Hello, my name is Maggie Huttlinger and I am running for the National Education Association Student Program Chair. The NEA SP Chairperson serves a two year term in Washington DC and works at organizing and empowering aspiring educators in higher education to become the future of union leadership.

After serving as a student representative on the NEA Board of Directors for two years, on the Advisory Committee of Student Members, Chairperson of the Illinois Education Association Student Program, and president of my local chapter, I realized that my work with the student program has just begun. Together we will expand membership and increase participation of college students in the program to unite and empower rising leaders in the teaching profession. At a time when our nation is facing a critical teacher shortage, we need to change the narrative of what it means to be an educator. I cannot wait to be a teacher, however I know that this program deserves a seasoned leader with proven local, state, and national experiences. The Student Program is the future of educators and it is time to empower our voice!

The chairperson position is not there to speak for others, but to raise and empower your voice. Leadership does not start at the national level, but with you. Each one of your experiences that lead you to be here today are drastically different, and we need those diverse voices to be heard in order to move this program forward. I am running for the Student Program Chair because our voice matters. **Together, we can make a difference.**