

REAC NEWSLETTER

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Representation Matters! The Racial Equity Affairs Committee (REAC) monitors representation of ethnic minority teachers within TALB and provides ethnic minority input on TALB membership programs and policies. REAC is composed of representatives from the following caucuses: American Indian/Alaska Native, African American, Hispanic, Pacific Asian American. (CTA.org)

REAC Spotlight

Virginia Torres—First Latina President of TALB. 2011-2015

Virginia Torres has worn many hats when it comes to her involvement in TALB. She has been an essential part of our union history and an advocate for people of color within TALB. I was lucky enough to be able speak with her, so I could share some of her insight to share with all our members.

Virginia always wanted to be a teacher and during her first years in the classroom she was befriended by another teacher, Felice Strauss who was the Site Rep. She was involved in the union and Virginia supported her by putting TALB flyers in teachers mailboxes. Soon, Virginia decided to run for TALB Site Representative and thus began her journey into union work. Her favorite part of working with the Union was that she had the opportunity to be social and to meet new people. Also, she loved listening to member’s stories and concerns. Virginia began to realize that many teacher’s feelings and concerns were common to others at many sites. Virginia went on to become Minority At Large Director, Lakewood Area Director, Vice President and President of TALB. She was also one of the founding members of the first EMAC group (Ethnic Minority Affairs Committee) which later turned into REAC. Virginia believes that the most profound lesson she learned while working with the union was “not every teacher is right but every teacher has rights”. She said as Site Representative we must not judge but remember that every teacher has their rights. Virginia had many mentors at TALB and CTA. She believes in the importance of mentors and having their support along the way.

REAC Resources

Caucuses

Caucus members advise, educate and lobby CTA State Council of Education and the CTA Board of Directors on issues of concern to the varying caucuses. Membership in CTA caucuses is open to all CTA members.

Hispanic Caucus:

- ◆ NEA — <https://neahispaniccaucus.org>
- ◆ CTA — <https://www.facebook.com/groups/148245455250418/>

African American/Black Caucus:

- ◆ NEA — <https://www.neablackcaucus.org/>
- ◆ CTA — <https://www.cta-aac.com/>

American Indian/Alaska Native Caucus:

- ◆ NEA — <https://www.neaai-ancaucus.org/>
- ◆ CTA—<https://www.facebook.com/groups/124687548611/>

Pacific Asian American Caucus:

- ◆ NEA —<https://nea-apic.com/>
- ◆ CTA—<https://www.facebook.com/CTAPAACaucus/>

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