Becoming a 21st Century ESP Leader
*Note, this is a two day workshop and runs 9am – 5pm on 3/19 and 8am – 12pm on 3/20.

Education support professionals who understand their roles as leaders not only enhance the capacity of their association, but they also enhance their professional excellence, regardless of their career family. For ESPs, gaining new skills has a residual impact on the students, families and communities where they work. This impact provides an opportunity to discuss the value of using the NEA Leadership Competency Framework and Professional Growth Continuum (PGC) in their practice. * Please note this session runs both Thursday and Friday. If you select this workshop, you must attend both days.

In this session, participants will self-assess their current set of leadership competencies and level of professional growth across universal standards, determine strengths and weaknesses, and create an individual plan to determine what additional training or experiences they need to achieve their professional goals. This session is for learners of every type at all levels. Participants should expect and commit to continued development beyond the ESP conference. They should also expect to be engaged in pre-work assignments leading up to the session.

Building Resilient Students: ACEs (Adverse Childhood Experiences) Primer

Clear and compelling research from Kaiser Permanente has shown a significant impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) on future health and social issues across the lifespan. With its far-reaching impact within our schools and communities, ACEs has become a national public health crisis. Attend this session to review the brain science behind ACEs and explore universal concepts and frameworks to help foster more resilience in students.

In this session, participants will strengthen their understanding of the ACEs research in order to positively impact student academic and social outcomes. They will learn strategies for practicing self-care to manage their compassion fatigue as a result of caring for others. Finally, participants will learn strategies to assist them in building the positive relationships necessary to help students succeed to the best of their abilities.

Let’s Give Them Something to Talk About: Communications and Message Training for ESPs

People are talking, and in this training we’ll be working on talking to people. Though this session won’t be led by Bonnie Raitt, we're excited to provide you with the tools and confidence needed to effectively and authentically tell your story and your union’s story to fellow members, school boards, or out to the
world on top of any soap box you can find. We’ll be focusing on everything communications – from public speaking and preparing your story of self to talking points and strategic messaging. This isn’t just a listening session, as you will work in breakout groups throughout the workshop, and will leave the room with some new strategies, tools, and ideas that can be executed back home.

**Election 2020: Engage, Mobilize, Lead! Elections Matter**

The 2020 election will have repercussions that will affect our students and schools for decades to come. Educators have the power to make a difference in these elections, but only if we get organized and involved. NEA’s Campaigns & Elections team, along with ESP political activists will lead this session on how to engage, mobilize and lead members to take action around the 2020 election. Participants in this session will learn how to inspire fellow members with their personal stories, recruit members to become volunteers, and train fellow members on how to properly execute crucial election activities like voter contact and event building. This session will provide hands-on training of fundamental organizing tactics and campaign best practices and introduce NEA’s new suite of digital resources that are proven to increase the effectiveness of an organization’s activities.

**Behavior and Social, Emotional and Academic Development: What ESPs Need to Know**

How can ESPs manage and prevent challenging behaviors in the classroom, on the school bus, and in other school environments while promoting a positive school climate and social, emotional, and academic development (SEAD) for students? According to recent research, one in five children today have experienced at least one traumatic event in their life. These experiences, coupled with the understanding that all children perform better academically when they have strong social and emotional skills, underscores the need for learning the principles of SEAD and its relationship to behavior.

This workshop will address the connections among behavior, SEAD, and adverse childhood experiences. Participants will learn universal practices for providing positive behavioral supports and specialized intervention strategies that address challenging behaviors and promote safe and supportive learning environments for students. They will learn and practice research-based strategies for positive behavior change by working through real-life scenarios.

**Talking Race: Grounding Our Understanding to Effectively Talk about Race and Racial Justice**

This session will provide an introduction to the different levels of racism and its impacts on institutions and systems. Participants will learn why a race equity and racial justice lens is critical to the work of everyone on the education team. Interactive activities and tools will be introduced to support the development of a racial analysis, along with basic resources to engage in constructive discussions about race.