



Ethnic Minority Affairs Committee Annual Meeting Minutes

April 16, 2016
Embassy Suites
Lincoln, NE

Chair

Edward T. Ventura Jr. (2016)
402-210-1655
venturaomaha@gmail.com

Vice Chair

Jose Hernandez (2018)

Secretary

Susan C. Loney (2016)

Black Representatives

Broderick Steed (2017)

Sharon Rhodes (2017)

American Indian/Alaska Native Representatives

Tracy Hartman-Bradley (2017)

Susan Townsend (2017)

Asian/Pacific Islander Representatives

Isau Metes (2016)

Hispanic/Chicano Representatives

Manuel Andazola (2017)

Karla Andazola (2018)

NSEA-EMAC Designated Staff

Carol Hicks

Andrea Longoria

Tamra Mick

website www.nsea.org/emac

twitter [@EMAC_NSEA](https://twitter.com/EMAC_NSEA)

facebook [EMAC NSEA](https://www.facebook.com/EMAC_NSEA)



Nebraska State Education Association

NSEA President

Nancy Fulton

605 S. 14th St., Suite 200

Lincoln, NE 68508

toll 800-742-0047

local 402-475-7611

fax 402-475-2630

EMAC Chair, Edward Ventura, called the meeting to order at 5:43 p.m.

I. Adoption of the Agenda

Action Item: It was moved by Sharon Rhodes/ Jose Hernandez to accept the agenda with flexibility. **Motion Passed**

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Led by Native Indian/ Alaskan Native Representatives. Everyone in attendance participated.

III. Roll Call (Executive Committee)

Edward Ventura- Chair (Omaha)

Jose Hernandez- Vice Chair (Norfolk)

Susan Loney- Secretary (Omaha)

Tracy Hartman-Bradley- Native Americans/ American Indians Representative (Omaha)

Susan Townsend- Native Americans/ American Indians Representative (Lincoln)

Isau Metes- Asian Pacific Islander Representative (Lincoln)

Sharon Rhodes – Black Representative (Omaha)

Carol Hicks- Liaison

Andrea Longoria- Liaison

Karla Andazola- Hispanic Representative (Lexington)- Not in Attendance

Manuel Andazola- Hispanic Representative (Lexington)- Not in Attendance

Daniel Witte- Asian Pacific Islander Representative (Lincoln)- Not in Attendance

Broderick Steed- Black Representative (Macy)- Not in Attendance

IV. Welcome and Introductions

Chair welcomed everyone in attendance. It was followed by the introductions of the executive committee and the members in attendance.

Jenni Benson; NSEA Vice President

Mike Benson; Lincoln

Tanishia Butler; Bellevue

Liz Carranza-Rodriguez; Lincoln

Jessica Carver; Omaha

Sasha Cervantes; Omaha

Tarina Cox-Jones; Omaha

Kim Ferris; Omaha

Nikkie Trahan-Ferris; Omaha

Marlene Grayer; Omaha

Carolyn Grice; Omaha

Gail Sherrell; Omaha

Monica Wynne; Omaha

V. Approval of April 2015 Minutes

Chair Ed Ventura presented the April 2015 (Annual) Meeting Minutes

Action Item: It was moved by Sharon Rhodes/ Susan Loney to approve the minutes as printed. **Motion Passed**

VI. Approval of Financial Report

* No Report

VII. Chair Report (Edward Ventura)

- NSEA Election Result (see handout)

Continued on next page

VIII. Informational Items

- Bylaw Amendment- discussed the speaking order and questions
- Resolutions
- New Business Items
- Travel Vouchers

IX. Vice Chair (Jose Hernandez) see handout

X. Secretary Report (Susan Loney) see handout

XI. Ethnic Minority Report**American Indian/Alaska Native Representatives**

Tracy Hartman-Bradley- see handout

Susan Townsend- see handout

Asian Pacific Islander Representatives

Isau Metes- see handout

Daniel Witte- see handout

Black Representatives

Sharon Rhodes- see handout

Broderick Steed- see handout

Hispanic Representatives

Karla Andazola and Manuel Andazola – see handout

XII. Action Items**A. EMAC Nominations and Elections**

- Susan Loney was elected as Secretary by acclamation
- Isau Metes and Daniel Witte were both elected as Asian/ Pacific Islander Representatives by acclamation

