



NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

Human and Civil Rights Awards

**ROSENA J. WILLIS
MEMORIAL AWARD
(LOCAL AFFILIATE)**



Rosena J. Willis (1926-1970), a displaced Black teacher, lost her job when her school district in Virginia closed all public schools rather than desegregate. Joining the NEA staff, Ms. Willis worked diligently to implement the NEA merger with the American Teachers Association. A superb facilitator and organizer, Ms. Willis helped the NEA as well as its state and local affiliates bring minority members into the work and leadership of the association.

NEA presents two Rosena J. Willis Memorial Awards to affiliates that involve NEA members in advocacy for minority students and families, minority parent involvement in schools, and minority community outreach. The state affiliate award is presented in odd-numbered years, and the local affiliate award in even-numbered years.

Local Affiliate Award (presented in even-numbered years)

To be eligible for the local affiliate award, the nominated local affiliate must meet one or more of the following criteria:

1. Involve more minority members in the work and leadership of the association by providing them an opportunity for leadership training and encouraging their activism in local association committees and campaigns.
2. Provide NEA members with the opportunity to become activists in the human and civil rights movement of our day, especially in the battles where the health and well-being of minority students and their families are at stake.
3. Involve NEA members in the fight for ethnic studies and immigrant rights as well as in initiatives that champion pre-school and kindergarten for all minority students, smaller class sizes, and tutoring for any student who falls behind in her/his studies.
4. Establish outreach programs in which NEA members listen to minority families, connect with them, and then help them become more involved in the education of their children.
5. Promote the teaching of social justice in our schools to students, and in in-service and pre-service training for educators and in association training for members.



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Criteria Eligibility Form

Explain how the nominee meets one or more of the following criteria:

1. *Involve more minority members in the work and leadership of the association by providing them an opportunity for leadership training and encouraging their activism in local association committees and campaigns.*
2. *Provide NEA members with the opportunity to become activists in the human and civil rights movement of our day, especially in the battles where the health and well-being of minority students and their families are at stake.*
3. *Involve NEA members in the fight for ethnic studies and immigrant rights as well as in initiatives that champion pre-school and kindergarten for all minority students, smaller class sizes, and tutoring for any student who falls behind in her/his studies.*

