

Saturday, March 13, 2021 (PM)
2021 Virtual NEA National Leadership Summit

CONTENT BLOCK #1: 2:00-3:00 PM EST

2:00pm – 3:00pm	ADV100	ADV	1,2,3	See Educators Run NEA’s See Educators Run program helps educators learn all they need to know about how to run a successful campaign for public office, including how to prepare to become a candidate, fundraise, and communicate with voters. The core components of the See Educators Run program are directly in line with the overall goals and mission of NEA’s core competencies in Advocacy and Leadership as it enables participating members to be part of the decision making bodies that discuss, evaluate and pass policies and legislation that affect the lives of students, their families, and the communities in which they live. This session on the NEA See Educators Run program will present and discuss the core components of the program, criteria for participation, and answer basic questions about running for office. Presenter: Katrina Mendiola
2:00pm – 3:00pm	ADV101	ADV	3	Assessment for Student Learning: Building a Student-Centered Assessment System In this interactive session, participants will explore opportunities to lift and leverage the voice of educators, students, and parents to create steps that can be taken to improve the system of assessment utilized in their state and district. Presenters: Hanna Vaandering, Mark Jewell
2:00pm – 3:00pm	ADV102	ADV	1,2	Organize! Activate! Let's Protect Public Education in 2021! As educators and union leaders, we must understand how and why our profession is under attack by understanding those who seek to undermine the guarantee of a public education for our students and silence the collective voices of our members. Our adversaries understand that an educated populace—which can use critical thinking skills and knowledge of their rights and responsibilities as citizens—limits their ability to control the wealth, governance, and economy of our nation. In this session, participants will learn basic organizational strategies, which can be used at the local and state levels, to engage and empower members. Through group work, attendees will learn ways to help members counter the activities of the many, intertwined groups, which use their power to sway public opinion with misleading propaganda that undermines public education and public policy at the state and federal levels in favor of

free markets, the privatization of our schools, and the diminishment of unions, retirement programs and retiree benefits.

Presenter: Diane Chapman, Carol Schnaiter

2:00pm – 3:00pm ADV103 ADV 2,3

Diversity and Integration for Student Success: Opportunities and Possibilities

In this session, the president and deputy director of the Poverty and Race Research Action Council will provide a modern definition of authentic integration. They will discuss the reasons school districts should incorporate diversity strategies and how educators can advocate for holistic, student-centered, intentional approaches to integration.

Presenter: Christine DonFrancesco

2:00pm -3:00pm COM100 COM 1

Hello, Anyone Out There? —Communications Basics

This beginner’s guide to effective communications will highlight key tools in the communications toolbox and help you effectively use them. You use communications tools and skills every day as an educator. Learn to use those basic skills and tactics you already know to be an effective communicator.

Presenter: Celeste Busser

2:00pm – 3:00pm COM101 COM 1,2

Power Trifecta—Communicate, Advocate, and Organize to Build Association Power!

Communication, advocacy, and organizing are like three blades on a helicopter propeller: Put energy into these three actions, to cause the propeller spin and your organization will rise. Ignore any of these three actions, and the propeller will fail and your organization will crash. In this session, we will delve deeply into communication, connect it to advocacy and organizing, and explain how to coordinate work in these three NEA Leadership Competencies in ways that will strengthen your locals, urbans, or regions. The session will also explore the ways social justice activism, interest-based bargaining, and professional development can create stronger locals. Session participants will also learn how to coordinate their actions and advocacy, how to communicate about them internally and externally, and use those actions and communication to increase membership. This session is for affiliates that have leadership in place and people willing to do the work—no matter the membership level and no matter the experience level of the leadership team. This session will include theory and real life examples that can be adapted to any local, urban, or region.