B. 2016-2017 Meeting Dates and Venues – It was moved by Sharon Rhodes/ Susan Townsend to adopt the following dates and venues for the 2016-2017 meetings:

Saturday, September 24, 2016; Omaha

Saturday, October 29, 2016; Lincoln

January 2017 (WebEx)

Saturday, March 25, 2017; Omaha

Friday, April 21, 2017- Annual Meeting; Lincoln

C. Recommendation to NSEA President the 2016-2017 EMAC Chair- It was moved by Tracy Hartman-Bradley/Susan Townsend to recommend Susan Loney to be the 2016-2017 EMAC Chair to Nancy Fulton, NSEA President.

D. Lily Eskelsen-Garcia, National Education Association President spoke at the EMAC meeting.

XIII. Future EMAC Meeting Date- N/A**XIV. Concerns- N/A**

XV. EMAC Staff Liaison (Carol Hicks and Andrea Longoria)

XVI. Adjournment

Action Item: It was moved by Chair Ed Ventura/ Susan Loney to adjourn the meeting at 6:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Susan C. Loney, EMAC Secretary



2016 Annual Meeting Agenda

April 15, 2016

Meeting 5:30 p.m.

Embassy Suites – Lincoln NE

Chair

Edward T. Ventura Jr. (2016)
402-210-1655
venturaomaha@gmail.com

Vice Chair

Jose Hernandez (2018)

Secretary

Susan C. Loney (2016)

Black Representatives

Broderick Steed (2017)

Sharon Rhodes (2017)

American Indian/Alaska Native Representatives

Tracy Hartman-Bradley (2017)

Susan Townsend (2017)

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Hispanic/Chicano Representatives

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1. **Adoption of Agenda** (with flexibility)
2. **Pledge of Allegiance** (presented by American Indian/Alaska Native Representatives)
3. **Welcome and Introductions** (presented by Chair)
4. **APPROVAL of April 2015 minutes** (presented by Secretary)
5. **APPROVAL of Financial Report** (presented by Chair/NSEA Staff)
 - Expenses incurred (Travel, Hotel, Mileage, Food...)
6. **Informational Items**
 - Bylaw Amendment
 - Resolutions
 - New Business Items
 - Issues Conferences – Black Issue Conference (update)
 - Travel Vouchers
7. **Action Items** (only Executive Committee members can motion and vote)
 - A. EMAC Nominations and Elections
 - Secretary
 - Asian/Pacific Islander Representative (2)
 - B. 2016-17 Meeting Dates (see handout)
 - C. Recommendation to NSEA President the 2016-17 EMAC Chair
8. **Chair Report**
 - NSEA Election Results (see handout)
9. **Vice Chair Report**
 -
10. **Secretary Report**
 -
11. **Ethnic Minority Report** (What is going on locally, statewide & nationally)
 - Asian/Pacific Islander (**Isau & Daniel**)
 - Hispanic (**Manuel & Karla**)
 - Black (**Broderick & Sharon**)
 - American Indian/Alaska Native (**Tracy & Susan T.**)
12. **Concerns**
13. **EMAC Staff Liaison**
14. **Adjournment**

