

The Educators'



ADVOCATE

MAR/APR 2025

Volume 56 | Issue 4

SOUTH DAKOTA EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

2025

REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY

April 4-5 | Drifters Event Center

Fort Pierre, SD

4 President's Corner | 7-11 2024 SDEA Election

17 SDEA Summer Academy



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**Scan the code or go to
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quick and easy path to update
your beneficiary information.**



*Must maintain NEA membership. This coverage is offered to Active, Reserve and Staff members, as well as to Life and Retired members who are actively employed in education.

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MAR/APR 2025

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Vision

We envision valued education professionals providing quality public education for all students.

Mission

South Dakota Education Association ensures the collective voice for South Dakota public education professionals.



President's Corner

Happy Winter, SDEA Members!

As I write this column, we have about three weeks left of the Legislature. First and foremost, I extend my heartfelt thanks to all our educators for your unwavering advocacy during this year's legislative session. Your voices have been instrumental in contacting local lawmakers about the critical issues facing public education. You are being heard, and your efforts are making a significant impact.

Thanks to your dedication, we have successfully stopped vouchers, defeated legislation that would have required the Ten Commandments to be displayed in every classroom, mandated chaplains in schools, and required school staff, including counselors and teachers, to inform parents if a student discusses gender dysphoria. While there is still work to keep vouchers off the table and secure more education funding, your emails, postcards, and attendance at weekend coffees and cracker barrels are making a difference. The SDEA Lobby team is incredibly grateful for all your hard work.

This is a prime example of how educators can drive meaningful change when united and involved in their profession. As we prepare for this year's annual SDEA Representative Assembly, April 4-5 in Pierre, it is essential to remember that we are a member-driven organization. Our members guide every decision we make, from our Legislative Policies to the initiatives we pursue to improve working conditions for educators and learning conditions

for students. SDEA is your professional organization, and our strength comes from your involvement and commitment.

If you have served as a delegate to our Representative Assembly, thank you for your invaluable contribution. If you have not yet attended a Representative Assembly, I invite you to join us this year. This is our opportunity to set the course for the upcoming year, determine our goals, and establish our budget priorities. Members drive the conversation, and members make the decisions.

If you cannot attend the Representative Assembly, I encourage you to get involved in your local association. Your participation is crucial, whether it's joining the bargaining team or helping to organize a postcard-writing campaign. Every voice matters, and your involvement makes a significant difference to our profession and the future of public education.

Thank you once again for your dedication and advocacy. Together, we are stronger, and together, we will continue to make a difference.

In solidarity,

Loren Paul
SDEA President

605-224-9263
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A Word from Our NEA Director

Kelsey Lovseth

NEA Director

kelsey.lovseth@gmail.com

I am writing this report in the airport as I head home from Washington, D.C. after the conclusion of the NEA Super Week.



It was Super Week for Union work!!



President Paul and I had the opportunity to visit the Senate Majority Floor Leader, our very own John Thune. As a Government teacher, I captured every moment we experienced in this historical office. With the Senator we expressed our increasing concerns about the attacks on public education throughout the US.

DAY 3 & 4 – Getting down to

As an NEA Director, I serve on the think tank External Forces Impacting Educational Success. This group studies the impacts of private equity firms and voucher policies on education. We also examine how inequities in healthcare, housing, and salary policies affect the overall education system. The need for this work couldn't be more evident as we fight school vouchers during this year's legislative session.

Our Week In Washington DC:

DAY 1 – I serve on the Conference Alignment Committee and I hope you sign up to attend a SDEA or NEA conference in the future. I truly believe every member should attend at least one meeting hosted by the NEA.

DAY 2 – Capitol Hill for meetings with South Dakota Senators

business. The Board of Directors has three Super Week's (September, February, and May) and this meeting was jam packed with "building and strengthening relationships, preparing leaders to provide direction, support and leadership on NEA's Strategic Objectives and our priority goals."

As always if you would like to discuss the work of the NEA please find me at the South Dakota Representative Assembly April 4th & 5th.