Presenter: John Havlicek

2:00pm – 3:00pm	COM102	COM	1	<p>Conquer Your Glossophobia (fear of public speaking)</p> <p>Does speaking in public send you into a panic? This session will help you master the fundamentals of being a great public speaker or presenter. Designed for beginners or those looking to polish their speaking and presentation skills, this session will help you build your confidence as a speaker, defeat the “umms,” and feel more confident speaking in front of in-person and virtual audiences.</p> <p>Presenter: Celeste Busser</p>
2:00pm – 3:00pm	GOV100	GOV	2,3	<p>Daring Leadership Requires Us to Step into The Arena</p> <p>Based on the Dare to Lead™ curriculum, which comes from research conducted by Dr. Brené Brown, and outlined in her book “Dare To Lead,” this session will focus on two skill sets: rumbling with vulnerability and learning to rise. Useful to association leaders at every level, these skills will help leaders advance the goals and missions of their local and of NEA, prepare them to face diverse challenges, and learn from successes, disappointments, and defeats. Participants will leave with an authentic understanding of their advocacy, the reasons they have entered the “arena,” and offer specific steps to rise after conflict, struggle and defeat.</p> <p>Presenter: Kelly Peaks Horner</p>
2:00pm – 3:00pm	GOV101	GOV	2,3	<p>Summer Leadership Academy: One-Affiliate’s Journey in Growing Educational Leaders</p> <p>This session will focus on lessons learned by the Wisconsin Education Association Council (WEAC), which created a robust leadership training program with three levels of training running in conjunction with the Leaders for Just Schools Equity Cohort and the National Board Certification Jump Start Training program (all on one university campus in the middle of summer). Attendees will learn the do’s and don’ts for creating similar programs, how to conduct effective leadership recruitment, how to build strong teams, and more.</p> <p>Presenters: Peggy Wirtz-Olsen, Ron “Duff” Martin, Lisa Glaser</p>
2:00pm – 3:00pm	GOV102	GOV	1	<p>SEL and the Leadership Journey</p> <p>Now, more than ever, education leaders must learn to navigate challenges of current crisis and change in order to lead healthy and productive lives, and model for others the often overlooked, social and emotional skills of leadership. This session will provide an overview of the NEA Leadership Competency Framework and introduce participants to a new addition, a 7th competency: Social Emotional Intelligence. This interactive workshop will help educators</p>

explore ways to deepen their awareness and practice of the knowledge, skills, and behaviors that create healthy identities, manage emotions and achieve personal and collective goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain supportive relationships, and make responsible and caring decisions.

Presenters: Katherine Bishop, Clinton Smith, Benita Moyers

2:00pm – 3:00pm GOV103 GOV 1

What We Believe: Building Organizational Identity Through Value-Shared Policies and Positions

Have you ever wondered why NEA develops resolutions? Curious about how resolutions help advance the organization’s mission, vision, and core values? Resolutions are not merely statements – they are tools the organization uses to capture our member and student voices to set the Association on the path to improving our professions, student success, organizational effectiveness, and systemic change. This foundational session will explore the function of resolutions within the NEA governance structure, the process used to develop them and ensure they are inclusive of all members and constituencies, and how to scale this leadership activity for local affiliates.

Presenters: Rachel Stafford, Paul Birkmeier

2:00pm – 3:00pm LOP100 LOP 1,2

Professional Learning and Building Relationships with Early Career Educators

In this interactive session, participants will learn professional learning strategies that will help them to build relationships with early-career educators, which will help the new educators to feel valued and willing to stay in the classroom. Using the NEA Leadership Competency Framework, participants will learn strategies which they will be able to take back to their affiliates and use for professional and leadership development and to build relationships with early-career educators.

Presenters: Rachael Poppe, Steve Lash

2:00pm – 3:00pm LOP101 LOP 1,2

Creating a Member Driven Professional Development Department from the Ground Up!

In this session, learn how the Nevada State Education Association (NSEA) created professional development that could be facilitated statewide. This was an undertaking that five NSEA National Board Educators, a local leader, and the assistant executive director planned and implemented. There were many lessons learned along the way. Session attendees will learn how to use the career continuum to lay the roadmap for professional development. Most

importantly, session participants will be able to identify how to plan professional development for their district, local, or state affiliate using the NEA Leadership Competency Framework.

