

The VOICE

Nebraska State Education Association • October 2024



REVERSE COURSE

**NSEA Helps Recoup \$4,000
in Sick Days Dispute**

- NSEA Recommended Candidates
- 2025 Delegate Assembly Details

**LOOK
INSIDE!**



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**A Great Public School
for Every Child.**

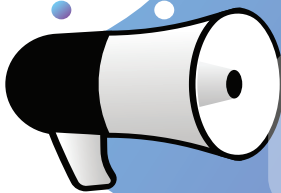
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**NOMINATE
COLLEAGUES FOR TOP HONORS**



Now is the time to discuss who you or your local association might nominate for one of the honors to be given at NSEA's Delegate Assembly in April. Any NSEA member may nominate a member teacher, Education Support Professional or deserving group. The 2025 Assembly will be held April 25-26 at Lincoln's Cornhusker Marriott Hotel. Members are eligible for:

- **Early Career Educator:** To honor a teacher who has excelled in their first five years of teaching.
- **Award for Teaching Excellence:** Honors a teacher who has excelled in the classroom over a period of time.
- **Education Support Professional of the Year:** Honors an ESP who has excelled in their job. Finalists will be notified in March, with winners announced at the Assembly. Recipients receive a \$250 cash award.
- **Community Service:** Honors NSEA members or local associations involved in volunteer work outside of classroom hours.
- **Local Public Relations:** Honors local associations for outstanding internal communication.

Members can also nominate individuals or groups for these awards:

- **The Great Plains Milestone:** Honors an individual or group for promoting human and civil rights.
- **Administrator of Excellence:** Honors a public school administrator who strives every day to help students and staff be successful.
- **Friend of Education:** NSEA's highest honor is presented in recognition of an individual or organization that has made a statewide contribution to education or to Nebraska educators.
- **Outstanding Media:** Honors a newspaper, television or radio station for coverage of education issues and promotion of public education.

Nominations may be submitted online at www.nsea.org/DA or mailed to NSEA Awards, 605 S. 14 St., Lincoln, NE 68508-2742. All nomination materials must be received at the NSEA office no later than 5 p.m. on February 14, 2025.

Would You Like to Write for The Voice?

Would you like to write an item for *The Voice*? Perhaps an opinion column or an article on what is working in your classroom? Submissions can be classroom-related, humorous, inspiring or otherwise teaching related. Submit your questions about the process, and your topics to us at:

thevoice@nsea.org

On the Cover: When an injury prevented ESU 3 Education Association member Amanda McConnell from returning to work, she was informed that her salary would be reduced by thousands. She sought help from NSEA. See the story and photos, pages 7-8.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

TIM ROYERS

Educators Shaping the Future

As educators and members, our actions have the potential to make a difference in our communities for years to come, sometimes in ways that none of us anticipate. In the middle of September, on the same day that the Secretary of State certified that the Support Our Schools petition to repeal 1402 would be on the ballot, a lawsuit was filed in another attempt to kick it off the November ballot. Normally, when a certified petition has been challenged, the Secretary of State helps defend it in court. After all – why wouldn't the Secretary of State defend his decision to certify a ballot measure?

Journey to the Ballot

Unfortunately, it was yet another unique obstacle orchestrated by voucher proponents in a two-year long journey to let Nebraskans vote on the issue. We felt well-prepared to respond to the lawsuit, but when the court filings to the Nebraska Supreme Court were made public, we were shocked to learn that the Secretary of State declared that he had changed his mind, and that if the court did not rule on the lawsuit, he would try to “de-certify” us from the ballot. This was yet again another example of our opponents underestimating our determination.

In the Courts

Our legal team methodically and emphatically made our case before the Nebraska Supreme Court, and early on the morning of Sept. 13, the Court released its opinion. Not only did the Court rule unanimously in a 7-0 decision that the Repeal of LB1402 should be on the ballot, but

it also issued a concurring opinion that the Secretary of State does not have the power to revoke his certification of a ballot initiative.

Refusal to Backdown

In securing that result, we did not just ensure that the repeal of LB1402 will appear on the ballot. Our refusal to backdown also delivered a strong ruling from the Supreme Court that will protect the rights of Nebraskans to place laws on the ballot for years to come! Our immediate aim may have been to let voters choose whether public dollars should go to private schools, but in fighting this necessary fight we also won an unintended outcome of protecting one of our most cherished constitutional rights as Nebraskans.

Shaping the Future

The same is true for what you, as educators, do on a daily basis. In the countless interactions you have with students, you are not just delivering curriculum, you're giving them skills and knowledge that they will use for life. You are not just helping them off the bus, you're being the welcoming adult they need in their life. You are not just helping them check out a library book, you're inspiring a love for reading. Whether it's in the chambers of the Nebraska Supreme Court or your classroom, every day our members are shaping the future, and it is my privilege to serve and represent you.

"Our refusal to backdown also delivered an emphatic ruling from the Supreme Court that will protect the rights of Nebraskans to place laws on the ballot for years to come."





Public Funds Belong in Public Schools

When NSEA and a coalition of not-for-profit organizations launched the Support Our Schools Nebraska petition drive in early June 2023, we had no idea the journey to give voters a chance to repeal school vouchers would span two summers, culminate in more than 200,000 signatures and a winning defense of the petition process in the Nebraska Supreme Court.

In the Supreme Court

Even before Nebraska Secretary of State Bob Evnen announced the certification of the referendum petition for LB1402, voucher proponents were trying to get the issue kicked off the ballot through a lawsuit.

The Nebraska Supreme Court ruled unanimously that the ballot measure to repeal LB1402 is subject to the referendum process under the Nebraska Constitution and will be allowed on the November ballot.

Nebraskans are overwhelmingly opposed to voucher schemes and have voted to reject public funds for private schools at the ballot box on three separate occasions.

The People's Tax Dollars

Nebraska cannot afford to pay for two school systems. Public dollars should support our public schools. Under LB1402, private schools can receive public funds without being accountable to taxpayers. The private school voucher scheme in LB1402 includes a “hands off” clause—that means private schools receive public funding but are not accountable for how they spend LB1402’s taxpayer-funded vouchers.

In Iowa, and other states with voucher

schemes that give public funds to pay for private schools, the private schools have responded with significant hikes in tuition. Receiving public funds from LB1402’s voucher scheme does not mean the private school will accept a student. The only “choice” lies with private schools, not families.

Vote to Repeal LB1402

The millions of public funds spent to pay for private schools through LB1402 would otherwise be available to support your local public schools, which serve 90% of children in Nebraska. Public funds need to be invested in our local public schools. Vote to Repeal LB1402 in the November General Election and keep public funds for public schools.

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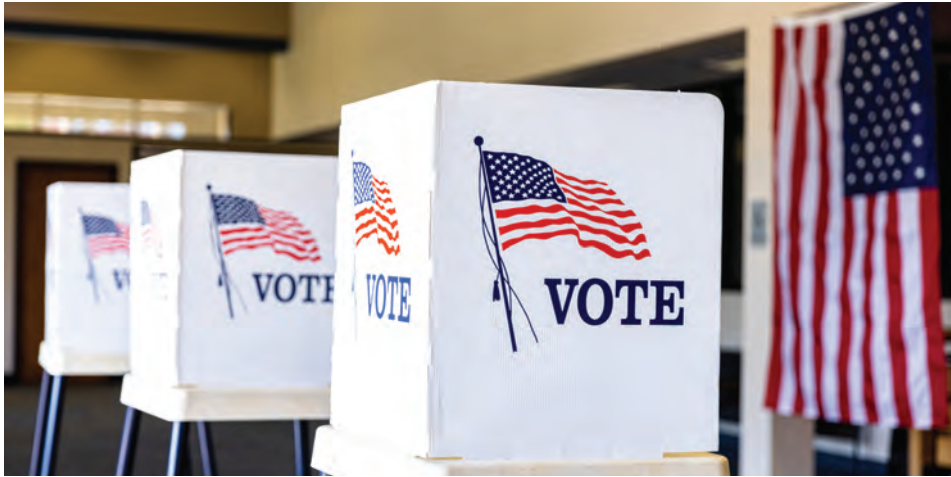
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Vote to REPEAL LB1402



FIGHT FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS AT THE BALLOT BOX

9/10

Public schools serve 9 out of every 10 kids in Nebraska.