2025 SDEA Representative Assembly at Drifters Event Center

Friday, April 4

7:00 pm Registration Opens

8:45 pm 1st Business Session

- Pledge of Allegiance:
Pierre Girl Scouts
- Introductions
- Adoption of Rules of Order
- Adoption of the Agenda
- Treasurer's Report
- Preliminary Credentials Report
- State of the Association:
Loren Paul, SDEA President
- NEA Fund for Children & Public Education

10:30 pm Recess

- Reception

Deadline for Submitting NBIs at SDEA RA

The deadline for submitting NBIs (new business items) for the 2025 SDEA RA is March 31 at noon CST. The form for submitting NBIs can be found here <https://www.sdea.org/resource-library/sdea-representative-assembly>. NBIs should be submitted to SDEA President Loren Paul at Loren.Paul@sdea.org.



SDEA RA Documents

Saturday, April 5

7:30 am Registration Opens

8:15 am Presentation of the SDEA

- Budget & Hearing

9:30 am 2nd Business Session

- Report of the Executive Director:
Ryan Rolfs
- Report of the NEA Director: Kelsey Lovseth
- Report of Committees
 - SDEA Committee
 - Awards and Scholarships Committee
- 2025 South Dakota Teacher of the Year/
Teacher of Excellence, Amy Verhelst

10:30 am Registration Closes

- Bylaw Amendments

11:30 am Lunch

- Acknowledgement of Honored Guests
 - Friend of Education
 - ESP of the Year Award
 - Teacher of Excellence
 - Human and Civil Rights Award

1:30 pm Final Credentials Report

- Bylaw Amendments
- New Business Items
- 2026 Legislative Agenda

Sine Die Adjournment

2025 SDEA Election

Candidate Statements

Executive Office Positions

Treasurer



Tess Canet

I am Tess Canet and have been a member of the South Dakota Education Association since I began my certified teaching career in 1997. I am currently serving as

your SDEA Treasurer and would like to thank you for already entrusting me with the duties of this position. I have enjoyed working on behalf of the members, helping to ensure that dues dollars are spent to best serve you, the members. I would greatly appreciate your vote for re-election as the SDEA Treasurer and will continue to be a voice for the association's members. Thank You!

Board of Directors

Eastern Prairie (1 year term)



Susan Zueger

As a member my entire career, I have seen the power of our collective voice in making change. I hope to bring the knowledge I've gained from twenty-four years as a middle

school educator, along with my experience on my local executive board, to help represent the Eastern Prairie Unit.

Western (2 year term)



Deborah Rohlf

I'm Debbie Rohlf, a high school science teacher at Hot Springs, teaching biology, chemistry, and physics. A proud Western Unit graduate from Belle Fourche HS and SD

Mines, I've served as a Western Board member for two years and unit co-chair for six months. I'm dedicated to advocating for educators!



Robert Dahlenburg

We are entering new territory as an organization of professionals. The changes that are coming to public education in the next year are full of pitfalls.

It is important to show solidarity and continuity through these challenges and it is my hope that I can be a part of that.

SEE (2 year term)



Amanda Sonne

As an educator with over 25 years of teaching experience, my priority is ensuring all students are seen, valued, and served as unique learners. As your SDEA SEE BOD

member, I will pledge to keep the SDEA mission and vision in the forefront as I do the organization's work.

2025 SDEA Election

Candidate Statements — *continued*

Plains (2 year term)



Shawn Olsen

I would be honored to continue representing and being a voice for the Plains UniServ. We need to continue moving our association forward and strengthen our

collective voice for all things that matter in education.



Jeremy Schultz

I am Jeremy Schultz, a thirteenth year educator, and currently the McLaughlin Education Association President. As an active member of Leaders for Just Schools, I would

be honored to serve as your representative for the Plains unit as we work to build a collective voice for education.

