10 Things You Should Know About NEA Higher Ed
When you join your local association or union of faculty, staff, or graduate employees, you also become a member of your state and national associations. Your membership in the National Education Association builds our strength and effectiveness. Together, as NEA Higher Ed, we:

**1. PROVIDE THE POWER OF NUMBERS!**
With 3 million members, NEA is the largest labor union in the U.S., representing more than 225,000 faculty, staff, and graduate students, including thousands at Historically Black and College Universities (HBCUs). Our collective voice is felt from coast to coast—from research universities in Maine to community colleges in Washington State to HBCUs in Florida, Alabama, Louisiana, Missouri, and more.

**2. EXERT A VOICE ON CAPITOL HILL.**
Our higher-ed members and lobbyists are fighting hard for a new Higher Education Act that ensures students’ right to a high-quality, affordable education. We also are influencing the conversation around faculty research, college access for poor and minority students, and fair funding for HBCUs.

**3. DELIVER THE EXPERTISE YOU NEED:**
NEA’s organizers, researchers, policy analysts, lobbyists, attorneys, and communication specialists can help with on-campus organizing, using financial and policy analysis during bargaining, and more.

**4. SUPPLY TOP-NOTCH LEGAL SUPPORT:**
Our legal service protects members subject to dismissal or severe sanctions, and covers every member with a $1 million liability policy. NEA counsel has addressed the Supreme Court on behalf of academic freedom and affirmative action in admissions, and has weighed in with the National Labor Relations Board on the rights of graduate employees.

**5. HELP YOU BE A BETTER EDUCATOR:**
NEA Higher Ed members learn from each other in the online EdCommunities, which hosts regular webinars. Also, NEA’s partnership with the higher-ed Professional and Organizational Development (POD) Network has produced a robust library of “Thriving in Academe” guides.

**6. HONE YOUR LEADERSHIP SKILLS:**
NEA provides a variety of training opportunities and resources, including advanced leadership training and workshops at the NEA Higher Education Conference.

**7. KEEP YOU INFORMED:**
NEA Higher Ed members get the scoop through the newsletter NEA Advocate and its email companion, the eAdvocate; the peer-reviewed journal Thought & Action, which members write and referee; and the NEA Almanac of Higher Education, which offers the latest in higher-ed research.

**8. LEAD THE WAY ON PROGRESSIVE POLICY:**
Recently, NEA leaders voted to dedicate their resources to fighting for racial justice at every level of education. In 2016, the NEA Representative Assembly also re-affirmed their support for HBCUs and the vital role they play in “building a truly pluralistic society,” and resolved to be at the “forefront of all efforts that seek to support, maintain, and promote these invaluable institutions, their programs...”

**9. INVITE YOU TO GET TOGETHER:**
The NEA Higher Ed Conference, which has gathered educators for more than 30 years, offers workshops in organizing, bargaining, policy, and more.

**10. SAVE YOU MONEY:**
Maybe you don’t join a union for hefty discounts at restaurants, hotels, and car rentals…but NEA Member Benefits also offers financial services around home ownership, student loan repayment, and retirement planning, plus member rates on life, auto, and home insurance, and access to the NEA long-term care program.

For more information, visit nea.org/he.