Nebraskans have an opportunity on Nov. 5 to put a stop to a multimillion dollar voucher scheme that takes public funds to pay for private schools by **voting to REPEAL LB1402.**

Since the Nebraska Legislature created LB1402's private school voucher scheme, several public school districts have lost millions in state funding. **Nebraska taxpayers cannot afford to send \$100 million to private schools** over the next decade.

48

48 of Nebraska's 93 counties do not have a private or parochial school.

LB1402's private school voucher scheme could close public schools and hurt rural Nebraska. In fact, there are NO private schools in more than half of Nebraska's 93 counties.

Instead of sending taxpayer money to private schools, **we should focus on public schools – where 90% of children attend.** We need to address the teacher shortages, reduce class sizes so students get individual attention, fund universal Pre-K, and fully fund the school transportation families need.

REFERENDUM ORDERED BY PETITION OF THE PEOPLE

Referendum Measure 435

A vote to "**RETAIN**" will keep in effect Section 1 of Legislative Bill 1402 enacted in 2024 by the Nebraska Legislature. Section 1 of Legislative Bill 1402 provides for \$10 million annually to fund education scholarships to pay all or part of the cost to educate eligible students attending nongovernmental, privately operated elementary and secondary schools in Nebraska.

A vote to "**REPEAL**" will eliminate the funding and scholarship provisions in Section 1 of Legislative Bill 1402.

Section 1 of Legislative Bill 1402, enacted by the Nebraska Legislature in 2024, provides for \$10 million annually to fund education scholarships to pay all or part of the cost to educate eligible students attending nongovernmental, privately operated elementary and secondary schools in Nebraska.

Shall Section 1 of Legislative Bill 1402 be repealed?

Retain

Repeal

VOUCHER GRIFT IN OTHER STATES:

Iowa:

In Iowa, the cost of taxpayer-funded vouchers for students to attend private school this year is expected to blow past an initial **\$107M** projection. By 2027, it's estimated to cost **\$345M** ¹

Louisiana:

In Louisiana, academic results in a statewide school **privatization program were described as "catastrophic,"** with **test score drops** larger than Hurricane Katrina's impacts on academics in New Orleans. ³

Arizona:

The nation's first tax credit scholarship program was introduced in Arizona in 1997 at an estimated annual cost of **\$4.5M**. An expanded voucher program is estimated to cost **\$900M** in FY 2024. ²

TAXPAYERS FOOT THE BILL:

Overwhelmingly, **school vouchers are being used by families with children already in private school** to subsidize tuition. In Arizona, 80% of voucher applicants were already attending private schools or being home schooled.

1. The Gazette, "More than 29,000 apply for Iowa education savings accounts. Majority of approved students already attend private school," July 6, 2023

2. Arizona Center for Economic Progress, "Arizona School Vouchers, Explained," July 1, 2023.

3. Abdulkadiroglu, Atila; Pathak, Parag A.; and Walters, Christopher R.; American Economic Journal, "Free to choose: Can school choice reduce student achievement?" January 2018, accessed at <https://www.aeaweb.org/articles?id=10.1257/app.20160634> on Nov. 30, 2023.

From the desk of Doane University College of Education:



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After 13 years of teaching and recently earning her Master of Education in School Counseling, **Brittany McCleery '23E** started a new career as a K-5 counselor at Monclair Elementary School in Millard.



"Doane gave me a thorough education that has prepared me for anything my new job will throw at me."



Classes start soon for our Master of Education in School Counseling and Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction programs — apply today!



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Educational Service Unit 3 Education Association member Amanda McConnell in her Brook Valley North classroom. With the help of NSEA, McConnell recouped \$4,000 in a contract days dispute.

REVERSE COURSE: NSEA Helps ESU Member Recoup \$4,000 in Contract Sick Days Dispute

When Amanda McConnell slipped and fell at her brother's wedding in August, she didn't think it would end up costing her \$4,000 of unpaid leave. In fact, at first, she didn't really think much of it at all.

"I kind of ignored the pain at first, but by Sunday I knew I needed to see a doctor," said McConnell. "We did an X-ray. I ended up having an ankle sprain and my knee was infected."

McConnell reported the injury to her principal and listened to her doctor who told her to stay off it for a week. She submitted a doctor's note and started coming up with a plan to work with her classroom co-teacher to cover the students in her classroom.

"I have to be 100% as a teacher because working with my students can be very physical," she explained. "Sometimes I have to run after kids. I have a physical job."

McConnell is a member of the Educational Service Unit 3 Education Association and in her 13th year as a special educator. She works at Brook Valley North working with students with Autism.

"When I followed up with my orthopedic doctor who said I could come back with seated-only work

and 50% restriction," she said. "My principal was very supportive. I was already working out a plan to come back at 50% when I learned that they weren't going to let me come back until I was at 100%."

McConnell, her principal and ESU3 business services leaders met on a Zoom call to discuss the next steps.

No Days, No Solutions

Years earlier, while working as an Autism Specialist at Kearney Public School, McConnell had broken her leg. She worked closely with district leaders on solutions for coverage while allowing herself to heal. When McConnell sat with leaders at ESU 3 she was surprised at what they were telling her.

"Not only were they saying I couldn't come back. They were also saying I didn't have any leave because my days weren't going to start until Sept. 1 and because I wasn't medically at 100%, I was also going to be out about \$4,000."

McConnell had already been in the classroom since Aug. 1, but her leave days weren't set to start until Sept. 1. Only in her second year with ESU3, McConnell had already used the 10 sick days after contracting COVID twice the previous school year.

"I work with a lot of medically fragile kids. Their immune systems are very weak. We have to protect them."

McConnell, the daughter of two teachers, continued to question ESU 3 leaders about possible solutions.

"I asked them, 'Can I get days donated from other colleagues?' They told me, 'Unfortunately, no, we can't do that.' I asked if I could have an

advance on my sick days. They said, 'no.' I asked them if I could have my payments spread out so that even if I was out \$4,000 I could still have a paycheck, they told me they couldn't do that."

McConnell felt like she was backed into a corner.

"If I didn't get NSEA involved. None of this would have been resolved."

— Amanda McConnell
ESU3 Education Assoc.



“I’m already telling everyone that they should be a member of NSEA. When you need them, they’re there for you.”

— Amanda McConnell

“I had tears in my eyes because I had prepared myself for 50% of my paycheck, but this was more than I was expecting. I’ve been teaching for 13 years, and this just doesn’t feel right. I don’t know most people that could get a week’s notice and get this much money taken out of their check.”

McConnell knew before she ended the Zoom call with ESU3 business services leaders that her next call would be to NSEA.

“I told them before the meeting was over that I would be contacting NSEA,” McConnell said.

A Call to NSEA

NSEA Organizational Specialist Andy Isaacson answered McConnell’s call for help.

Andy Isaacson is just one of NSEA’s 16 organizational specialists that have the advocacy skills, knowledge of Nebraska’s school laws, and the ability to address issues and resolve disagreements with administrators.

“After listening to Amanda’s situation, I wanted to make sure that we had another meeting with ESU3 leaders and that this time, NSEA would be there on Amanda’s behalf,” Isaacson said.

Together, McConnell and Isaacson drafted an email and discussed next steps. Within a week, McConnell and Isaacson had their meeting with business leaders with ESU3 over Zoom.

McConnell explains that she let Isaacson take the lead.

“My anxiety was really horrible during this time because I was trying to take care of myself, trying to get back to work but it felt like I was being punished,” she said. “In the meeting, Andy was asking a lot of specific questions about the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA). It felt good to have someone who knew what they were talking about. It was good to have someone on my side.”