ESP At-Large (1 year term)



Lisa Jennings

Thank you for the support that you have given me as the ESP-At-Large Director. Education Support Professionals are a vital part of our schools and

representing our wonderful ESP across the state is an honor and privilege. I look forward to continuing to serve SDEA and our members.

Eastern Prairie (2 year term)

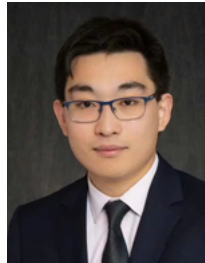


Andrew Travers

I seek to represent my fellow SD educators on the SDEA Board. I have 20 years experience in education: CCSD in Las Vegas, and SFSD since 2011. I am also a music educator, and

professional musician. I am humbled to seek this opportunity to serve.

Minority At-Large (2 year term)



Qiang Ai

As 2nd-year educator and former NEA Delegate, I enthusiastically seek the role of SDEA Board Director. Committed to positive change in education, my unique

blend of experience and passion aims to advance education and advocate for SD educators. Let's unite for a flourishing educational community, and shape a successful future.



Heather Harmon

Substitute, paraprofessional, and teacher. ALL staff are important for a students' success. I've served at local negotiations and as

RA delegate at state/national levels. I've served as ESP At-Large; I'd like to now serve all educators of SD. I know what it means to work hard and be undervalued.

EGL (2 year term)

no candidate

NEA RA Delegate

Western

Heather Harmon

Substitute, paraprofessional, and teacher. ALL staff are important for a students' success. I've served at local negotiations and as RA delegate at state/national levels. I've served as ESP At-Large; I'd like to now serve all educators of SD. I would like to represent you at the national level this year.

Plains

Jeremy Schultz

It would be a great honor for me to represent South Dakota educators at the NEA RA. I participated in my first RA last year and I'm eager for another chance to connect with fellow educators nationwide, advocating for public education at the national level.

Eastern Prairie

Tim Eckart

I am the local president for the Sioux Falls Education Association and chair for the Eastern Prairie Unit. It is my hope to represent South Dakota at the NEA RA and to bring important information back to the Eastern Prairie Unit and South Dakota.

Lisa Jennings

I have had the privilege of representing SDEA members at the NEA RA. To be part of the democratic process that moves NEA forward at the national level is a great responsibility and not one that I take lightly. I appreciate your confidence in me as I continue to serve.

SEE

no candidate

EGL

no candidate

Ethnic Minority At-Large

Qiang Ai

As enthusiastic 2nd-year educator, I am thrilled to announce my running for NEA RA Delegate. With aspirations to serve as an Education Conference Delegate, my goal is to amplify the diverse voices within our community and advocate for meaningful change in both South Dakota and the broader U.S. education landscape.

At-Large

Emily Deinken

Since starting my teaching career, I have been a dedicated advocate involved in SDEA's Legislative Action Team, our annual Lobby Day, and my own Advocate for Educators initiative.

As an NEA Representative, I am ready to share South Dakota's vision nationally and bring a fresh perspective on improving public education.

Emily Meyer

Free public education has long been a pillar of American Democracy. In 2025, unfortunately, the general population is in doubt of this pivotal institution. Participating as an NEA RA allows me to be a changemaker in combatting this false idea. I have faith in American democratic ideals, its future; its people.

Robert Hoffmann

I wish to attend the NEA RA again in these most challenging times, to give voice to important policy issues.

I have served with SFEA, SDEA, NEA, and NEA-Retired in several membership and leadership capacities.

2026 SDEA RA

Proposed SDEA Bylaw Changes

Proposal 1

Article XIV. Procedures of the Representative Assembly?

SECTION 6. QUORUM. A quorum shall consist of seventy-five delegates representing fifteen affiliated local associations. A quorum shall consist of members present at any properly announced meeting, provided that at least fifteen affiliated local associations are represented. Members are considered present if they appear in person or by any other medium as authorized by the Board of Directors.

