



Center for Urban Education Ministries Newsletter

"Relentlessly Strengthening Urban Education"



"Your Health"

How are you doing? As we ask this question, we expect a very positive tone and quick response. But if it is a close friend asking, you may provide greater detail about your current health situation. We know this side of heaven will offer many health concerns and challenges for us. Our personal health is very important and poor health can prevent us from accomplishing many of our goals. This can be physical or mental health. In our schools, we are seeing many more challenges with student, teacher, and administrator health concerns. The solution involves a menu of options: additional support, innovative scheduling, mentoring, flexibility in programming, renewal of calling, and greater knowledge. The Center for Urban Education Ministries (CUEM) is assisting schools in this area which allows teachers and others to gather, get inspired, gain a sense

of renewal, and be truly uplifted together. We often put our health last on our priority list. Let's switch this around and ensure we are healthy so we can continue to serve one another.

-Dr. Steve Gerner, Executive Director/CEO

Visit our
Website

RECRUITMENT

SUPERHERO Health

In Chicago, we are partnering with the Chicagoland Lutheran Educational Foundation (CLEF) to increase students' healthy choices and overall health. Pat Braun, the parish nurse for CLEF, goes into classrooms teaching students about health in an engaging fashion with songs, activities, and a superhero theme. The classroom teachers are given the book, *"SUPERHERO EDUCATOR: How to Teach with Superior Skills & Success"*, and then participate in professional development led by the Center for Urban Education Ministries on themes of teacher health, engagement of students, and communication. Teachers and students alike are finding this work to be transformative-seeing real results due to these collective efforts. The goal is to expand this health curriculum and teaching to other schools.

RESOURCES

Verne Harnish, in *Mastering the Rockefeller Habits*, reminds leadership teams to think through three basic decisions:

1. Do we have the Right People?
2. Are we doing the Right Things?
3. Are we doing those Things Right?

Keeping these guiding questions in the forefront of our decision making is vital.

Watch a [YouTube video](#) sharing Verne Harnish tips for influential leaders.

Click here to see more CUEM
Resources

RECOGNITION

The **Jake Nelson Achiever Award** is strengthening urban education and honoring a truly special man.

Jake Nelson was a loving son, brother, grandson, nephew, and friend to many. He was also a fierce competitor in football, basketball, baseball, and golf. He also loved to spend time in the outdoors. Above all, he was a true follower of Jesus. His Christian faith, as well as, spending time with family, friends, and his dogs, was always of the utmost importance to him. As a product of both the Lutheran educational system and urban schools, Jake was excited to follow a calling into the business world, joining his family in the restaurant business. However, in November 2020, Jake was called home to be with his Savior forever. The Center for Urban Education Ministries established The Jake Nelson Achiever Award in his loving memory.

The Jake Nelson Achiever Award honors select 8th graders attending an urban school, who perform academically and behaviorally at a high level, and plan to attend a Lutheran high school.

This year, the Jake Nelson Achiever Award went to a student at [Walther Christian Academy in Chicago](#) and [Concordia Prep in Baltimore](#). Watch for student profiles and information in our future newsletter.

Reflections from Mel Keischnick

(CUEM Board Member, Emeritus)

"Administrators and teachers in Christian schools understand a theology of the cross. The Christian way does not promise freedom from problems, pain, and difficulties. Any notion of a triumphalism which asserts "just trust Jesus and you will never feel pain" is hearsay. Our Lord himself felt rejection, pain, and the cross. The servant is not above the Master."

Have an educational resource
or story to share?

Connect with us at
cuem.national@gmail.com to have
your information highlighted
through our various platforms.



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

Checks can be received at:

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