

# Capital Area UniServ Office

## UniServ Director Report

### October 2021

#### Log in to New Member Portal and Win

By logging into the new MEA Member Portal at MEA.org between now and Oct. 31, you can be entered into a drawing for one of 16 gift card prizes – up to \$500.

To get in the running, simply [log in to the Members Only area of mea.org](#) and click on “MEA Member Portal” to verify or update your contact information. It only takes a few minutes – so log in now and get in the running for prizes!

#### MEA Scholarships – Apply Now

The MEA Scholarship application is now open. Interested applicants can find it online at [mea.org/mea-scholarship](#). The application deadline is Feb. 17, 2022. Questions can be directed to Barb Hitchcock at [bhitchcock@mea.org](mailto:bhitchcock@mea.org) or 517-333-6276.

To be eligible for the MEA Scholarship, applicants must be a dependent of an MEA member or MEA-Retired member in good standing and graduating from a Michigan high school that has an MEA bargaining unit. The criteria for awarding the scholarships include academic achievement, extra-curricular activities, and school and community service.

#### MEA TOOLKIT: Standing Together Against School Board Attacks

We will continue to update this document at this link:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1F2KLZqvw7LaVYQfdudsPRWXk8hZTzPvVxXb7jenCl3Y/edit?usp=sharing>



#### **MEA Week in Review: 10/06/21**

##### ***Serving Our Members***

**[“Big Changes in Public Service Loan Forgiveness Announced”](#)** (MEA.org, Oct. 6)

An overhaul of the broken federal Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program (PSLF) announced on Wednesday is meant to restore the promise made to educators and other public service employees who have suffered under the program’s 98% rejection rate.

*NOTE: Includes time-sensitive RSVPs for NEA events tonight and tomorrow night re: student loan forgiveness changes.*

### **MEA in the News**

[“Michigan Senate passes bill to help teachers spot student mental illness”](#) (*Chalkbeat, Detroit, Sept. 30*)

Help could soon be on the way for Michigan teachers who want to identify signs of students’ mental health problems before they grow into crises.

*[Includes quotes from Doug Pratt, MEA Director of Public Affairs]*

### **Big Picture: Top Education Stories**

[“Michigan lawmakers debate bill to ban critical race theory in schools”](#) (*MLive, Oct. 5*)

Debate over how the history of racism in the U.S. should be taught in schools continued in the Michigan Legislature this week as lawmakers considered a bill that would ban mention of critical race theory from K-12 classrooms.

[“School board group asks US for help policing threats”](#) (*Detroit News, Sept. 30*)

A group representing school board members around the country asked President Joe Biden on Thursday for federal assistance to investigate and stop threats made over policies including mask mandates, likening the vitriol to a form of domestic terrorism.

***About MEA Week in Review:*** *MEA’s Public Affairs Department compiles this weekly digest of MEA and news media items to provide a snapshot of items you may have missed, as well as a one-stop shop for finding stories MEA leaders and staff can cut-and-paste into local communications efforts.*