NSEA 2016 District Elections

* = Ethnic Minorities

District/Position	Candidate			
Capitol		Metro		Sandhills
NSEA Board	Sean Nutzman	NSEA Board *	Yano Jones	Treasurer
(Vote for 2)	Jen Yoder	(Vote for 2)	Paul Schulte	(Vote for 1)
	* Devin Garcia		* Edward T. Ventura, Jr.	
	Michael R. Geist			Secretary
	Julie Colby			(Vote for 1)
		Secretary *	Monica Wynne	
		(Vote for 1)	Jane Leadabrand	Exec Committee
Treasurer	Burke Brown			(Vote for 1-2 yr. term)
(Vote for 1)				
		Treasurer *	Sasha Cervantes	Exec Committee
Secretary	Robin Ankrom	(Vote for 1)	David Herbener	(Vote for 1-4 yr. term)
(Vote for 1)				
		Exec Committee Sub 2 & 4	Thomas Olsen	Tri Valley
Exec Committee	Amy Krance-Wendt	(Vote for 2) *	Ernestine J. Ortiz-Ventura	Treasurer
(Vote for 1)	Jules Spickelmier			(Vote for 1)
	Jolene Walker			Write-In
		Exec Committee Sub 6	Kathie Garabrandt	
				Exec Committee (West)
CLUSTER	Nancy Fulton			(Vote for 1-2 yr. term)
		Exec Committee Sub 8 *	Tanishia L. Butler	Write-In
		Exec Committee Sub 10		Exec Committee (West)
Elkhorn				(Vote for 1-1yr. Term)
NSEA Board	Doug Sheppard	Cluster *	Carolyn Grice	
(Vote for 1)	Gwen Smith	(Vote for 1)		2016 AT-LARGE CANDIDATES
	* Broderick Steed	Panhandle		(Vote for 4)
		NSEA Board	Dashiell Rohan	
		(Vote for 1)		LISA HANSON
Treasurer	Jill Anderson			SEAN NUTZMAN
(Vote for 1)		President		SARAH BROWN
		(Vote for 1)		MEGAN BROWN
Secretary	Lisa Hanson	Vice-President	Roberta Rudden	RAEANNA CARBAUGH
(Vote for 1)		(Vote for 1)		CAROLYN GRICE *
				YANO JONES *
Exec Committee	Raeanna Carbaugh			AMY BURNS
(Vote for 3-2 yr. Term)	Shannon Gibson	Secretary	Renaë Noble	DAVID HERBENER
	George Weiland	(Vote for 1)		KEVIN PETTIGREW
				AMY SABATKA
Exec Committee *	Jennifer Smith	Exec Committee	Ann Hurt	THOMAS OLSEN
(Vote for 1-1 yr. Term)	Write-In	(Vote for 3)		TANISHIA L. BUTLER *
				MICHAEL R. GEIST
Cluster *	Broderick Steed			DEVIN GARCIA *
	Raeanna Carbaugh	Cluster	Andrew Lenzen	BRODERICK STEED *
			Dashiell Rohan	JOLENE WALKER
			Daniel Spatzierath	EDWARD T. VENTURA, JR. *
				MONICA WYNNE *

Asian/Pacific Islander Report 4/16/2016

Representatives: Isau Metes and Daniel Witte

Local:

“The Dear World” project visited UNL Thursday and asked participants to share a message of hope, struggle or optimism. More than 150 people had their portrait taken by executive producer for Dear World, Jonah Evans.

Dominic Mai “First Gen American Viet”: After the Vietnam War, Mai’s parents fled from the communist rule in Vietnam. Mai’s father went to Korea by boat and Mai’s mother flew to join him there later. They then moved to America, where Mai was born, along with his five siblings.

Nebraska:

*Secretary of State John Kerry will become the highest-ranking American government official to visit Hiroshima.

*Consultants to the Corporation for Public Broadcasting are recommending they work more closely with National Minority Consortia, which CPB funds to support public TV content by and about underserved audiences.

CAAM sponsors its annual CAAMFest, a major festival in the Bay Area celebrating Asian American film and culture. Vision Maker Media works closely with NET in Nebraska, which houses its office. PIC’s signature series *Pacific Heartbeat* airs on the World multicast channel.

National:

*Members of Southern Utah’s Pacific Islander community are celebrating this week with the 2nd annual “Mana” Recognition Awards and fundraiser. Lafaele said the awards ceremony also helps lead into a series of events the group has planned for May, which is Pacific Islander Awareness Month.

*The campaign for Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton announced Thursday that it was appointing Jason Tengco to serve as its new Asian-American Pacific Islander outreach director.