Presenters: Lisa Guzmán, Rachael Croft

2:00pm – 3:00pm LOP102 LOP 1,2 **Starting a Revolution for Teacher Wellness and Social Emotional Learning**

In this session, participants will learn about the Alabama Happy Teacher Revolution – a pilot group founded by educator Danna Thomas – which is addressing the departure of teachers from the classroom due to second-hand trauma, low wages, long work hours, moral distress, compassion fatigue and more. Session attendees will experience a mini Happy Teacher Revolution support group meeting and receive mindfulness and social-emotional learning strategies that can be used with fellow educators and students. Session attendees will also receive information that will help them launch similar programs in their areas. Collaborative groups will use a graphic organizer to develop a basic plan for personal learning and professional practice, organizing and implementing opportunities for association members, and advocating for policies, funding and support on the local and state levels.

Presenters: Benita Moyers, Danna Thomas

2:00pm – 3:00pm LOP103 LOP 3 **Community Schools: Model Mobilization**

This session focuses on bringing community schools to scale in our affiliates. Economies of scale focus on the cost and investment advantage that arises when there is a higher level of production of one good. In this case, the good is a public community school, and the scale is looking at the state level. Learn more about NEA’s enterprise-wide work on community schools, assess current efforts and gaps that exist in the implementation and expansion of community schools, and begin the work of strengthening support of community schools and implementing their expansion.

Presenters: Eric Brown, Christine Sampson-Clark, Kyle Serrette

2:00pm 3:00pm LOP104 LOP 1,2 **Teaching through a Thriving Lens: An Intersectional Approach to Student Learning and School Design**

A challenge in the quest for intersectional equity is the flattening of communities. People often assume that LGBTQ+ communities are white, leaving Black, Indigenous, Latinx, and Asian gender- and sexuality expansive folks unseen, and young people, who may be

still in self-discovery and/or afraid to disclose their identities, particularly neglected. One key challenge is the school environment. GLSEN's 2019 National School Climate Survey learned that 52.4 percent of LGBTQ+ students heard homophobic remarks and 66.7 percent heard negative remarks about gender expression **from their teachers or other school staff**. Indeed, students' experiences in school are largely shaped and controlled by adults. These include physical freedoms, like when to move and what activities are considered appropriate; their intellectual agenda like what will be studied and to what extent; and the social norms that govern behavior, including expressions of gender identity and sexual orientation. Adults who have the time and space to tap into their values and to imaginatively redesign their practice are both more energized and more compassionate. Adults who understand young people's developmental needs can make informed decisions about how to support them. As a result, the students who engage with these adults can undertake learning that is developmentally appropriate (identity-affirming, socially mediated, interest-driven, etc.) and facilitated by adults who are excited to partner with them. In this workshop, participants will explore teaching through an intersectional and developmentally grounded thriving lens. We will apply the six dimensions of the Bridge to Thriving Framework[®] to questions about the self, students, and the learning environment, in order to design toward profound well-being.

Presenters: Kia Darling-Hammond

2:00pm – 3:00pm LOP105 LOP 1,2

Promoting Social Emotional Learning in Digital Environments Powered by Microsoft Education

Online learning offers many unique challenges to educators and students. One of these challenges is discovering how educators can continue to support Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) when students are learning from home. How can an online classroom promote the five core competencies of SEL (self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills and responsible decision making)? This session will showcase ideas that help educators address each SEL competency and support their learners. It will be geared toward Level 2 and 3 leaders who engage with others and build reflective practice in their communities.

