

Human and Civil Rights Award Winner

Reaching out to the Immigrant Community, Helping Students and Families

◆ Education Austin ◆ *Local Affiliate*

Rosena J. Willis Memorial Award



Education Austin is a National Education Association/Texas State Teachers Association local that truly embodies NEA's commitment to social justice activism. Education Austin understands that success in creating a great public school for every child involves the fostering of inclusive learning environments, positive home environments, and strong communities. Every child deserves the opportunity to learn and thrive.

One of the ways Education Austin has demonstrated this is through its work on the issues of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and the Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors (Dream) Act.

With a \$40,000 Minority Community Organizing and Partnerships (MCOP) grant from the NEA, Education Austin has been a dynamic leader, organizing a year-long campaign focused on informing the immigrant community in Austin about the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals–DACA–the executive action taken by President Obama to keep long-term undocumented immigrants from being deported. Education Austin's DACA clinics educate families and include but are not limited to helping hundreds of students fill out DACA paperwork.

With the tenacity and commitment of members like Montserrat Garibay, National Board Certified Teacher and Vice President of certified employees for Education Austin, and educators Carolyn Sweet and Stacy Smith, the implementation of the MCOP grant has seen great success. Education Austin's members truly embody the definition of passion and dedication with commitment to improving the lives of immigrant families.

Today, Education Austin and community partners have provided over 35 education forums and 8 DACA clinics to help over 235 dreamers apply for DACA. "The clinics take place in neighborhood schools, reinforcing the central role that the school plays in the lives of our communities and what that role looks like at its best—a collective powerhouse whose sphere of influence reach beyond the confines of schoolroom walls," says Texas State Teachers Association President, Noel Candelaria. "The vision of the TSTA is one of powerhouse locals who engage, organize, and lead in shaping great public schools. Education Austin is one of those locals, and I am honored to recommend them for the Rosena J. Willis Memorial Award."