Submitted by: Bylaws Committee

Bylaws Committee Position: Do Pass

Board Position: Do Pass

Rationale: In recent years, SDEA has had concern and difficulty achieving the required quorum of 75 at the Representative Assembly. It is critical to meet the quorum at every Representative Assembly as it is required before any official business may be conducted. If a Representative Assembly is planned for, organized, and held without achieving a quorum, it is a significant wasted expense to SDEA's budget. Obstacles that are commonly seen include: the location of the RA, inclement weather, illness, and time. SDEA has explored other avenues to mitigate these obstacles, but they have been found to be impractical for financial and technical reasons. Amending the quorum bylaw prevents these issues from occurring while also assuring for diversified representation from across the state.

Proposal 2

Article VIII. Duties of Officers and Board of Directors

SECTION 9. VACANCIES. In case of a vacancy in the office of president, the vice president shall become president for the remainder of the unexpired term. In the case of a vacancy of an officer other than the president or an at-large representative, the board of directors shall appoint an active, active-ESP, or retired member to serve in that position. In case of a vacancy in a position of UniServ representative, the board of directors shall appoint an active or active-ESP member to serve in that position based on procedures specified in that UniServ unit's bylaws. ~~If fewer than twelve months remain in the unexpired term, the person shall serve for the remainder of the term. If more than twelve months remain in the unexpired term, the person appointed shall serve until the next regular Association election, at which time the vacancy shall be filled by election according to Article IX.~~ The person elected appointed shall serve the remaining year of the unexpired term the entirety of the vacant term.

Submitted by: Bylaws Committee

Bylaws Committee Position: Do Pass

Board Position: Do Pass

Rationale: As the bylaw stands currently, if a position on the Board of Directors is vacant (due to lack of candidate interest, resignation, or otherwise), the President is responsible to appoint a member to serve in the position, which is ultimately approved by the Board. If approved, the appointed member serves in the position for either the remainder of the term (if less than a year), or until the next regular election. Typical term lengths for an elected position are two years. The way the current bylaw is written is creating a direct conflict with the bylaw Article VII, Section 4 "Terms of Office"

which requires at least one representative from each Uniserv unit to be elected each election cycle. By an appointed member only serving one year, it throws off the schedule of open positions that are up for election rotation. It also impacts the appointed member's time on the Board, as

an appointment counts towards their term limit regardless of if it is a full term or not. By amending the bylaws in this manner, it will eliminate the conflict of bylaws and keep the rotation of terms aligned as required by bylaw Article VII, Section 4.

SDEA/NEA OPPORTUNITIES

GRANT, SCHOLARSHIPS, CAREER

SDEA/NEA EDUCATIONAL INNOVATION GRANT

SDEA/NEA Educational Innovation Grant

The SDEA/NEA Educational Innovation Grant Program provides grants to members in support of innovative educational and student-oriented projects. The grant program funds new member-led projects. It does not fund projects on an on-going basis. The SDEA/NEA Educational Innovation Grants give preference to proposals that address student achievement, cultural diversity issues, include community partnerships, and can be duplicated by others.

Deadline: *May 1*

SDEA/NEA EARLY CAREER EDUCATOR AWARD

SDEA/NEA Early Career Educator Award

An individual member or a local may nominate an early career educator for this award. Each governance unit may select an Early Career Educator of the Year from nominations submitted in their unit. All the unit winners will be candidates for the statewide award, which will be announced at the 2025 Representative Assembly in Pierre.

Deadline: *December 1*

For more information on all grants and awards offered by SDEA, visit SDEA.org.