Presenters: Leaza Silver, Robyn Hrivnatz

2:00pm – 3:00pm LOP106 LOP 2,3

Connecting Your Union Digitally with Microsoft Teams

Education unions are called on to create and promote a learning culture within their organization, but are often left without an effective platform. Microsoft Teams offers time-saving, and successful collaboration that is proven to reduce email churn and

promotes positive member interactions all year long from one communication and learning hub. Within Microsoft Teams, members can share files, have ongoing discussions, share resources, enjoy live meetings, integrate third-party apps and websites, and more. This session will not cover the basics of Microsoft Teams, but instead will be geared toward the Level 3 agenda-driven leader who is ready to implement strategies to positively impact organization capacity.

Presenters: Sonja Delafosse, Kim West

2:00pm – 3:00pm LOP107 107 1,2

Trauma-Sensitive Discipline Practices: Where Do We Begin?

Every day, in every classroom, one in four students is affected by childhood trauma. Whether students display behavior problems, academic difficulties, or a combination of both, all educators must learn how to better understand and meet traumatized students' needs through multi-tiered systems of support. Trauma-sensitive discipline practices also help students focus on repair within relationships, which is integral for health between individuals, and important for entire communities. What are restorative discipline practices? How do they differ from traditional approaches to school discipline? And, where do we begin in our collective shift toward ensuring discipline practices are trauma-sensitive so that we can help all students succeed? Come to this session ready to tackle all of these questions. Leave ready to lead the way for change!

Presenter: Jen Alexander

2:00pm – 3:00pm ORG100 ORG 1,2,3

New Educator Engagement, Support and Recruitment Campaign

Starting in 2016, NEA in partnership with state and local affiliates, embarked on a national effort to connect to every new educator in the country to identify the professional supports and resources they need, provide follow up support on those needs and recruit them as a member of their local association. This New Educator Engagement Support and Recruitment Campaign (New Ed) has conducted one-to-one organizing conversations with nearly 100,000 new educators and has been an integral strategy to prevent membership loss in a "post-Janus right-to-work" environment.

Initial one-to-one organizing conversations represents the beginning of a long-term state and local association strategy to engage, support and recruit early-career educators. During this session, participants will gain the foundational knowledge needed to engage with state and local associations efforts as part of the New Ed campaign. We will provide the foundational understanding of the campaign with a focus on why engaging early career educators is important and what the association is doing about it.

This session is designed for local and state leaders who are already committed to learning about the New Ed Campaign, and using the framework to deliver student-centered wins for our members.

Presenters: Peter Witzler, Michelle Foisy

2:00pm – 3:00pm ORG101 ORG 1,2

Empower and Equip Your Building Representatives to Act

This session will provide tools and strategies for leaders to share with building representatives so they have the information they need to lead their schools, committees, and communities. Attendees will learn best practices for creating “10-minute” meetings that will captivate current members and encourage them to continue, and inspire potential members to join.

Presenter: Amanda Thompson

2:00pm – 3:00pm ORG102 ORG 1

How to Unlock the Benefits of Membership to Improve Organizing Results

Research suggests that members who participate in NEA Member Benefit programs and services are more engaged, resulting in an increase in association loyalty.

Join us to learn how easy it is to leverage the buying power of 3 million members to improve your organizing efforts. Presenters will guide participants through practical approaches for positioning and using the benefits of membership to recruit, retain, and engage members. This session will focus on the “Organizing” domain, to reinforce your foundational competency.

There are many benefits to being an NEA member, and one of them is that membership can save members money, by leveraging the value of Member Benefits. This session is appropriate for all members at various levels of leadership and stages of their careers.

Presenters: Glenda Jones, Steve Eugene

2:00pm – 3:00pm ORG103 ORG 1

Navigating Student Loan Debt

Student loan debt is now the second category of consumer debt in America today, with \$33,000 as the average amount owed. As lifelong learners who often continue their education past a Bachelor’s Degree, many educators owe much more. This session we will focus on the three student loan forgiveness programs offered by the U.S. Department of Education, the requirement and process of forgiveness, how to prevent being denied forgiveness, and the latest developments on student loans coming out of the CARES Act and the

COVID-19 crisis. In addition, NEA Member Benefits has made the “NEA Student Debt Navigator” powered by Savi available at no cost to NEA members for the first year. This tool will analyze members’ specific student loan debt and assist with the paperwork process.

