



Great Public Schools
for Every Student

1201 16th St., N.W. | Washington, DC 20036 | Phone: (202) 833-4000

Lily Eskelsen García
President

Rebecca S. Pringle
Vice President

Princess R. Moss
Secretary-Treasurer

John C. Stocks
Executive Director

January 23, 2018

Fred van Leeuwen, Secretary General
Susan Hopgood, President
Education International
5, Bd du Roi Albert II, 1210 Brussels
Belgium

Dear Fred and Susan;

It is both a pleasure and an honor to celebrate the 25th anniversary of Education International (EI). As a founding member, NEA is proud of the progress and impact EI has had around the globe. The world has come to know us as fierce and fair advocates for education unions, human rights, and quality public education.

Over the last 25 years, we have embraced our common goals of education and opportunity for all. Today, the children of the world depend upon all of the adults in our global village to create the kind of world, and the kind of institutions, that will help those children to thrive and learn. This is our mission – it is the reason that Education International exists.

We also celebrate General Secretary, Fred van Leeuwen, who is retiring this year. Fred has led EI with distinction and a vision of a unified voice around the issues that matter most to our education professions and unions. He has always reminded us that the more we recognize the interconnectivity of our lives, our struggles and our victories, whether in our schools, union halls, negotiating tables, and town squares, the greater will be our potential to collectively enact the kind of transformative global change that we seek.

Moving forward, we must continue to lead in the global labor movement by demanding and defending equality for all educators everywhere. We can never remain silent or idle. It remains our duty to continue to take ownership of our professions for the betterment of students, parents and community members, instead of being the convenient scapegoat by free market zealots who see commodities where we see public good, and profits where we see rights.

Again, congratulations EI, on 25 years of success!

Sincerely,

Lily Eskelsen Garcia
President, National Education Association
Vice President, Education International