Contact a UniServ Director today! 605-224-9263

Shannon Maxon

Western UniServ Director

Shannon.Maxon@sdea.org

Rich Mittelstedt

SEE UniServ Director

Richard.Mittelstedt@sdea.org

Steve Binkley

Eastern Prairie

UniServ Director

Steve.Binkley@sdea.org

LouAnn Jensen

EGL UniServ Director

LouAnn.Jensen@sdea.org

Sandy Arseneault

Plains UniServ Director

Sandy.Arseneault@sdea.org

2026 SDEA RA

Proposed 2026 Legislative Agenda

ENSURING EDUCATOR AND CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND SAFETY

SDEA/NEA supports:

- Sufficient funding provided by the state and other sources to ensure that buildings are secure, structurally and environmentally safe and meet 21st century instructional needs
- A drug-free, tobacco-free, and weapon-free learning environment
- Funding based on current costs, not averages, for serving those with disabilities (ages birth-21)
- The requirement that school districts provide safe and well-regulated transportation or reimbursement to parents/guardians for transportation of students to and from public school.
- A learning environment free from intimidation, bullying, harassment, and violence
- A learning environment with access to certified counselors, social workers, mental health professionals, and appropriate medical and nutritional personnel
- Access to statewide resources focused on meeting the needs of the whole child, including mental, emotional and behavioral needs
- Equipping education professionals with the skills to recognize the mental, emotional and behavioral needs of the whole child, and the ability to connect their students with the appropriate resources to address those needs.
- A learning environment free from discrimination based on disability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity,

race, religion, sexual orientation and socioeconomic status

- SDEA supports funding or programs that empower schools and communities to collaborate in providing critical social services to students and their families who are economically challenged
- Policies that foster collaboration between communities, school boards, administration and staff in the development of a pandemic preparedness or any other crisis plan
- Ensure educators are working in buildings which are structurally sound and free from pollutants that may jeopardize their health

PREPARING STUDENTS FOR JOBS OF THE FUTURE

SDEA/NEA supports:

- Broad-based curriculum and research-based standards supported by a complement of services that prepare students for life-long learning
- The implementation of career and technical preparation programs that position students for jobs of the future.
- State funding for post-secondary scholarships across a broad spectrum of student abilities and needs
- Development of a comprehensive plan to determine individual student growth.
- Legislation that provides for an environment that allows for the free exchange of ideas

STRENGTHENING PUBLIC EDUCATION

SDEA/NEA supports:

- Providing school districts, parents, educators and students with the

resources and support necessary to ensure an equitable education regardless of disability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, race, religion, sexual orientation, geographic location or socioeconomic status

- Providing adequate state funding to South Dakota preK-12 public schools so that South Dakota's school districts can offer competitive salaries and benefits for school employees and can provide students with 21st century opportunities to learn
- Providing adequate state funding so that South Dakota's post-secondary public institutions can attract and retain high quality faculty, and that will make post-secondary education, including technical, undergraduate and graduate education, affordable for South Dakota students
- Through existing resources, SDEA/NEA will work with state legislators to ensure that the state's funding formula for K-12 education meets the needs of all school districts in South Dakota and allows all districts to grant meaningful salary and benefit increases to teachers and education support professionals
- Legislation requiring school district accountability measures for state aid funding
- Taxpayer dollars that are directed to public schools which are held accountable, address a specific need, are transparent, and allow for innovation without jeopardizing the promise of the state funding formula, i.e., SDEA does not support charter schools or voucher programs
- The use of accreditation standards by the State Board of Education in the school accreditation process
- Efforts to have appropriately certified and endorsed educators in all positions
- The limitation on the amount of money school districts can maintain or carry over in their fund balances
- A long-term solution, which includes a balanced tax structure, to fund public education in South Dakota
- School terms that include student contact days and/or hours, professional development/curriculum days and family conferences
- The rejection of any taxation plans that adversely affect education funding
- A full-time all-day kindergarten program
- Sufficient funding for the programs and resources needed to address the change in compulsory attendance
- Legislation promoting enhanced teacher quality through instructional leadership, rigorous and responsive teacher preparation programs, quality mentoring and sound professional development programs that support South Dakota professional teacher standards
- Sufficient time, funding, and resources to provide professional development to address changes required by the implementation of state/federally mandated initiatives
- Efforts to expand Early Childhood Education programs.
- Efforts to ensure all Kindergarten students are at least five years old at the start of the school year
- Student assessments that inform instruction and improve student learning. Such assessments should provide for multiple measures of learning, including measures that assess higher order thinking skills
- SDEA supports measures to enhance English language learner programs that provide the necessary tools and resources to give all students access to an equitable education

