



NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

Human and Civil Rights Awards

**ROSENA J. WILLIS
MEMORIAL AWARD
(STATE 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.

State Affiliate Award (presented in odd-numbered years)

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

1. Encourage and assist local associations in implementing one or more of the criteria cited in the Local Affiliate Award.
2. Successfully involve more minority members in the work and leaderships of the association.
3. Establish your organization as one of the leading advocates for minority students and families in your state, especially in regard to closing achievement gaps, reducing drop outs, and increasing access to college.
4. Forge cooperative working relationships with other groups in your states that are fighting for NEA's core values of equal opportunity and a just society for all.
5. Sow the seeds of human and civil rights activism among your members by promoting the inclusion of social justice education in in-service and pre-service programs as well as in association training.



ROSENA J. WILLIS MEMORIAL AWARD (STATE AFFILIATE)

Criteria Eligibility Form

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

1. *Encourage and assist local associations in implementing one or more of the criteria cited in the Local Affiliate Award.*
2. *Successfully involve more minority members in the work and leaderships of the association.*
3. *Establish your organization as one of the leading advocates for minority students and families in your state, especially in regard to closing achievement gaps, reducing drop outs, and increasing access to college.*
4. *Forge cooperative working relationships with other groups in your states that are fighting for NEA's core values of equal opportunity and a just society for all.*
5. *Sow the seeds of human and civil rights activism among your members by promoting the inclusion of social justice education in in-service and pre-service programs as well as in association training.*