A Check

McConnell said after the meeting with Isaacson and ESU3 leaders things moved quickly.

“All the sudden they had a check written for me for \$4,000,” she said. “I had multiple people apologize and let me know this is the first time they’ve run into anything like this.”

McConnell said it was clear they wanted to make things right, and while the situation was stressful, she appreciated the swift resolution.

She feels reassured that steps were being taken to prevent similar issues for others in the future.

Back to 100%

In early September, McConnell’s doctor cleared her to return to the classroom at 100%. She said she felt confident heading back into the classroom.

“Everyone at ESU3 was friendly when I came back. I didn’t feel like there was any animosity. My principal even sent out an e-mail welcoming me back,” she said. “It’s been a really easy transition back to the classroom.”

McConnell says she’s thankful for Isaacson’s expertise and she’s especially grateful to be part of an organization that truly stands by its members.

“If I didn’t get NSEA involved. None of this would have been resolved,” McConnell said. “I’m already telling everyone that they should be a member of NSEA. When you need them, they’re there for you.”

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Bargaining Watch: List Acquisition and Protecting Members

Now more than ever, strong local associations depend on their members' input to negotiate for better pay, safe working conditions and critical resources for their students. Educators have more strength in numbers and never is that truer than at the bargaining table.

Accessing and maintaining up-to-date information on all employees represented by the local association is an essential building block to a strong and effective organization. Having accurate data allows organizers to prioritize time and resources on the hardest to reach educators. While working with districts to obtain this information is important, sharing data doesn't always go both ways.

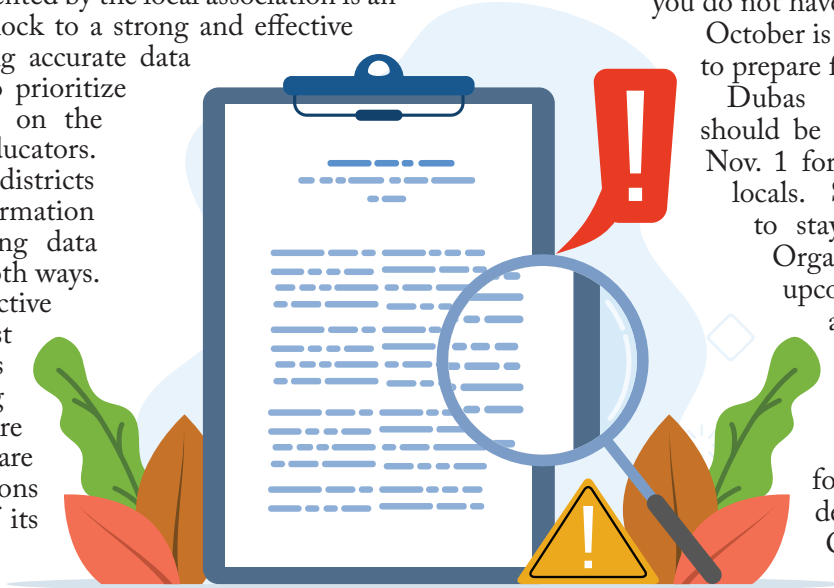
NSEA's Collective Bargaining Specialist Jen Dubas says she's noticed a concerning trend where administrators are asking local associations for a current list of its members.

"There are certainly concerns about how sharing this could result in potential misuse for both members and non-members," Dubas said. "If your administration or school board asks for a list of members, or if they ask how many members you have, you do NOT have to share that information. You can simply tell them that is information you do not have permission to share."

October is a key time for local associations to prepare for negotiations.

Dubas says local bargaining teams should be ready to begin negotiations by Nov. 1 for K-12 and community college locals. She also encourages leaders to stay in touch with your NSEA Organizational Specialist about upcoming bargaining opportunities and available resources, including the bargaining calendar and updated sample negotiated agreement.

State law sets a firm schedule for bargaining activities. For more details, talk with your NSEA Organizational Specialist.



THE CHILD CARE CRISIS IN NEBRASKA IS HURTING EVERYONE.



Quality early childhood education supports children's healthy development and future learning. Yet, too many Nebraska families can't find quality, affordable care.

Let's solve the child care crisis. It's not going to solve itself.

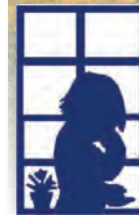
Support early childhood education at:

NebraskaCaresForKids.org

TEACHING AG, FEEDING KIDS



Turn to the NSEA Children's Fund



Ag Sack Lunch Program

For the 15th year, the Ag Sack Lunch Program will again educate fourth grade students across Nebraska. With both in-person and virtual options available, the reach of students continues to grow from Omaha to Scottsbluff, while spreading education and awareness about Nebraska agriculture.

The in-person program provides students with a free lunch along with a 25-minute lesson regarding Nebraska agriculture. As many fourth-grade classrooms visit the Nebraska State Capitol, this is an essential opportunity to educate students about where their food comes from and gain an appreciation for the meals they eat each day.

"This popular program has been filled in a short period of time each year," said Andy Chvatal, Nebraska Soybean Board executive director. "This is a testament to the need and desire for Nebraska agriculture education at a young age. We're eager to have a program once again this year."

While students enjoy their lunches,

they will hear a presentation about the important role agriculture plays in Nebraska's economy, as well as the crops and livestock species that are raised in the state.

The sack lunches consist of Nebraska-produced food items to emphasize the direct connection to Nebraska farms. Students also receive a deck of cards containing agriculture facts.

For classrooms that do not plan to visit the State Capitol, virtual presentations are available which include the same interactive presentation and deck of cards.

Reservations can be made online now by visiting www.agsacklunchprogram.com.

The Ag Sack Lunch Program is sponsored by the Nebraska Corn Board, Nebraska Soybean Board, Nebraska Beef Council, Nebraska Pork Producers Association, Nebraska Cattlemen's Foundation, Nebraska Poultry Industries, Nebraska Wheat Board and Midwest Dairy.

Where there is a child in need, there is likely a teacher willing to help by opening his wallet or her purse.

Teachers frequently spend their own hard-earned dollars to help these children. But a teacher can't assist every child encountered during the school day, much less during the school year. That is why NSEA created the Children's Fund. Since 1994, donations to the Children's Fund have provided hundreds of thousands of dollars to help children in need.

The generosity of Children's Fund donors has helped to pay for glasses, warm clothing, medical and dental needs of children; provide assistance to a family whose home and belongings were destroyed by fire; purchase a bus ticket for a child with no other means to get to school; and more.

Local associations are encouraged to brainstorm fundraising ideas; to challenge other local associations; to collect change; host a jeans day fundraiser; or consider other ways to contribute toward the fund.

There is never any red tape or lengthy delay for members wanting to use the fund to help a student. A call to Karen Hunt at the NSEA (800-742-0047) is usually all that is needed. For more information, visit nsea.org/childrensfund.

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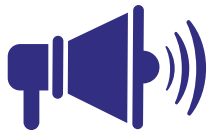
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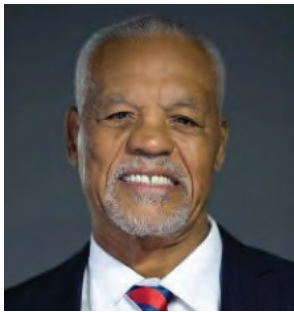
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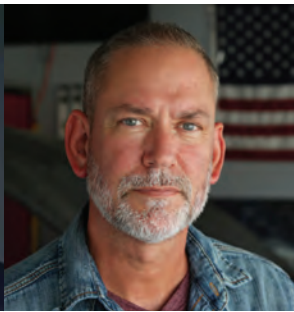


PUBLIC EDUCATION CANDIDATES

All candidates were interviewed by NSEA members and earned the recommendation because of their support of public education. The General Election is Tuesday, November 5! Please VOTE!



