

**Rebecca S. Pringle, NEA President
Candidate for NEA President**

During my tenure as NEA President, I worked very closely with both the NCHE President and Officers. We collaborated on efforts to find our way forward during the political attacks that led to membership and revenue losses, as well as the diminishing of our members' rights and the organizations that represent them. The partnership I forged with the leadership of NCHE was invaluable in identifying organizational priorities, and lifting up and investing in the work of our higher education locals and members. As NEA President, I will continue to build on those relationships so we can advance NEA's work to advance the interests and address the concerns of our higher education members.

We cannot be satisfied with the state of Pre-K/12 public education or higher education – from the persistent inequities that make it near impossible for far too many students to go on to college, to the funding crisis that has led to the dwindling state support for public colleges and universities across the nation.

We cannot be satisfied with the growing income inequality, or the assault on higher education as a public good. As President, I will continue to work with our higher education leaders to combat the systemic racial and social injustices affecting our students' ability to learn, and educators' ability to teach. I will work with you to battle the forces pushing for the privatization of education, and those working to erode the rights of both tenured and contingent faculty. I will advocate with you to fight against the attacks on our right to exist as a collective, united voice, and our higher education members' right to tenure, shared governance, and academic freedom. I will lead with you – our faculty and education support staff - to ensure every student has access to an educational system, Pre-K through higher education that supports, promotes and nurtures freedom of thought, diversity, and excellence.

As President, I will work with NCHE on NEA's legislative advocacy initiatives and federal regulations that impact postsecondary education and higher education employment. I will fight for the expanded role of faculty in the governance of two-year and four-year colleges and universities. Additionally, I will further our efforts on Student Debt and College Affordability, through both increased funds for student aid, including the Pell grant program, and well as loan forgiveness. I will promote our work to address the recruitment and retention of educators of color through our partnerships with HBCU's and MSIs, including the development of mentoring programs for students and faculty.

Focus on this segment of our membership will require that we communicate more effectively, train current and future leaders, and address issues important to our higher education members. We also must develop ways to connect members across the country, and around the world, and share best practices and innovations. We must invest in new organizing strategies and technologies that will help us grow our higher education membership, welcome more higher education locals into the NEA family, and increase their involvement in the Association.