- SDEA supports legislation and policies that allows for true academic freedom which ensures that students and faculty are allowed the free exchange of ideas without interference from the State
- Public schools, and their staff and families, receive the resources to ensure all students have access to the tools, technology and internet required for learning

RESPECTING EDUCATION EMPLOYEES

SDEA/NEA supports:

- Increasing the salaries and or compensation of all education employees to the regional average or above
- Legislation that provides necessary funding for school districts to fund health benefits for public school employees
- Efforts to strengthen collective bargaining rights and to achieve greater equity at the bargaining table (i.e. binding arbitration)
- Legislation that would require rationale be given on decisions by the South Dakota Department of Labor regarding bargaining issues
- Efforts and legislation to maintain and/or increase the South Dakota Retirement System benefit factor and/or to protect the SDRS Pension Trust Fund sustainability while removing the cola maximum. These efforts shall include, but not be limited to, building a coalition including all organized employee groups covered under SDRS
- Legislation that ensures that there are collectively bargained salaries and

incentives to attract and retain quality educators

- Legislation that supports enhanced compensation systems that are locally bargained, based on multiple measures, resulting in improved instruction and/or effectiveness and encouraging teacher collaboration, not competition or merit pay
- Providing a negotiated per diem increase in pay for all school employees if there is an increase in the school term
- Legislation that would increase wages and benefits for all education support professionals
- The representation of all levels of instruction in the planning/development and implementation of educational policy
- Maintaining continuing contract provisions in the law
- A work environment free from intimidation, bullying, harassment and violence
- A work environment free from discrimination based on age, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, race, religion, sexual orientation and socioeconomic status
- Efforts that acknowledge and support the mental health needs of education professionals
- Respecting school and educator autonomy.
- Support due process protections for all educational professionals

SDEA Members Only:

Sign up and log into the new SDEA.org to access Members Only documents and information like the SDEA Board of Director minutes and Educators Employment Liability (EEL) Program documents.



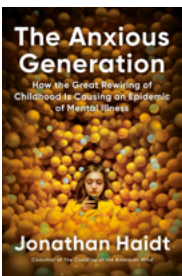
Lisa Weier

Teaching and Learning Coordinator

Lisa.Weier@sdea.org

March Book Study

Join the March book study: **The Anxious Generation: How the Great Rewiring of Childhood Is Causing an Epidemic of Mental Illness** by Jonathan Haidt



After more than a decade of stability or improvement, the mental health of adolescents plunged in the early 2010s. Rates of depression, anxiety, self-harm, and suicide rose sharply, more than

doubling on many measures. Why?

In *The Anxious Generation*, social psychologist Jonathan Haidt lays out the facts about the epidemic of teen mental illness that hit many countries at the same time. He then investigates the nature of childhood, including why children need play and independent exploration to mature into competent, thriving adults. Haidt shows how the “play-based childhood” began to decline in the 1980s, and how

it was finally wiped out by the arrival of the “phone-based childhood” in the early 2010s. He presents more than a dozen mechanisms by which this “great rewiring of childhood” has interfered with children’s social and neurological development, covering everything from sleep deprivation to attention fragmentation, addiction, loneliness, social contagion, social comparison, and perfectionism. He explains why social media damages girls more than boys and why boys have been withdrawing from the real world into the virtual world, with disastrous consequences for themselves, their families, and their societies.



This course is now open and will end May 16th.

SDEA Bridge website.

\$275

for three,

NO additional fee.

SDEA members can take THREE online graduate credit courses (up to nine credits) for only \$275.



Enroll Today!

SDEA has partnered with Augustana University and VESi to offer members a yearly subscription to online graduate courses for \$275 per year. You can enroll in one course per term or two courses during the summer (if you skip fall or spring), for a total of 3 courses per year.

