



## Center for Urban Education Ministries Newsletter

*"Relentlessly Strengthening Urban Education"*



### "Spring"

Spring is here! March 20, spring officially happened. Winter is over and summer is around the corner. This is the time of the year when people get energized to clean, organize their lives, and even let go of some of their possessions they no longer use. For many people, it signals a season of planting and new growth. Spring for the Center of Urban Education Ministries (CUEM) means action. Nominations for the Neubauer Prize for Urban Teaching and Neubauer Prize for Urban Teacher Assistants are underway. Our resources for urban schools are expanding in the form of videos and continued urban education strategy. Teacher candidate training and immersion trips are being implemented. These are a few of the Spring activities that are happening at CUEM. Like always, get involved in this vital work - donate to CUEM or contact us to be part of this positive and lifechanging work. And let's spring into "relentlessly strengthening urban schools" together!

-Dr. Steve Gerner, Executive Director/CEO

Visit our Website

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## RECRUITMENT

As we recruit and train the next group of urban educators, we focus on priority standards that all urban educators need to possess. One of these standards is "Infinite Improvement." Life-changing teachers utilize Infinite Improvement as they do what it takes to meet the needs of students through their efforts to continually improve.



When I think of "Infinite Improvement", I reflect on what is happening at **LUMIN Schools** in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. [Research their website](#) - look especially at their creation of Opportunity Academy.

Another example of "Infinite Improvement" is happening in Fort Wayne, Indiana, with the **Lutheran Schools Partnership**. [Research their website](#) - pay special attention to "Our Approach".



California Lutheran University and its Graduate School of Education in Thousand Oaks, California is modeling "Infinite Improvement". [Research their website](#) - spend time on the "Our Faculty" page.

## RESOURCES

### "Celebrating our Board of Directors"

*Meet Yvonne Ferwerda*

Yvonne Ferwerda serves at the Director of the Van Lunen Center at Calvin University in Grand Rapids, Michigan. She graduated from Calvin University with a master's degree in Educational Leadership, and completed the Harvard Graduate School of Education Certificate in Advanced Educational Leadership. As director of the Van Lunen Center, Yvonne oversees a five-member faculty team for the Van Lunen Fellows Program, a year-long executive management program for heads of Christian schools.



#### **Why are you serving on the board for CUEM?**

The CUEM board seeks to strengthen Christian educators serving in urban schools. This work is essential to the future of building the next generation of leaders for a more diverse and equitable world. My educational background in elementary school in that included students from urban Chicago helped me to understand how important prepared and uplifted teachers are to the communities they serve.

#### **What excites you about the Center and 2022?**

The Center is actively creating and implementing programs to support urban educators, especially teachers, as they carry out their work in what can be challenging environments for students and staff. By increasing available resources and recognizing teachers who serve their communities well, we can strengthen them and ultimately benefit the students in their care.

#### **What are you most proud of as a Board Member?**

Over the last few years, the Center has grown in planning, programming, and development. Although the past two years have been difficult because of Covid-19, our director Steve Gerner has worked tirelessly on all of these fronts to not only keep the Center going, but move it forward.

Click here to see more CUEM Resources

## RECOGNITION

### Nominations are now being ACCEPTED for the Neubauer Awards!

Named after a generous donor in honor of Dave and Laura, two very special people who greatly respected the love and commitment of teaching, these prizes honor excellence in urban education. In May 2022, we will be awarding 24 urban educators with a Neubauer Prize! Each winning educator will receive a certificate, a gift of \$1,000 (for personal/professional use), and be honored during CUEM's virtual recognition event. This year, the Center for Urban Education Ministries will be presenting two Neubauer Prizes:

[Neubauer Prize for Urban Teaching](#): This year has presented enormous challenges to educators.

Communication, engagement of the students, and quality content are just a few of the barriers to success. Teachers have responded with great energy and drive to improve instruction and increase student achievement. We know that educators who build strong student relationships and positively engage their students see tremendous academic achievement. And students love learning from these educators! The Center for Urban Education Ministries wants to hear about these high-performing educators. 12 Teachers will be recognized in 2022.

**The Neubauer Prize for Urban Teaching Assistants:** Teacher Assistants are extremely invaluable to student success. Whether grading papers, providing small group instruction, or assisting with content development, these individuals play a vital role in the classroom. CUEM wants to recognize these impactful educators. 12 Teaching Assistants will be recognized in 2022.

The Center for Urban Education Ministries (CUEM) will review the submitted materials for each award and score the applications based on the following requirements:

- Demonstration of ability to increase student achievement and/or positively impact student success (rated 1 to 3)
- Clear expression of genuine passion and thoughtful commitment to urban education (rated 1 to 3)
- Quality and complete submission materials (rated 1 to 3)

By submitting a nomination, you are granting permission and consent to the following on behalf of yourself or your nominee:

*By completing the requirements of this award and submitting the necessary work, I am hereby granting permission and consent for the Center for Urban Education Ministries (CUEM) to use photograph, video, and wording of all submissions for presentation, publicity, web content, and promotion.*

Recipients will be contacted by May 6th, and awards will be delivered to each educator's school or home after participation in the recognition event.

Visit our website for more information on these awards!

## Reflections from Mel Keischnick

*(CUEM Board Member, Emeritus)*

*"I learned anew the powerful message that is central to my faith. God is love. God is good. God reaches out to all God's children with grace, acceptance, and hope. That is the God I worship and the God who sustains and drives me and all that I undertake."*

## Partner With Us!



We need your financial support for CUEM. Your contribution will help us in "relentlessly strengthening urban education."

Please click on "GIVE" button below to make an electronic payment.

Checks can also be received at:  
12800 N Lake Shore Dr. Mequon, WI 53097

GIVE TO CUEM