Presenter: Sean Mabey

2:00pm – 3:00pm ORG104 ORG 1,2,3 **Building Capacity by Leading on Issues That Matter**

Being a member of the union means more than signing up. The union creates the capacity to take collective action to lead on issues that matter most to members. In this session, we will develop the skills to identify issues and learn how organizing can help build the leadership muscle of activists and leaders in your local.

What are the issues that matter most for members in your local and how can you build your union strength by expanding how you lead? Union leadership can expand the union’s capacity by identifying issues that matter and the members who can lead the work. Build it and they will come.

Presenter: Linda Manny

2:00pm – 3:00pm ORG105 ORG 1,2 **Zone 2's Local REJUVENATION Pilot Project: Chicken Soup for Your Local**

The NEA Center for Organizing partnered with The Center for Governance and The Center for Communications to create the Local REJUVENATION Pilot Project. The primary purpose of this program is to assist local affiliates that have faced challenges in recent years, lost momentum for some reason, suffered membership loss, or could benefit from some assistance with rebuilding strength and power. In this session, participants will learn about the process and strategies of this year-long pilot project which was designed to focus on organizing and leadership development. Attendees will receive an overview of the 12 modules used to train and develop leaders and potential leaders from a Zone 2 organizational specialist; and key learnings and experiences from the Local REJUVENATION Project will be shared by a local leader. By the end of this session, participants will understand how the REJUVENATION Project can enhance organizational capacity and ensure that the voice of all educators is part of decision-making that will ensure student success.

Presenters: Rhonda Thompson, MaryRita Watson

2:00pm – 3:00pm SFH100 SFH 1 **Resource Development: Grant Writing and Beyond! Part 1**

Is your association low on funding but still has lots of needs and big ideas? In Part 1 of a three-part series, this session will help you

develop initiatives and explore funding options. Participants will also receive information on NEA grants and resources that can help to build a stronger association.

Presenters: Marlin Jeffers, Barbara Hopkins

2:00pm – 3:00pm SFH101 SFH 1

Where Do My Dues Dollars Go Anyway? Understanding and Engagement in the NEA Program and Budget

NEA members are at the center of the NEA’s program and budget. By incorporating the Association’s mission, vision, and core values, along with the assessment of the Associations strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats, and member interests, NEA leadership formulates a strategic plan that supports the needs of members, and supports the long-term financial health of the Association.

Presenters: Noel Candelaria

2:00pm – 3:00pm EVO001 EVO 1,2,3

My School, My Voice: Building Equity for the Schools Our Students Deserve

This session will address the concept of “educator voice” and how we use it to build equitable learning spaces that support student success. Attendees will learn ways to engage with colleagues nationwide to maximize the power to promote equity for all students in our schools with families and community leaders. Attendees will participate in facilitated dialogue with peers about using school data, educators’ expertise, and your collective voices to achieve wins to strengthen the schools our students deserve.

This session is designed for those new to or familiar with engaging in local policy efforts and is designed for local and state members and leaders who want to connect with colleagues and create action that will address equity and opportunity gaps in schools and districts.

Presenter: Elic Senter

2:00pm – 3:00pm BOD001 BOD 3

(Board of Directors ONLY) The RA Delegate ... REMIX

This session will answer the question: How do NEA directors support RA delegates to use their individual voice and local work within the collective voice and national work of the NEA? It will specifically focus on how NEA directors can support and train RA delegates about their responsibilities as the decision making body of the Association. This session connects multiple leadership competencies and is designed to move board members from mobilizing and power building to agenda driving.

Presenters: Tara Jeane, Brenda Robinson, Daniel Sobczak, Cheryl Mattern, Taunya Jaco, Shelly Moore Krajacic