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SEN. BLOOD



SEN. VARGAS



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U.S. SENATE Preston Love Jr. :

Preston Love, Jr., who is running against U.S. Sen. Pete Ricketts, describes himself as an underdog. Love is well known in his community for being a prolific author, civil rights activist, and an Adjunct Professor at the University of Nebraska Omaha. With years of experience in Nebraska's public schools, Love has learned the value of a publicly-educated populace. Love has pledged to work with NEA and NSEA to support students across the country through his work in Congress. "We must ensure that all students, regardless of their background or where they live, have access to quality education. Teachers and administrators deserve fair wages and working conditions, and students need access to a comfortable learning environment," wrote Love.

Dan Osborn:

Dan Osborn, perhaps most well-known for his leadership during the 2021 Kellogg's strike, which was instrumental in providing better wages and benefits for striking employees, is set to challenge U.S. Sen. Deb Fischer for one of Nebraska's two Senate seats. A staunch unionist, Osborn understands the importance of a strong and protected labor force. He also sees the value in providing for the most robust public schools possible, stating that public education "has played a crucial role throughout American history in leveling the playing field."

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 1

Sen. Carol Blood (D)

Since her election to the Legislature in 2016, Sen. Blood has worked tirelessly with the NSEA to ensure that all Nebraska children receive the strongest education possible. From a proposal that would utilize gambling registration fees to fund teacher retention programs and early childhood care, to another that would recognize mental health as a barrier to attendance for Nebraska's students on absence improvement plans, Sen. Blood has creatively and actively supported Nebraska's students and teachers throughout her tenure in the Legislature.

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 2

Senator Tony Vargas (D)

Sen. Vargas, a past member of the NSEA, will face incumbent U.S. Rep. Don Bacon in November. Having worked as a teacher for several years before his election to the Legislature, Sen. Vargas understands the importance of ensuring that all students in Nebraska have access to an enriching public education. While in the Legislature, Sen. Vargas advocated for improved student mental health care through LB1322, which would have required that a certain percentage of school counselors' time be spent in direct counseling with students. He also supported the elimination of the state requirement that all teachers pass the Praxis exam before becoming certified, a move that helped to reduce barriers to employment and alleviate Nebraska's teacher shortage.

NEBRASKA LEGISLATURE

District 1

Dennis Schardt

Dennis Schardt is a Table Rock native and the small business owner of Den's County Meats. Schardt previously served as Mayor of Table Rock and as a Pawnee County Commissioner. If elected, Schardt pledged to improve mental health care access in schools to assist students and teachers alike, support teachers' collective bargaining rights, and balance school funding while providing property tax relief. "Our children are the next generation of Nebraska's leaders," said Schardt, "We need to give them every opportunity we can afford to help them grow as individuals."

District 3

Victor Rountree

Victor Rountree has worn many hats throughout the years. From serving in the Air Force for thirty distinguished years, to assuming the role of Pastor at his local church, to educating part-time as a substitute teacher, Rountree maintains that he has the experience to represent his constituents in the Legislature. Rountree is a staunch supporter of keeping public dollars in public schools, and indicated his interest in increasing state funding for public

schools should he be elected to the Legislature. Rountree's member-led interview team were impressed with his effectual ideas to address Nebraska's teacher shortage.

District 5

Margo Juarez

Margo Juarez is no stranger to public education. Having served on the Omaha Public Schools Board since 2021, Juarez remains a strong advocate for students and teachers alike. Juarez previously served as an auditor for the IRS and in the claims unit for the Social Security Administration, but highlighted her opposition to further caps on local school district levies and stated that she would lend her support to a legislative proposal to use gambling fees to benefit teachers. Those interviewing Juarez were impressed with her history of community involvement, as well as her experience on the OPS Board.

District 7

Dunixi Guereca

Dunixi Guereca, who currently leads Stand for Schools, a local nonprofit on the front lines in the battle against Nebraska's new voucher program, is running in Legislative District 7 with the endorsement of Sen. Tony Vargas. He previously served as a union organizer for SEIU and as Vice President of the Orange County Labor Federation. Guereca's highest priorities in the Legislature would be to increase state funding to public schools and ensure that school districts maintain local control. "A robust and well-funded public education is the silver bullet that empowers our kids to be their best self," said Guereca, "Strong school systems help retain and attract families and workers, something Nebraska desperately needs."

District 9

Sen. John Cavanaugh

Throughout his first four years in the Legislature, Sen. Cavanaugh has worked closely with the NSEA to ensure that our public schools are well-funded and safeguarded. Cavanaugh has supported proposals to steer tax funding generated from gambling and medical marijuana toward public education. Cavanaugh has also been an ardent opponent of voucher proposals throughout his time

in the Legislature. “Until teachers do not have to purchase school supplies for their classrooms,” said Cavanaugh, “we can never say school funding is adequate.”

District 11 **Sen. Terrell McKinney**

Sen. McKinney, elected to the Legislature in 2020 to succeed former Sen. Ernie Chambers, is a strong advocate for children and students in Nebraska, and supports proposals that would make the educational institutions in Nebraska more diverse. McKinney worked to pass LB632, which prohibits the suspension of students in prekindergarten through second grade and requires school districts to develop suspension alternatives. Sen. McKinney is actively involved in his community, serving as a wrestling coach at Omaha North High School.

District 13 **Nick Batter & Ashlei Spivey**

Nick Batter has had an extensive and impressive career. A graduate of Harvard University, the Army Engineering School, and the UNL College of Law, Batter currently serves as corporate counsel for Hawkins Construction Company, and also holds a position on the Board of Directors of the Nebraska Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Should he be elected, Batter has pledged to increase incentives for teacher retention, expand state aid to public schools, and work to foster diversity in public schools. “My own call to community service comes directly from the strong debt I owe my public school teachers,” said Batter, “a debt which cannot be paid back but must be paid forward.”

A self-described champion of racial and gender justice, Ashlei Spivey has served for several years as the founder and Executive Director of I Be Black Girl, a collective for Black women, femmes, and girls. One of Spivey’s most important goals in the Legislature would be to increase state funding for schools to ensure that all children receive a great education. She would also strive to empower teachers and provide for more diversity in the education sector. As a former employee of Heartland Family Services, Spivey also understands the importance of mental health care for students and teachers.

District 15 **Dave Wordekemper**

Dave “Woody” Wordekemper is a native of West Point and a proud, 29-year member of his local firefighter’s union. Wordekemper believes that strong public schools are those that are maintained and managed locally, and indicated his opposition to further state imposed levy caps. Wordekemper, having served as a firefighter in many stressful situations, also pointed out the importance of increasing the mental health resources available to teachers and students. “An educated public is a successful public,” said Wordekemper. “The more we can ensure every student has a good education, the more we can expect our state to succeed.”

District 21 **Seth Derner**

Seth Derner, who is set to challenge Sen. Beau Ballard in November, is the co-founder and Director of Sales and Marketing at Vivayic and a former teacher with Elgin Public Schools. Derner is a staunch opponent of private school vouchers, and believes his rural and agrarian roots, combined with his experience living and working in Lincoln for the past 18 years, would make him an exceedingly level-headed and collaborative legislator. Derner is also a stalwart proponent of a teachers’ right to collectively bargain for improved salaries and benefits.

District 25 **Nicki Behmer Popp**

With almost a decade of experience working as a public information officer for the Nebraska Legislature, those interviewing Behmer Popp noted how impressed they were with her knowledge of important education policy issues. Crafting meaningful solutions to ease the state’s teacher shortage is a high priority for Behmer Popp, as well as supporting proposals that would increase access to quality public education. Behmer Popp has also pledged to ensure that no state resources currently available to Nebraska’s public schools will be diverted for other projects.

District 27 **Jason Prokop**

Prokop considers public education to be the best investment for Nebraska. He currently serves as the

Director of First Five Nebraska. With a proven track record of advocating for early childhood well-being and education, it’s no surprise that Prokop has pledged to oppose any initiative or piece of legislation that would divert funding and resources from public schools. “The classrooms of Nebraska public schools play a crucial role in shaping the future of the American workforce,” said Prokop.

