

Announcing a Request for Proposals
2024 NEA Higher Education Conference
March 15 -17, 2024
Leadership Day – March 14
Westin Peachtree Plaza Hotel, Atlanta, GA

Education. Democracy. Freedom. *Our Right! Our Responsibility!*
Promoting, Protecting and Strengthening Higher Education

The National Education Association invites your proposals for our in-person 2024 Higher Education Conference. Please [CLICK HERE](#) to access the request for proposals (RFP) form. To qualify for consideration by the conference committee, you *must* submit your proposal on the RFP form and include *all* required information.

Sessions must reflect the conference theme. Priority consideration will be given to sessions that demonstrate one or more of the [NEA Leadership Competencies](#) and: (1) present strategies to overcome the threats to higher education and the challenges to organizing; (2) tell stories of advocacy for the rights of faculty, students, and other stakeholders on campuses, in communities, and in state legislatures; (3) highlight success stories or creative strategies for organizing, bargaining, or communicating with members and potential members; (4) describe unionization or first contract campaigns; or (5) offer professional development to assist our members with current challenges and resources for social and emotional support. *Please explain how your proposal specifically addresses inclusion of one or more of the following groups: women, people of color, LGBTQIA+ individuals and/or early career educators.*

Workshop topics may include:

- ***Organizing Successful Campaigns and Member Recruitment:*** Share tactics and strategies proven to engage members, issue organizing around current threats and opportunities in higher education, e.g., attacks on academic freedom and tenure, dual enrollment, funding
- ***Leadership Identification and Development:*** How locals are identifying leaders and developing their skills.
- ***Bargaining:*** Stories of Bargaining for the Common Good are especially welcome.
- ***Contingent Faculty:*** How locals work toward equity for contingent faculty.
- ***Academic Professional Staff and Education Support Professionals (ESPs):*** Best practices for organizing and engaging members & potential members.
- ***Artificial Intelligence:*** What's happening in higher ed, impacts on higher ed employees in the classroom, on campus, and at the bargaining table
- ***Coalition Building:*** Community and stakeholder organizing, faculty and ESP union collaborations

- **Racial and Social Justice:** Strategies and actions that unions are taking to address inequities in higher education for employees and students.
- **HBCUs and Minority-Serving Institutions:** Funding, organizing, policy issues and advocacy.
- **Data:** Use of data for bargaining, organizing, and member engagement and recruitment efforts.
- **Professional Development:** Use of PD as a values-based organizing tool.

Proposals are due by October 27. We will notify applicants by November 21.

If you have questions regarding the RFP process, please contact Valerie Wilk at vwilk@nea.org.

Presenter funding: NEA will fund one presenter per session and may consider funding a co-presenter in compelling circumstances. Besides waiving the conference registration fee, presenters selected will receive two nights' lodging and transportation to the conference. NEA will reimburse all other travel-related expenses per the guidelines of the approved NEA travel policy.

Thank you,

The NEA Higher Education Conference Planning Committee

Chair: *Mark Jewell (NC), NEA Executive Committee*

Members:

Peggy Hoy (ID)

Zena Link (MA)

Marcia Mackey (MI)

Kashara Moore (CA)

Will Page (CA)

DeWayne Sheaffer (CA)

Stacy Yanko (NJ)