

# Ethnic Minority Affairs Committee (EMAC)

## **Broderick Steed, Umo<sup>n</sup> ho<sup>n</sup> Nation Chair**

The Ethnic Minority Affairs Committee is a standing committee of the NSEA. The Committee meets annually, at which time officers are elected and other business conducted. The duties of the Ethnic Minority Affairs Committee are set forth in the Ethnic Minority Affairs Committee Bylaws. A top priority of the committee is to assist in the design and implementation of the Minority Involvement Plan, National Education Association 3-1(g).

NSEA currently has 615 self-identified minority members (2.8 percent of membership). EMAC holds six meetings every year. The committee has reached out to recruit minority members across Nebraska. EMAC provides financial assistance to minority members seeking professional development opportunities. These opportunities include regional Minority Leadership Training and issues conferences for each of the four NEA-recognized ethnic groups.

EMAC communicates with members across the state by reviewing and updating the EMAC page on the NSEA Web site; formulating and delivering the monthly newsletter, *The Tapestry*, via e-mail; through book giveaways and distribution tables at various state conferences (SEAN Conference and Delegate Assembly); and by distributing multicultural literature and information.

The minority e-mail list serve was prepared from NSEA membership data. Communication was sent to the identified minority members on this list informing them of the NSEA Minority Involvement Plan, elections, training and activities. Minority members are encouraged to participate in these activities. Association activities and the Minority Involvement Plan are posted on the Web site.

The annual Ethnic Minority Affairs Committee Conference will be replaced this year with the NEA English Language Learners/Minority Community Outreach Institute (ELL/MCO) Train the Trainers being held on August 4 -7 in Kearney. The Institute will train members to train others to work collaboratively with ethnic minority communities, help participants to improve the quality of education at their school, and teach strategies that have been found to be effective in closing the achievement gap.

### **Issues that were addressed during the 2008-09 association year included the following:**

#### **■ EMAC successfully nominated Vida Stabler (Umo<sup>n</sup> ho<sup>n</sup> Nation, Macy) for the National Education Association's Leo Reano Memorial Award.**

The award criteria are:

- Promote equal educational opportunity for American Indian/Alaska Native children.
- Help schools acquire and use information about federal legislation affecting American Indians/Alaska Natives.
- Help schools develop programs to enhance the education of American Indian/Alaska Native children.
- Help eliminate the misuse of federal funds that are set aside for American Indian/Alaska Native education.
- Promote, design, and coordinate training programs for counselors and teachers of American Indian/Alaska Native students.

Stabler will receive the award at the NEA Human and Civil Rights Awards dinner on Thursday, July 2, 2009, in San Diego.

### ■ **English Language Learner/Trainer of Trainers**

English Language Learner/Trainer of Trainers conference attendees Renee Bohaty, Pat Luedke and Brooke Schwab shared information as to an ELL Training Program that is now available to Nebraska schools and teachers. The trainers are willing to bring the training to Nebraska schools. The program can help all students, but is geared for ELL. This training course can be used for college credit, and as training for educational support personnel. Renee, Pat and Brooke presented at the Minority Leadership Training during Western Regional Leadership Conference Jan. 15-18 in Albuquerque. They discussed what is going on in Nebraska.

### ■ **EMAC Travel Policy**

EMAC has updated its travel policy. The changes (underlined) include:

**Frequency Limitation:** Members are limited to one request per association year (or two requests if one request is to attend NEA's Representative Assembly as a delegate). Requests must be submitted no more than 90 days prior to the event and no less than 30 days prior to the event.

**Application Process:** Realize that EMAC funding is limited to \$1,000 per request (up from \$500).

- **Proposed Bylaw change for NSEA's EMAC** (EMAC fully supports this change, submitted by NSEA Board Member Tamara Bailey): The last sentence of Article III, Section 5, of the EMAC Bylaws states that *Any NSEA member is eligible to serve in this capacity and need not represent any racial or ethnic minority*. EMAC favors deletion of this sentence, as it goes against the rationale that was read during the 2006-07 Delegate Assembly. The reason NEA changed the name of the Minority Affairs Committee to the Ethnic Minority Affairs Committee was to ensure that only ethnic minorities are members of EMAC. It was then-President Reg Weaver who gave authorization or charge for the name to be changed. If this sentence remains, it opens the door for non-ethnic minority members to become a non-voting member of the Executive Committee. In order for the NSEA EMAC to be aligned with the NEA, I believe and feel this line needs to be deleted. Plus, we must be more diligent in recruiting ethnic minorities to serve in leadership positions within the NSEA.