District 29 **Sen. Eliot Bostar**

Sen. Bostar, who was first elected to the Legislature and recommended by the NSEA in 2020, has continued to champion and support policy that benefits our Nebraska students and teachers. Sen. Bostar worked to bolster the health of Nebraska’s students and teachers through LB754, which extended the Department of Education’s commercial air filter program to provide for cleaner air in the classroom. He also ardently opposed the LB753 and LB1402 voucher schemes.

District 31 **Mary Ann Folchert**

Folchert, who is set to face Sen. Kathleen Kauth in November, is a passionate former public schools teacher and an advocate for the developmentally disabled. Her priorities in the Legislature would include protecting public funding for schools, eliminating unfunded mandates imposed on schools, locating creative solutions to solve the state’s teacher shortage, expanding early childhood education, and supporting diversity initiatives in our schools. With years of experience as an educator, Folchert understands the importance of finding solutions to these issues.

District 33 **Dan Lonowski & Michelle Smith**

Lonowski, a retired teacher, former member of the NSEA, and National Guardsman, cares deeply about attracting and retaining teachers in Nebraska. Besides educators, Lonowski also pledged to support and develop creative measures to attract bus drivers, cooks, and other essential educational employees to our state.

Michelle Smith, also a retired educator, is the owner of Sunrise

Inspirations, a Hastings-based mental health and therapy office. A licensed therapist herself, Smith is dedicated to providing adequate mental health care to teachers and students in Nebraska. Smith is also a stark opponent of voucher schemes, noting that many local communities already struggle to fund their public schools, and therefore can't afford to see their funding diverted.

District 35 Dan Quick

Quick has a proven track record of supporting public education and early childhood development and previously received an NSEA recommendation in 2016. Having served in the Legislature for four years, Quick was able to pass legislation that gave cities more flexibility to earmark funding for early childhood education centers. He has also pledged to continue his work to generate more state funding for public schools. Quick, a past President of IBEW Local 1597, understands the value of collective bargaining and grievance arbitration.

District 39 Allison Heimes

Allison Heimes has some very bold ideas for the future of education in Nebraska. From indicating that she would introduce a proposal to make school lunches free for all students, to giving all students access to a trained mental health therapist, Heimes would be a formidable advocate for public schools in the Legislature. Among other proposals, Heimes also expressed interest in establishing a coalition or advisory board of current and retired teachers to address the issues they identify as most pressing for the profession. She also worked tirelessly with Support Our Schools to gather signatures to repeal LB1402.

District 45 Sarah Centineo

Centineo, who is a nurse and attorney, served as a member of the Bellevue Public School Board. Having worked at the Children's Hospital for 15 years, Centineo understands the importance of education and early childhood care. Her time serving as a member of the Nebraska

Association of School Board's Legislative Committee exposed her to the workings of the Legislature's Education Committee, and gave her the knowledge she needs to champion education-related proposals. Among her many priorities are keeping public dollars in public schools and stopping the implementation of arbitrary spending caps and unfunded mandates.

District 49 Jen Day

Sen. Day, who was first recommended by the NSEA in 2020, has been a strong advocate for public education throughout the past four years. Those interviewing Day were impressed by her hard working attitude, which is reflected in the legislation she has crafted. Such proposals include LB558, which would have required school districts to pay school employees a living hourly wage, LB639, which created the Seizure Safe Schools Act, and LB641, which would have provided salaries to ESPs during Covid-related school closures.

NEBRASKA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION



CHRISTENSEN

District 1

Kristin Christensen

Kristin Christensen is a proud member of the NSEA and a passionate elementary school teacher. Her top priorities include teacher retention and student success. She also supports legislative efforts to financially assist students working their way through educator training programs, such as stipends during students-teaching or additional financial opportunities in high need areas of the state.



DOUGLAS

District 2

Maggie Douglas

With more than 15 years of teaching experience ranging from public elementary school to Metropolitan Community College and UNO, Maggie Douglas is a strong advocate for education. Should she be elected to the State Board of Education, one of her top priorities is to find creative solutions to solve Nebraska's teacher shortage and rework teacher certification.



MCALLISTER

District 3

Bill McAllister

McAllister has served as a teacher, principal and superintendent over his 37-year career in education, giving him the expertise necessary to effectively represent his constituents on the State Board of Education. His guiding principle is what he calls "Students First with Common Sense," that steers his decision making toward policies that adapt to the needs of individual students.



RENNER

District 4

Liz Renner

Liz Renner's connection to public education has been through the lens of a filmmaker. She has worked on several historical and contemporary documentary films. Renner has also worked on the Nebraska Loves Public Schools Campaign. Her priorities include improving student mental health, recruiting and retaining teachers, and promoting evidence-based literacy instruction.



Schapmann



Leahy



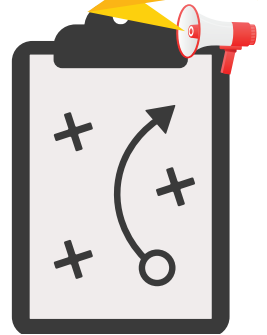
Beaty



Habe



Rieken



Departures, and retirement lead to changes

After a 30-year career at NSEA, longtime Government Relations Political Field Operations Associate Cathy Schapmann retired on July 31, 2024. Throughout her tenure, Schapmann played a pivotal role in NSEA's political success by tracking thousands of legislative bills, and acting as a trusted advisor to NSEA staff and governance leaders. Her deep knowledge of the political landscape made her

a respected individual within the organization. Taking over for Schapmann is Eamonn Leahy, a recent University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) graduate. Leahy has a degree in political science and has most recently worked at Kissel Kohout ES Associates.

NSEA Comptroller Kami Beaty resigned in April after six years with NSEA. Michaela Habe and Jennifer Rieken were hired to head

up the accounting and business services department for the association. In her previous role, Habe worked as associate director of business services at UNL. She was hired in May as NSEA's director of accounting. Rieken was hired in June as director of business services. Rieken's most previous role was as vice president of administration and finance at Peru State College.

Free Simply Swine Fact Sheet!

Attention, middle school and high school educators: Nebraska pig farmers have created a worksheet just for your students.

This four-page worksheet, *Simply Swine*, gives your students the opportunity to learn fun facts about pigs, identify breeds, be able to distinguish between facts and “hogwash,” learn pork jargon, and identify the section of the pig that gives us our favorite pork products. Plus, they'll get a recipe for grilling a tasty pork burger.

The Nebraska Pork Producers Association is proud to offer this educational resource for FREE!

Order your *Simply Swine* worksheets today by scanning this QR code or visiting neporkeducation.com