Honored Women Educators of South Dakota

The purpose of HWE of South Dakota is to recognize outstanding South Dakota women educators and to promise better relationships among women engaged in educational work.

Because it can be difficult to get all necessary information on the nominee, while not divulging the fact that the person is being nominated, a new format was voted on in August 2017. The new format is to submit the information that can be obtained, with **items listed below required**. Submit the information by **May 31, 2025** to: Deb Everson, 1428 Pinehurst Ave., Mitchell, SD 57301. Nominations can be submitted electronically to: debeverson1@gmail.com

Once the nomination information is received, the nominee will be notified and will be asked to complete the form by May 31, 2025. Those selected for membership in Honored Women Educators of South Dakota will be notified and will be invited to the 2025 luncheon.

Each SDEA Member may submit one nominee per year.

Requirements of nominees:

1. Be active in education at present and be a present SDEA member. Or, if retired, the nominee must have been an SDEA member during her active career
2. Have a minimum of four years of college
3. Should have spent at least ten years in the field of education
4. Be fully qualified educationally for their field of work
5. Have made major contributions in the area of education
6. Should be active in the community and exhibit character traits worthy of the honor of membership
7. Eligible for membership are classroom teachers, administrators, librarians, supervisors, and former educators

Submit the following information on a word document.

1. Full name of nominee
2. Mailing address of nominee
3. Phone number of nominee
4. Email address of nominee
5. Present position of nominee, if currently teaching; past position, if retired
6. Write a paragraph that reveals the personality and real worth of the nominee
7. Name, signature, addresses, phone number of nominator who submits the nomination, and date
8. Submit 2 or 3 letters of recommendation from others who are familiar with the contributions of the nominee. Possible choices could be co-workers, administrators, students or former students, or parents of present or former students. If the nominator does not submit the letters of recommendation, the nominee will be asked to do so.

Honored Women Educators of South Dakota Book Award

The \$500 Book Award is for a female student majoring in the field of education who is in the second semester of her junior year. The award is based on financial need.

Requirements:

- Minimum of 2.5 GPA on a 4.0 scale
- Attach a copy of most recent transcript
- Attach a list of two (2) contact persons if follow-up reference should be needed.
- Write an essay of not less than 250 words on “How I Feel I will Make a Difference in the Field of Education” (Attach to application found at sdea.org)

Deadline date for application, including transcript, personal contacts, and essay is **May 31, 2025.**

Submit the information to:

Deb Everson
1428 Pinehurst Ave.
Mitchell, SD 57301
debeverson1@gmail.com



**Nomination
& Application
Forms**



<https://bit.ly/43dl0zi>

A Political Action Committee (PAC) is pooled voluntary contributions from members to support Pro-Public Education Candidates.

**Donate & purchase
auction items at
the SDEA RA
April 4-5, 2025**

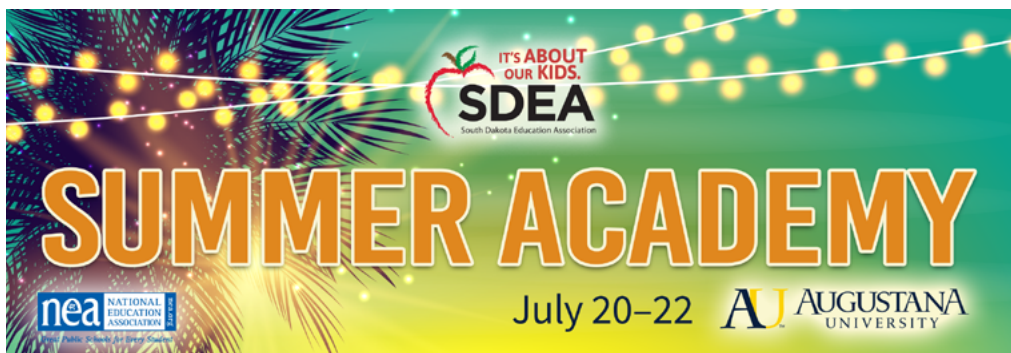
PAC Fundraising



DONATE SILENT AUCTION ITEMS

**Challenge another local to donate, make baked goods,
bring a craft basket...**

Contact Kelsey Lovseth, NEA Director with questions – Kelsey.Lovseth@gmail.com



SDEA members are invited to make plans to attend the Summer Academy July 20–22, 2025 on the Augustana University campus in Sioux Falls. We are proud to feature a keynote from freelance journalist and education podcaster Jennifer Berkshire.