Global:

The 6th Asian Awards attracted a host of high profile stars from the worlds of music, TV, film and industry. This took place at London's exclusive Grosvenor House Hotel on 8 April, recognizes the exceptional achievements of individuals in the pan-Asian community. Actors like Hollywood actress Lindsay Lohan, The Big Bang Theory's Kunal Nayyar were in attendance.

Nebraska Ethnic Minority Affairs Committee

Manuel/Karla Andazola
Hispanic Representatives

Local News :

Latino Americans in Nebraska: Events were put on by the Dawson County Museum to highlight Latinos in Nebraska and the county of Dawson for the contribution they have made in the history of the state. Events were held on April 2 and April 19th., 2016

A free movie and popcorn movie was shown at the local town majestic theater to celebrate Hispanic Americans. The film was titled "Latino Americans: Prejudice and Pride"

Dawson County Museum Art Gallery had a presentation by humanities Nebraska speaker Ben Salazar. The presentation was titled, "Latinos: Searching for the Good Life in Nebraska"

The Mexican Consulate will be at St. Ann's Parish Center 1003 Taft Street On Saturday, April 23 from 8:00am to 4:00p.m. They will issue Mexican Passports, Birth Certificates, and Consulate ID's.
Call 1-877-639-4835 to make an appointment.

State News:

Nebraska moves to allow professional licenses for immigrants (The Big Story)
<http://bigstory.ap.org/article/83f282fac95c4efaa0660be511bef907/nebraska-moves-allow-professional-licenses-immigrants>

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Nebraska lawmakers approved a bill Wednesday that would allow immigrants with temporary legal status to work in more than 170 professions, including jobs as teachers, nurses and doctors.

Senators passed the measure with a 33-11 vote, enough support to override a likely veto by Gov. Pete Ricketts.

Supporters say that the youths should have access to professional and commercial licenses. The bill would apply to those who came or were brought to the country illegally, but received lawful status under President Barack Obama's executive action allowing them to stay in the country. Nebraska had nearly 5,200 youths who could be affected by the legislation as of December, according to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

The bill has won support from an array of business and religious groups, the Nebraska Cattlemen Association and Omaha Mayor Jean Stothert. It would apply to more than 170 professions, from electricians and pharmacists to tattoo artists and mixed martial artists.

"It's a common sense workforce development proposal to keep educated and skilled residents in Nebraska," said Sen. Heath Mello of Omaha, the measure's sponsor.

Mello said he introduced the bill after learning that some youth in the Omaha area who are in the country illegally were getting trained in the medical field and then taking their skills to Iowa because they couldn't get licensed in Nebraska.

Many states don't specifically prevent the youth from getting professional licenses, he said, but a 2009 state law prohibits Nebraska from granting "benefits" to anyone who has entered the country illegally. Under Nebraska law, benefits include state-issued commercial and professional licenses.

The issue has already surfaced in other legislatures and is expected to spread. "There are a lot of states that haven't looked closely at it," said Tanya Broder, a senior staff attorney with the National Immigration Law Center. "Nebraska is part of a growing trend."

Florida enacted a law in 2014 that allows law licenses for youths who were brought to the U.S. as a minor, have work authorization and have lived in the country for more than 10 years. Illinois passed a similar measure last year, and Nevada approved a law to allow teaching licenses for deferred-action youths.

A new California law allows professional and commercial licenses for anyone

with a taxpayer identification number, regardless of their immigration status. The policy announced by President Barack Obama in 2012 gives certain youths a Social Security number, a two-year work permit and protection from deportation. It applies to people who are at least 15 years old, arrived in the U.S. before their 16th birthday, were under 31 in 2012, have lived continuously in the U.S. since 2007 and are in school or working toward a degree.

Ricketts said the bill is too broad and is unfair to immigrants who followed the legal process to establish residency. In a statement released Tuesday afternoon, the governor said it would also grant licenses to asylum seekers and people with temporary protected status, including those from countries such as Somalia, Syria, and Yemen where terrorists are known to congregate.

Mello said both types of immigrants are forced to undergo a rigorous federal screening before they are granted the status. Sen. Bill Kintner of Papillion, a conservative Republican, said the state shouldn't reward the children of people who came to the country illegally, even though the federal government granted them legal status.

