As a Latina woman in a culture with expanding diversity, I am familiar with the intricacies of being a minority while effectively participating with the majorities. By identifying myself as a productive member of society instead of simply a minority, I’ve been able overcome many invisible barriers that so many minorities experience. After spending a considerable amount of time at my mother’s beauty salon, I learned that I had an uncanny ability to connect with others. I also met people from all walks of life, and later in my own life this helped me realize that the only thing holding back minorities are themselves. Effective communication, education and self-confidence are needed to succeed in the world. Understanding others is paramount to being understood by others, and this can only be accomplished through effective communication. Since I speak both English and Spanish, I’ve noticed how much can be lost in translation. This phenomenon has helped me to develop a keen understanding of what is said, compared to what is meant in conversation. My name is Ashley Stephanie Villalta and I would love nothing more than to be a part of NEA’s Resolution Committee. My platform is effective communication, sharing knowledge and understanding others.