Breakout sessions have selections for a variety of professional development, leadership development, advocacy, and organizing.

Attendees who participate in the sessions on all three days will earn enough hours for one graduate credit.

2025 SUMMER ACADEMY KEYNOTE



Jennifer Berkshire

I've been writing, podcasting and opining about the intersection of education and politics for more than a decade now. (Though some of my loved ones will insist that it has been much longer!) My interest in the politics

of education began when I took a part time job editing

the statewide newspaper for AFT Massachusetts. I went on to start a humorous blog chronicling the follies of the education reform movement. Along the way, that morphed into something more serious, and my strong opinions have now appeared in the New York Times, the Nation, the New Republic, the Baffler, and many other publications. I've also managed to produce three books: More Worlds to Negotiate, about former Secretary of Labor John Dunlop; A Wolf at the Schoolhouse Door and The Education Wars, both of which I wrote with education historian Jack Schneider.



Registration & More Info

<https://bit.ly/4b3y4od>

Questions? Contact: Korey Erickson (605) 222-3905 or Korey.Erickson@sdea.org



SDEA RETIRED

I want to begin by thanking those of you who have contacted your legislators, attended cracker barrels or attended the SDEA lobby day. Preventing money from going into unverified vouchers and away from public schools is more important than ever.

The retired annual meeting is coming up in Pierre on April 4. We will be meeting at 2:00 pm CT at Perkins. Those of you who attend both the retired annual meeting and the SDEA RA will receive a \$75 stipend to help defray the costs of staying overnight and mileage. Please do try to attend. **A zoom link will be provided if you wish to attend the retired annual meeting virtually.**

SDEA Retired has started a book club! In February and March, we read and discussed The Faculty

Lounge by Jennifer Mathieu, a humorous account of life in a high school with which I'm sure everyone in education can relate. In April and May, we will be discussing The Women by Kristin Hannah at story of the life of nurses in Vietnam. If you are interested in joining us please email Lisa Weier at Lisa.Weier@sdea.org. She will send you the Zoom link a few days before the first meeting.

If you are not receiving emails or have moved, please contact SDEA to update your contact information. Because of the rising cost of postage, we send emails about every six weeks to keep you informed about what is going on. If we don't have an email on file, you may miss out on news and opportunities. Please keep your contact information up to date.

Mary Jane Chiles
SDEA Retired President

ADDITIONAL CONTACTS

SDEA Retired Staff Liaison:
LouAnn Jensen | 605-220-1688
LouAnn.Jensen@sdea.org

Local Treasurer's Training

- Responsibilities as an Association Officer
- Reporting Association Income and Expenses
- Important Tax Topics
- Membership Dues/Reconciliation
- ACH payment option

Contact Holly Frederick at holly.frederick@sdea.org and Lathie Under Baggage at lathie.underbaggage@sdea.org to set up your training date!

UPCOMING EVENTS

April

- 3-4 SDEA BOD meeting
- 4-6 SDEA RA
- 15 NEA BOD meeting (virtual if needed)
- 21 Easter observed (SDEA offices closed)
- 25 SDEA Election Committee Meeting

May

- 1 SDEA/NEA Educational Innovation Grant deadline
- 5-9 Teacher Appreciation Week
- 13 Western Unit meeting
- 26 Memorial Day (SDEA offices closed)

June

- 9 SDEA BOD meeting
- 9-11 Board/Staff Retreat
- 19 Juneteenth (SDEA offices closed)
- 28-7/1 NEA Aspiring Ed Conference



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Education Association



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