learning opportunities by visiting [Central Rivers AEA On-Demand Library](#). Complete the learning and receive a certificate of completion at the end of every month! Didn't see what you are looking for? Provide us with feedback on the content you'd like to see in the library. If you do not have an account, you can set one up by following the directions and start learning today!

NEW - You can now edit your profile to update your name, email, and district. Just click on **My Dashboard** when you are logged in and edit your profile.

Check out some of the latest on-demand learning pieces by our Central Rivers AEA experts and presenters.

30 Minutes

Accelerate, Don't Remediate

We want to set all students up for success, learning acceleration is the key.

[More Details](#)

15 Minutes

Social Studies Inquiry Progressions: Communicating and Critiquing Conclusions

How do we communicate thinking beyond just tests?

[More Details](#)

20 Minutes

Foundations of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Transform your world. Unleash creativity and belonging through diversity, equity, and inclusion.

[More Details](#)

20 Minutes

Cybersecurity: Phishing Email Red Flags

Phishing is an attempt sent through an email to trick you into clicking a malicious link or giving up your personal information. Do you know how to spot a phishing email?

[More Details](#)

10 Minutes

Choosing Text Types for Literacy Instruction

Choosing the most effective text type is a key element in literacy instruction. Do you know which types of text best support your students' literacy development?

[More Details](#)

2023-2024 Professional Development Calendar/Current Events

Looking for upcoming events at Central Rivers AEA? Check out the latest via our [webpage](#).



Which Mandatory Reporter Training Do I Take?

In 2019, HF 731 modified the requirements for mandatory reporter training for child and dependent adult abuse. Additionally, Iowa HF430 now requires all school employees **18 years and older** to be trained in Mandatory Reporting. Before, the requirement was just for staff licensed through the Board of Educational Examiners. The change in law means custodians, bus drivers, food service personnel, and all other non-licensed staff must take the training. Also, here's a **one-pager** that includes links as well.

Before you start, check your Mandatory Reporter Child Abuse and Mandatory Reporter Dependent Abuse status by logging into the **AEA Learning Online System**. Please scroll down and look for it in your certificate history. Once you have identified your current Mandatory Reporter status, read through the options and select the ones that align with your current certification status.

Option 1:

If you took the Mandatory Reporter: Child Abuse and Mandatory Reporter: Dependent Adult Abuse before July 2019 **OR** if your current certificate has expired, you will need to complete the initial trainings:

- **Mandatory Reporter: Child Abuse (INITIAL TRAINING)**
- **Mandatory Reporter: Dependent Adult Abuse (INITIAL TRAINING)**

Option 2:

If you took the Mandatory Reporter Child Abuse and Mandatory Reporter Dependent Adult Abuse after July 2019 **and** your current certificates **are still valid**, take the following recertification trainings (Spanish versions now available):

- **Mandatory Reporter Child Abuse (RECERTIFICATION)**
- **Mandatory Reporter Dependent Adult Abuse (RECERTIFICATION)**
- **Spanish Version Mandatory Reporter Child Abuse (RECERTIFICATION)**
- **Spanish Version Mandatory Reporter Dependent Adult Abuse (RECERTIFICATION)**

Frequently Asked Questions

Required trainings for educators and district staff in Iowa.



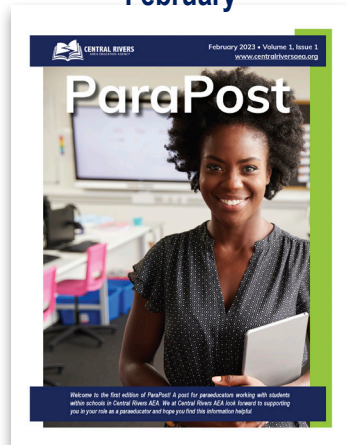
ParaPost!

In February we brought back the ParaPost! A publication for paraeducators working with students within schools in Central Rivers AEA. Every month our team works to support you in your role as a paraeducator with topics developed by paras and other educators on the CRAEA Paraeducator Advisory Board.

We would love your input! We are looking for paraeducators, classroom teachers and administrators to serve for the 2023-2024 school year. This group meets twice a year virtually and guides the paraeducator program. Contact Kay Schmalen kschmalen@centralriversaea.org if you have any questions or would like to represent your colleagues in this important group.

2023 ParaPost!

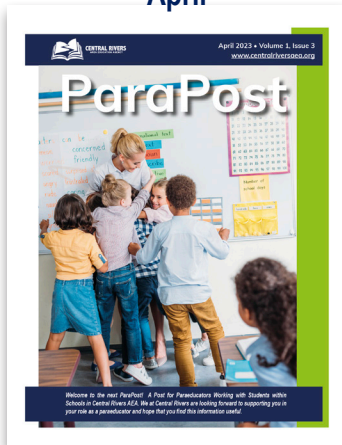
February



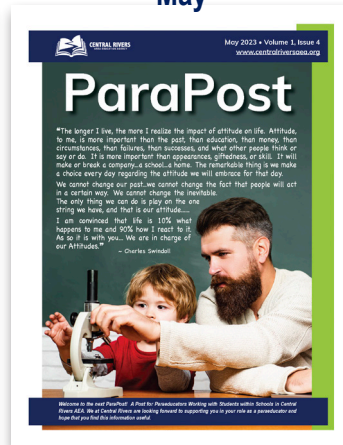
March



April



May



Our next ParaPost comes out in September 2023. If you, or know of other paraeducators who would like to receive this monthly email publication, email Angie Gansen agansen@centralriversaea.org.