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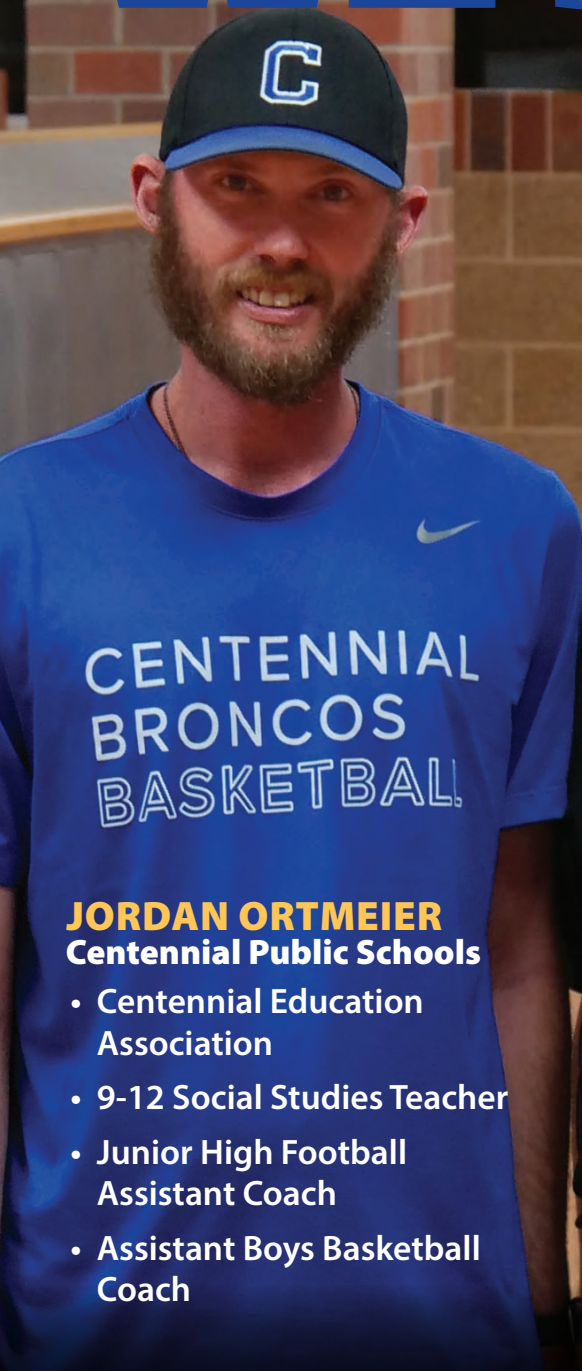
Have Your Contact Details Changed?

Have you moved? Are you planning to move? Has your name changed? If so, you can update your NSEA membership information online.

How? Log on to the NSEA website and click on the 'For Members' on the top right side of the home page.

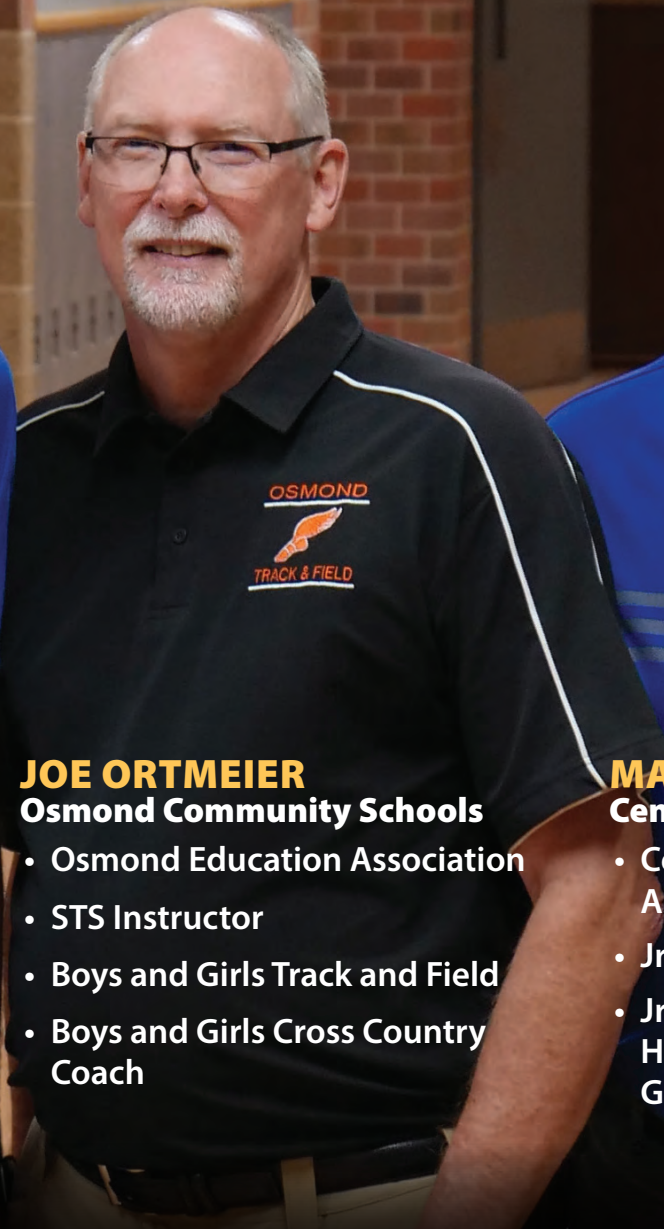
Then click on the blue 'Member Update' button in the center of the next screen, and follow directions. Keep your issue of *The Voice* near, as the mailing label includes your membership number, used to access your information. The NSEA website is at: www.nsea.org.

WE BELONG ^{x2}



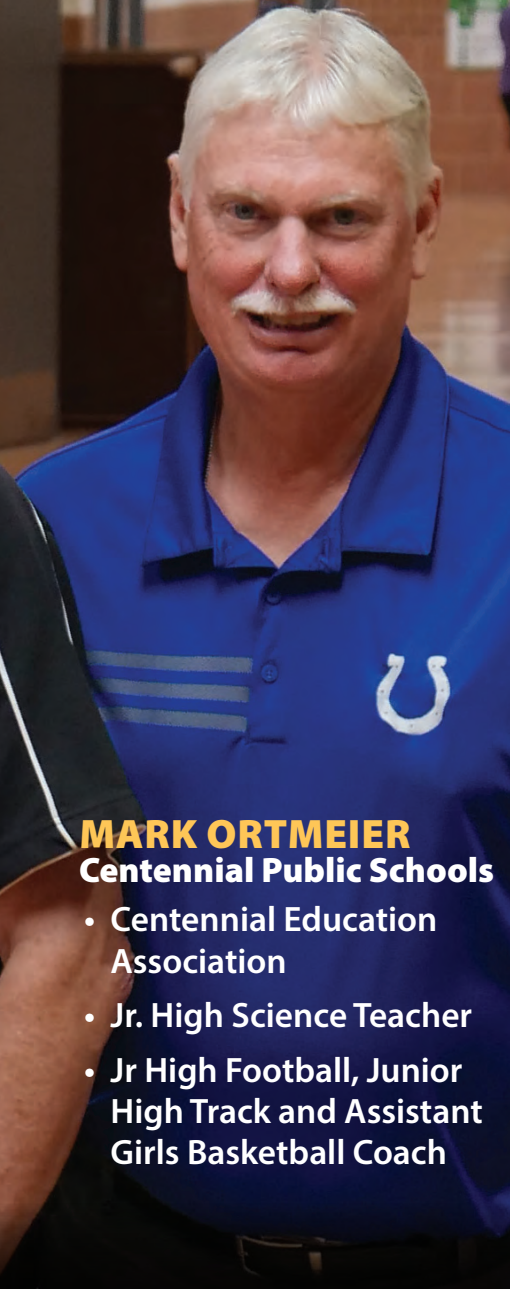
JORDAN ORTMEIER
Centennial Public Schools

- Centennial Education Association
- 9-12 Social Studies Teacher
- Junior High Football Assistant Coach
- Assistant Boys Basketball Coach



JOE ORTMEIER
Osmond Community Schools

- Osmond Education Association
- STS Instructor
- Boys and Girls Track and Field
- Boys and Girls Cross Country Coach



MARK ORTMEIER
Centennial Public Schools

- Centennial Education Association
- Jr. High Science Teacher
- Jr High Football, Junior High Track and Assistant Girls Basketball Coach

From Lesson Plans to Game Plans, this Nebraska family of educators is bridging teacher and coaching success through the opportunities provided by both NSEA and NCA memberships. Jordan Ortmeier is carrying on the family tradition in the classroom and on the court following in the footsteps of his father, Mark Ortmeier and his uncle, Joe Ortmeier.

Belonging to NSEA and NCA helps you be the best educator and coach you can be. Find out more, and join today: www.nsea.org



Nebraska State Education Association
605 South 14th Street • Lincoln, Nebraska 68508
www.nsea.org • (800) 742-0047



“A New Era in Professional Development”



Introducing the Nebraska Collaborative Learning Network

The Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) is excited to unveil the Nebraska Collaborative Learning Network (NCLN), an initiative designed to transform professional development for educators statewide. Hosted by the Innovative and Learning Centric Initiatives (ILCI) department at the University of Nebraska-Omaha (UNO), NCLN aims to become a key resource in enhancing educator effectiveness. It provides a wide range of experiential learning opportunities through micro-credential professional development courses tailored specifically for Nebraska's educational community.

