



# ***Unite, Inspire, Lead*** **Our Students, Our Union, Our Future**

Building NEA: How to guide the Future of Our Association through the Student Program

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# NEA Strategic Goal & NEA Organizational Priority:



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- NEA Strategic Goal
  - Goal 1: Strong Affiliates for Educator Voice and Empowerment
- NEA Organizational Priority
  - Early Career Educators

# NEA Leadership Competency



- **Leading Our Professions:**
  - Level 3: agenda driving: builds a culture of professionalism that illustrates the association’s commitment to continuous learning.”
  - Advocates for quality inside our professions and promotes our union's role in advancing education transformation and student learning.
- **Organizing:**
  - Level 3: advocates for new and diverse member strategies and actively supports leadership succession planning”

# Session Outcomes

- The content from this session can be used in the following ways in your current position/role:
  - To create and strengthen community relationships.
  - To develop, strengthen, and grow your local association as well as a university chapter.
  - To prepare the teachers who will likely be hired within your schools and join your local.
  - Ultimately support your students by developing and strengthening teachers.

# Ten Questions about the Student Program

  
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Kahoot: 845388

[Play!](#)



# NEA bylaws:

## Article I, Section 2 states:

*“The purpose of the Association shall be to develop in prospective educators an understanding of the education profession, to provide for a united student voice in matters affecting their profession, to influence the conditions under which prospective educators are prepared, to advance the interests and welfare of students preparing for a career in education, to promote and protect human and civil rights, and to stimulate the highest ideals of professional ethics, standards, and attitudes.”*

# Support

Going into education is a difficult choice for many aspiring educators; it is becoming even more difficult in the current climate.

Aspiring educators need experienced mentors encouraging and guiding them through our challenging profession.

# Connection

One of the strongest aspects of the Student Program is the social, connected aspect on campus.

Student program members seek connections to other educators as they find their identity and “flavor” of teaching and community impact.



# Mentorship

- 50% of educators will leave their classroom before ten years of experience
- Baby Boomers are beginning to retire
  - Largest generation of educators
  - Share best practices, guide, and shape new generations of educators
  - “Look back”
- We need best practices, practical advice, and information

# Help! I Need Somebody!

Now that we know a little bit about the program, let's figure out what they need.

## *ACTIVITY:*

*Brainstorm ways aspiring educators need supported. What are problems they could encounter which we can support them around?*

# Problems We Encounter

- Training outside teacher prep programs
- Pedagogy vs. mastery of practice
  - Practical skills in education
- Guidance in becoming an educator
  - Outdated content or professors who haven't taught in a long time
- Funding
  - Campus fundraising
- Event Ideas
- Political Awareness & Engagement

# So, what can you do?

  
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This is why the NEA Student Program is so important.

We are creating the future of our association, education, and ultimately – our students – the future of our country.

If NEA Student Membership became synonymous with being a highly qualified educator?

# What is an Advisor?



**YOU!**

**YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORK ON A COLLEGE CAMPUS OR  
HAVE A STUDENT TEACHER TO SUPPORT STUDENT  
MEMBERS.**

# Anyone can be a Mentor

- Reach out to your alma mater
- Support, attend, and offer events to your local college ed program
  - Free professional development & best practices
  - Ultimately helps our students if we are helping aspiring educators become more prepared and highly qualified
- These students are preparing as professionals
  - They need and deserve to be treated as such
- Invite them to union meetings
  - Practical and beneficial
  - Likely to become members of your local

# Any Campus Employee: Chapter Advisor

- You don't have to work in an education department
- Students need a person who works at the college or university
  - Help plan and guide
  - Support your local community
  - “Sign up for rooms.”
  - Help smooth through administrative work in being a campus organization
  - Provide continuity & concern for chapter's health

# Work Work Work Work Work

NO!

- Distributive leadership
  - Emboldening student members to own their organization
  - They do all of the work with your *support*
- You are the contact on campus & offer input
  - Reach out to the local unions at the neighboring K-12 schools
    - Create partnerships,
    - Presenters & best practices
    - Practical experience for student members
- Relationship building



# Organizing Conversations

As an active member, we need your guidance in developing as leaders & how to organize.

- Relationship Building
- Elevator pitch
- One-on-One Conversations
- “The Ask”
  - Build Up
  - Discussion → Education → Advocacy & Action
- Distributive Leadership
  - Empowering leaders to own the organization and create the type of chapter they want which reflects their interests

# So, how do you get started?



**IT'S EASY!**

# Reach Out

- **Connect**
  - Alma mater,
  - Local college
  - Students in field placements
- **The NEA Student Program is here to help**
  - Resources, ideas, events, existing chapters
  - NEA Student Program Chair will help organize & train leadership
  - Guidelines and materials to assist
  - Grants & leadership opportunities
- **Previous student chapter re-activated**
- **With an advisor ready to go, the rest is easy**

# Ideas!

## Three Core Values

Teacher  
Quality

Community  
Outreach

Political  
Action

### ACTIVITY:

*Brainstorm ways we can work with student members and organize around their interests.*

Social organization which allows your impact on the future of education

# Brain Storm, Share Out!

- **Teacher Quality**
  - Alumni or Local Association Panels
  - Guest Speakers
  - Professors discussing best practices
  - Conferences
- **Community Outreach**
  - Partnering with Elderly Homes
  - After school Tutoring
  - Partnering with Local Schools Campus “Parties”
- **Political Action**
  - Local Candidates (School Board)
  - Discussing how politics impact education & importance of being involved
- **Mentorship of alumni, active, or retired members**
- **Fundraisers**
  - Family Feud
  - Pie Professor/ Buy a piece of Tape
  - Parking Passes

# Questions, Comments, Concerns



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We are the present. We are the future.

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# Session Outcomes

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# Evaluation

- Please complete the evaluation for this breakout session!
- Please visit the Leadership Development Resources website at [www.nea.org/leadershipdevelopment](http://www.nea.org/leadershipdevelopment)