"I just don't think it's our job," Kintner said. "We didn't cause the problem. We shouldn't have to fix the problem. We should put the pressure on the federal government to fix the problem that they created, perpetuated and have failed to do anything about."

Florida and Illinois have already passed laws allowing deferred-action youths to receive law licenses. California allows professional and vocational licenses for anyone with an individual taxpayer identification number, regardless of immigration status.

Advocates for the youth cheered Wednesday's vote. Passing the bill "is a great step forward for Nebraska because we all have much to gain from the skills, talent and hard work of the young people who could obtain professional licenses," said Darcy Tromanhauser, who works on immigration issues for the group Nebraska Appleseed.

Last year, Nebraska became the nation's last state to extend driving privileges to those who were allowed to stay in the U.S. under Obama's program. Ricketts opposed that measure as well, but senators overrode his veto.

The bill is LB947

Ricketts urges senators to kill immigrant bill

-Lincoln Journal Star

On the eve of a final vote in the Legislature, Gov. Pete Ricketts urged state senators to kill a bill that would allow so-called young DACA immigrants to acquire professional and occupational licenses to work in Nebraska.

http://journalstar.com/legislature/ricketts-urges-senators-to-kill-immigrant-bill/article_f3668464-0b7e-5db0-97be-c1ed74eceb2a.html

Reach the writer at 402-473-7248 or dwalton@journalstar.com.

Dawson County Museum Looks to Piece Together Missing Part of State's Latino History

There are over 100 years of Hispanic history in Nebraska that is unknown, but the Dawson County Museum in Lexington is looking to change that.

"There was a lot of racism, a lot of discrimination, and we always felt that everywhere we went, everywhere we lived, everywhere we turned around," says Ben Salazar with Nebraska Humanities.

Zalazar is a Vietnam War veteran and is sharing his family's history in Nebraska through presentations titled "Latinos: Searching for the Good Life in Nebraska." Looking back to when he was a child, Zalazar says he experienced racism everywhere he went.

"As I was getting ready to go down, right above the stairway in red paint it said 'Send the Mexicans home,' in the law school by someone who was going to school there," he shares.

The Dawson County Museum is looking to piece together an important part of Nebraska history that has been left out of the museum until now.

"These people have been here for over a 100 years," explains Crystal Werger, director of the Dawson County Museum. "When Plum Creek, Lexington was settled, shortly after that, we had Hispanics coming in. We have had them here for a long time, but I don't feel that we represent that community very well."

She says it is important to tell the story of Dawson County but says a large part of it is not being told.

"To let people know, look this is what we have in Dawson County, this is what we have in Lexington, you know, we have these fabulous people that have this talent and so that is where I came up with the idea of an art gallery," she explains.

The art gallery features artwork from local artists as well as from Mexico, Venezuela, Peru and South America.

Zalazar says a lot has changed throughout the years, but Nebraskans still need to be more open-minded and willing to learn from others.

He says, "People have to come out of their little shells and fear and stereotypes

and break out and discover how wonderful it is to be diverse, how wonderful it is to know people from other cultures and backgrounds and to actually learn the difference and the similarities."

The art gallery will be on display the entire month of April, and anyone who is interested in helping piece together this important part of history is encouraged to contact the museum at 308-324-5340 or through email at crystalwerger@gmail.com.

The Dawson County Museum is located at 805 N. Taft St. in Lexington. For more information, visit www.dchsmuseum.com.

BOARD APPLICATIONS OPEN

STATE BOARDS & COMMISSIONS ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

The State of Nebraska Governor's Office has released a list of current and upcoming openings on Boards and Commissions that are appointed by the Governor.