The Nebraska Collaborative Learning Network (NCLN) prioritizes high-quality, locally designed content to ensure that professional development is relevant and applicable within Nebraska's educational landscape. This local focus guarantees that learning experiences are directly aligned with the specific needs of educators in the state. NCLN is committed to staying at the forefront of educational innovation by continuously integrating the latest trends, technologies, and pedagogical strategies to ensure Nebraska's educators are equipped with the most current knowledge and tools.

NCLN offers flexible, just-in-time learning opportunities tailored to the demanding schedules of educators, allowing them to engage in professional development at their convenience. By providing high-quality, locally designed content, NCLN ensures that learning experiences are relevant and applicable within Nebraska's educational context. The program addresses the unique needs of Nebraska's educators by focusing on contemporary challenges and opportunities

in education. Emphasizing a competency-based approach, NCLN aims to enhance teaching capabilities through practical skills that educators can immediately apply in their classrooms and schools.

A key feature of NCLN is its ability to promote networking among educators, facilitating the sharing of insights, strategies, and best practices. The networking component nurtures a continuous learning community, leading to more effective school environments and improved student outcomes by creating a vibrant learning community dedicated to continuous learning and support. The platform will serve as a vehicle to engage educators in structured discussions about key indicators of highly effective schools. Additionally, it focuses on context-specific problem-solving to transform challenges into opportunities. This initiative not only fosters collaboration among participants but is also developed and will continue to evolve through the joint efforts of various organizations. These include school districts, educational service units, higher education institutions, and the Nebraska Department of Education. Each organization plays a vital role in designing and refining the professional development experiences provided by NCLN.

The Nebraska Collaborative Learning Network is more than just a professional development resource; it is a transformative initiative poised to elevate the entire educational landscape of Nebraska. We invite all educators to embrace this opportunity and join us on this exciting journey so be on the lookout for more information in the very near future!



About the authors: This article was coauthored by Dr. Julie Downing, Dr. Tami Williams and Ryan Ricenbaw. Dr. Downing is an Educator Effectiveness Specialist with the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE). Ricenbaw is a Leadership and Learning Network Specialist with NDE. Williams is an Associate Professor of Educational Leadership and University of Omaha.

Palmer Member Receives Travelers Award for Teaching Excellence

Palmer Education Association member Brenda Thompson is the recipient of the 2025 NEA Foundation Travelers Award for Teaching Excellence.

Thompson will be honored nationally at the NEA Foundation's Salute to Excellence in Education Gala, February 14, 2025, in Washington, D.C.

Five of the top awardees will be named Horace Mann Awardees - and one will be chosen for the highest honor, the NEA Member Benefits Award. The five finalists will each receive \$10,000 and be featured in a short documentary highlighting their teaching practice. The educator selected for the top honor will be revealed at the Salute to Excellence in Education and receive \$25,000.

Thompson received NSEA's Award for Teaching Excellence at the 2024 Delegate Assembly. The award recognizes an educator for their outstanding teaching, advancement of student learning, advocacy for the education profession, and leadership among colleagues. Thompson's colleagues say she always goes above and beyond the call of duty, seeking innovative ways to engage students and ignite passion in the classroom. Her creativity for the curriculum has transformed her classroom into castles and covered wagons. She understands that, in a small school, it takes all hands on deck to make things happen. She has boundless enthusiasm and a welcoming spirit that makes her a role model in every sense of the word.



Thompson

OEA Member Attends Nat'l STEM Program

An Omaha Education Association member was selected as one of nine educators from across the U.S. to participate in the National STEM Scholar Program in May.

Sarah Nelson Wiese, a teacher at Bryan Middle School, was chosen to attend the professional development program, which provides advanced STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) training and project support for middle school science teachers nationwide.

The National STEM Scholar Program was created by a partnership between the National Stem Cell Foundation and the Gatton Academy of Mathematics and Science at Western Kentucky University. It selects teachers each year from a national pool of applicants based on their description of a project the applicant would implement in the classroom if funds were available.

STEM Scholars convened at Western Kentucky University for a week of advanced STEM training and finalize their projects with input from their STEM Scholar class colleagues.

"Being part of the National STEM Scholar Program allows for close collaboration with passionate and curious educators, which is an invaluable resource," Wiese said.

The selected educators come from eight states including Nebraska, Kansas, Texas, Florida, Illinois, Alabama, Maine and Kentucky.

"We added education to our mission and partnered with the Gatton Academy in 2015 to support the development of a new generation of scientists in academic research, advanced technology and infrastructure engineering," said Dr. Paula Grisanti, CEO of the National Stem Cell Foundation, in the release. "Supporting teachers who inspire and motivate middle school students at this critical decision-making age will directly impact how many choose to pursue the STEM skills essential for living-wage jobs."

Educators: This two in one Bingo! card game is a fun way to teach second through fifth graders about the many useful items made from pig and soybean by-products. The "Pork" game is on one side of the card, the "Soy" game on the other. The free Bingo kit includes game tokens, worksheets, call-out-cards, and a classroom poster.

The Nebraska Pork Producers Association is proud to offer this educational resource and several others, all available to you for **FREE**.

Order your Bingo! kit today by visiting neporkeducation.com or scan the QR code.

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TRISH GUINAN

Message from the Executive Director

Our Different Roles

Educators, coaches and parents share a common responsibility to support students in their learning, growth, and respect for others. In my role as Executive Director, I lean on my experiences as a parent, a former educator and my time as a coach to help guide decisions within the Association. In September, I was approached by Nebraska Coaches Association (NCA) Executive Director Darin Boysen regarding a project to encourage collaboration between parents and coaches in education-based athletics within schools and communities. NCA has partnered with Proactive Coaching to give in-person presentations at schools directly to parents. The 45-minute presentation is called “The Role of Parents in Education-Based Athletics.” After reviewing the program and hearing positive feedback from multiple Nebraska education organizations, NSEA has added its name to the long list of groups endorsing the program.

A Different Perspective

I have witnessed firsthand how the landscape has changed for coaches. In my previous role as Director of Advocacy, I worked with members who turned to NSEA for support, whether it was dealing with a parent upset about their child’s playing time or a community of dissatisfied fans voicing complaints to the local school board. This is, of course, based on my perspective. “The Role of Parents in Education-Based Athletics” excels in how it challenges the audience to see from the perspective of the athlete. Boysen even joked that the presentation could have been titled, “Parents: What your son/daughter would really like to tell you about their athletic experience, but probably won’t.” The presentation is based on more than three decades of research by legendary coach Bruce

Brown of Proactive Coaching. It requires openness and the ability to momentarily set aside your own beliefs or experiences to understand the athlete’s point of view and consider their reasoning.

Setting Expectations

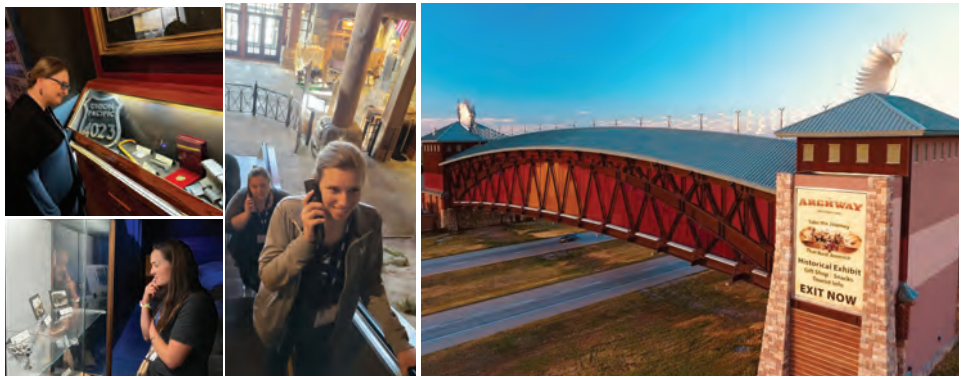
To head off potential conflicts, the program offers time for parents to reflect on their own expectations of their student-athlete. It then challenges them to align those expectations with those of their son or daughter.

By explicitly setting these to align, misunderstandings can be avoided. Clear expectations means that parents and their student-athlete have a unified approach when it comes to discipline, teamwork and time management both in the classroom and on the field. The program also addresses when it is appropriate to discuss concerns with a coach. Parents and coaches often notice different aspects of a student’s performance, behavior and well-being. Setting guidelines for parent-coach communication means both parties are held accountable for meeting those standards. When teachers, coaches, and parents work as a team, they can help instill a sense of responsibility, respect, and resilience in students.

Our Common Goal

The NCA and NSEA are committed to offering consistent guidance and reinforcement of values like teamwork both in the classroom and on the field. NSEA is pleased to offer its endorsement of this important presentation. I look forward to offering “The Role of Parents in Education-Based Athletics” to our members to create a comprehensive support network between teacher-coaches, parents and student-athletes.

“
Setting expectations for parent-coach communication means both parties are held accountable for meeting those standards.
”



Last chance to Register for the Fall Conference!

The **NSEA-Retired Fall Conference** will be held Oct. 17 at the Kearney Archway. This annual conference will feature breakout sessions both in the morning and afternoon. Attendees will explore how artificial intelligence (AI) technologies are reshaping educational practices and delve into the potential benefits of AI in the classroom.

Special guest Nebraska Commissioner of Education Dr. Brian Maher will reflect on his first year at the helm of Nebraska public

schools and his plan for the future of education in the state.

Members will take a tour of the Kearney Archway and learn about the rich history of the Oregon Trail, Mormon Trail, and California/49-ers Trail which all converged at Fort Kearny.

Registration is available at www.nsea.org/retired. The event is free for all members and \$10 for guests. Registration and refreshments will begin at 8:30 a.m. **The deadline for registration is October 10.**

NSEA-Retired members who wish to become more active and engaged in the Association are encouraged to attend this inaugural event. Attendees will receive detailed information on NSEA-Retired membership and leadership opportunities. Travel expenses, including mileage, hotel accommodations, and meals, will be covered. Further details will be communicated via email and at the NSEA-Retired Fall Conference in Kearney.



Fall Seminars Offered for NSEA-Retired members

NSEA-Retired has partnered with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Nebraska to host seminars in October and November to provide information about Medicare and the Educators' Medicare Supplement.

The Educators' Medicare Supplement is available to those sliding over from an EHA plan as well as NSEA-Retired members and spouses. Seminar dates and places are listed in the chart provided. Visit Nebraskablue.com/NSEASeminars to register for in-person or online events at least one week prior to the date you plan to attend. Although there is no cost, registration is required and a valid email address is needed.

After the conclusion of the seminar, a copy of the webinars will be available online at www.echaplan.org/retiree-info and www.nsea.org/retired selecting Retirement & Insurance.

Blue Cross Blue Shield Nebraska In-Person Sessions	
Morning sessions: 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. (check in at 9 a.m.)	
Afternoon sessions: 1:30 p.m. – 3 p.m. (check in at 1 p.m.)	
Kearney	Monday, Oct. 28 Educational Service Unit 10 – Room B, (76 Plaza Boulevard, Kearney)
Lincoln	Monday, Nov. 4 Jack J. Huck Continuing Education Center – Rooms 303 and 304, (301 South 68th Street Place)
Norfolk	Thursday, Nov. 7 Northeast Community College – Lifelong Learning Center, Suites F and G, (701 East Benjamin Avenue)
Omaha	Monday, Nov. 11 Omaha Public Schools Teacher Admin. Center (TAC) Board Room, (3215 Cuming Street)
Webinars:	
Wednesday, Oct. 30, at 10 a.m.	
Wednesday, Nov. 6, at 2 p.m.	
Tuesday, Nov. 12, at 5 p.m.	

EDUCATING

FUTURE

EDUCATORS

20%

**OF ADMINISTRATORS
IN NEBRASKA
have degrees from UNL**

1 IN 5

**OF ALL
teachers are from
UNL statewide**

1 IN 4

**NEW
TEACHERS
came from UNL**

Teaching, Learning and Teacher Education

Article By: Deann Gayman, UNL

Nearly one in four new teachers in the state of Nebraska earned their degree from UNL.

The university is the top producer of educators in the state. According to data from the Nebraska Department of Education, from 2015 to 2022, 24% of first-year teachers are graduates of UNL, followed by the University of Nebraska at Kearney at 18%. Overall, UNL grads comprised 17% of all Nebraska teachers in 2023. Of the 27,514 K-12 teachers employed during the 2022-23 school year across the state, 4,733 have a UNL degree. This trend is seen in public school administration as well. One in five of all principals, superintendents, assistant principals and assistant superintendents are UNL grads.

The University of Nebraska system has produced 45% of all educators teaching in Nebraska public schools and 62% of the top administrators.

The contributions of the university in developing K-12 educators are seen in Nebraska's rankings at number 14 and number 9 for public education by U.S. News and World Report and

WalletHub, respectively.

The journey to become an educator for a UNL student starts almost immediately in a K-12 classroom, said Loukia Sarroub, professor and chair in the Department of Teaching, Learning and Teacher Education in the College of Education and Human Sciences. "There are five practicums, and one is a pre-professional practicum, and that happens during their freshman or sophomore year," Sarroub said. "Our UNL students are placed in a school with a practicum supervisor right away so that they can be sure that teaching is what they want to do, and they begin thinking like a professional in the school setting."

More practicums follow, depending on whether a students will go into elementary or secondary education. Practicums typically mean two to

five half-days in classrooms each week during a semester, and some practicums include two full days. Aspiring teachers at UNL commit to as many as 600 classroom hours

before graduation, including a final semester of student teaching, and a robust 120 credit hours of coursework.

"Everyone has had a teacher who changed their lives — every farmer, parent, banker, engineer, doctor and neighbor," said Nick Pace, interim

dean of the College of Education and Human Sciences. "We might not realize their influence or the things they taught us until many years later, but the impact of great teachers is undeniable. Preparing committed, resilient, passionate educators is foundational to our college and to the kind of future we want to live in."

"Everyone has had a teacher who changed their lives — every farmer, parent, banker, engineer, doctor and neighbor."

—Nick Pace, interim dean of the College of Education

In Memory

We recognize these members whom we've lost recently.

Tom Black, 88, West Point

Carole Boice, 88, Omaha

Phyllis G. Smith, 88, Omaha

Woodrow Dillman, 77, Omaha

Alvin Christensen, 83, Imperial

Mailed By: **The Nebraska State Education Association**
605 S. 14th St., Lincoln, NE 68508-2742

TOP REASONS TO REPEAL LB1402



Visit SupportOurSchoolsNebraska.org

01 The millions of public funds sent to private schools under LB1402 would otherwise be available to support local public schools.

02 Nebraska taxpayers cannot afford to fund two separate school systems. Property taxes are high enough already.

03 Public schools serve 9 out of every 10 kids in Nebraska. We must prioritize staffing and funding for our local public schools.

04 In other states, voucher programs like the one created by LB1402 have ballooned the costs to taxpayers.

05 LB1402 is inequitable. Private schools can discriminate against kids and families – they can pick and choose which children they want to enroll.

06 More than half of Nebraska's 93 counties do not even have a private school.

VOTE REPEAL REFERENDUM #435 – LB1402'S
PRIVATE SCHOOL "SCHOLARSHIP" SCHEME

Say **NO** to using public funds to pay for private schools.
Keep Public Funds for Public Schools.

VOTE TO REPEAL LB1402!