If interested, please complete the online application prior to the end of the month of their deadlines. Upcoming Deadlines:

April 2016:

- 1 Capitol Commission
- 2 Capitol Environs Commission
- 3 Historical Records Advisory Board
- 4 Nebraska Information Technology Commission - Legislative Confirmation
- 5 Professional Practices Commission
- 6 Racial Profiling Advisory Committee
- 7 ServeNebraska / Nebraska Volunteer Service Commission

May 2016:

- 1 Dry Bean Commission
- 2 Nebraska Latino American Commission
- 3 Motor Vehicle Industry Licensing Board
- 4 Natural Resources Commission - Legislative Confirmation
- 5 Board of Trustees - State College System

June 2016:

- 1 Accountability and Disclosure Commission - Legislative Confirmation
 - 2 Corn Development, Utilization & Marketing Board
 - 3 Exchange Stakeholder Commission - Legislative Confirmation
 - 4 Commission on Housing and Homelessness
 - 5 Library Commission
 - 6 Nebraska Center for Nursing
 - 7 Tourism Commission - Legislative Confirmation
 - 8 Wheat Development, Utilization & Marketing Board
 - 9 Women's Health Initiative Advisory Council
-

National News:

[http://www.nytimes.com/topic/subject/hispanic
americans](http://www.nytimes.com/topic/subject/hispanic-americans)



~*~2016 NEA Hispanic Issues Conference ~*~

When: June 17, 2016 – June 19, 2016

Where: Fort Lee, New Jersey (15 minutes outside New York city)

Registration Cost:

Early: \$189 (Now thru May 8th)

Late: \$199 (May 8th – June 8th)

On-site: \$209 (June 9th – June 18th)

Hotel Venue:

Double Tree by Hilton Hotel Fort Lee- George Washington Bridge
2117 Route 4 Eastbound, Fort Lee, New Jersey, 07024, USA

The Hilton registration link is:

<http://doubletree.hilton.com/en/dt/groups/personalized/F/FTLFLDT-J49-20160616/index.jhtml>

Hotel Reservation:

A block of rooms has been secured at the rate of \$169.00 per night.
The negotiated rate is available now through May 8th

(Optional) Cultural Excursion (still negotiating transportation rate):

The Cultural Tour will take place Sunday, June 19th, from 11 am to 8pm. Please plan your stay accordingly. Additional information and registration links will be sent out upon registration.

~Contact your local, state, or regional leadership for funding!~

****We hope to see you in New Jersey! ****



Want to know more about American Indian/Alaska Native issues?

- Consider joining NEA's AI/AN Facebook group. Timely, lively conversations take place constantly. Members from around the country share interesting information every day!
- Members are also encouraged to review the information on NEA's homepage regarding issues pertinent to American Indian/Alaska Natives:

<http://www.nea.org/home/37004.htm?q=american%20indian>

Full of great information, articles and curriculum!

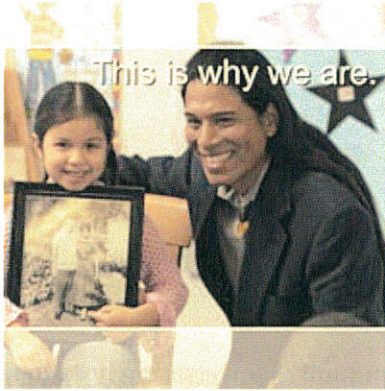
Below are just two examples:

American Indians/Alaska Natives: Education Issues

The AIAN community faces educational issues similar to other minority groups, including the need for adequate funding for schools serving minority and disadvantaged students, as well as other issues with a special impact on the community:

- Student achievement gaps need to be aggressively addressed. For example, while 71 percent of AIANs age 25 or older had a high school diploma or more in the 2000 census, only 11 percent had a bachelor's degree or more, compared to 27 percent of Whites.
- There is an increasing need for quality teachers in Indian schools. Due to rural isolation, low teacher salaries, high poverty, and differences in languages and cultures, it is difficult to recruit and retain quality teachers in Indian schools. Further, the need for special education teachers is growing since representation of AIAN students in special education is at 18 percent, almost double the rest of the student population at 10 percent.
- The contributions of AIANs in American history and contemporary society have not been adequately recognized in public school curriculums. Too few students know, for instance, that the U.S. Constitution was developed in part upon concepts of democracy gained from the League of the Iroquois. Misconceptions about the "discovery of America by Columbus" do not recognize the pre-existence of sophisticated Indian nations. In addition, the "land bridge" theory of migration perpetuates the myth that all people immigrated to this continent. More needs to be taught about the value and importance of AIAN history and culture.
- Native schools continue to be plagued by safety concerns, with high suspension and expulsion rates, and the highest percentage of all groups to report injury with weapons and fights on school grounds.

RELATED ITEMS



NEW: *Lessons of Our Land*, a curriculum developed to offer quality Indian land tenure educational opportunities for Head Start, K-12, college, adult and community education, tribal leaders and Indian landowners. [Find out more!](#)

- [This is Why We Are \(2924.92 KB\)](#)
- [Native Americans with Disabilities Don't Get Services](#)

Celebrating American Indian Heritage Boosts Achievement

Learning and preserving their history and culture is key to Native American student success

By [Cindy Long](#)

Looking back at her school days, Henrietta Mann, a Cheyenne educator in Weatherford, Oklahoma, says "I learned my history is absent and my culture is not present."

Today, Mann is working with her school district and the local Native American Task Force to make sure Native American students in her community don't have the same experience she did.



Too often the history, culture and contributions of American Indians and Alaska Natives are absent from the curricula taught in many school systems across the country, even in districts with a high population of Native American students.

To address this problem, the Weatherford school district began a Community Conversation program, funded by a National Education Association (NEA) grant from the Public Engagement Project/ Family School Community Partnership, to bring together parents, students, and educators to talk about their concerns and the best way to increase the achievement among Native Americans.

After listening to the conversations, the district provided more professional development opportunities in Native American culture for faculty, offered Weatherford students more cultural events and field trips, and established a Native American Club at Weatherford High School.

Their efforts are paying off -- Native American math performance increased from 1080 to 1397 (on Oklahoma's API scale of 1500) over the past two years; and Native American reading performance increased from 1059 to 1272.

A new NEA resource guide, *Focus on What Works*, highlights the Weatherford program as a model for other schools districts. The guide provides background on America's original citizens and details programs like Weatherford's that have helped boost student achievement, test scores and graduation rates for American Indian and Alaska Native students.

There are approximately 644,000 American Indian and Alaska Native students in K–12 public schools across America. Ninety percent of all American Indian and Alaska Native students attend regular public schools, and more than 170,000 teachers in America's public schools are American Indian and Alaska Native.

Despite the large numbers, data for this diverse group is often missing or incomplete from education research and literature, and their rich history and culture is left out of most school curricula, leading to the “invisibility factor” experienced by this population.

[*Focus on What Works*](#) (PDF) identifies action-driven initiatives and promising public school programs that show how incorporating this information into lesson plans boosts academic achievement among the American Indian and Alaska Native students.

In honor of National American Indian Heritage Month, NEA is also offering [recommended reading lists](#) to introduce students to Native American history and culture. Titles are listed by grade level and include fiction, nonfiction and poetry.

neatoday

In December of 2015, Carol Hicks gathered a group of Black OPS teachers to revive an organization that existed in the past. Since that time we have had several meetings, have elected interim officers and started planning events for the upcoming school year.

In May of this year we will be holding a social event for Black teachers to meet and network together.

We are also planning a community event in which parents and the ops community can meet and greet the Black teachers in the district. This will be the beginning of us building a relationship with the parents and community.

April 2, 2016

Black teachers.

Committees: (See bold and underlined topics)

Community Organizing

- Lead members: Sharon Rhodes, Bryan HS & April Morris, Blackburn
 - Other members: Perthedia Berry, TAC, Nicole Benson, Hale MS & Monica Wynne, Edison Elem. (absent – has shared an interest/community involvement is in progress)

Ultimate goal – To build community

- We need actual community
- Parents knowing they can talk to the teachers/administrators in peace
 - They will know what to do to handle the situation
 - Someone to go to
 - I am noticing teacher doing this and talking to me like this

Needs addressing Black students –

Informational Event hosted by Black teachers – work with staff to present and involve Minority members. (Open to all Probationary teachers).

Lead members: Nicole Benson, Hale MS & April Morris, Blackburn

(Why host an Informational meeting – During new teacher induction there is so much stuff coming at you so fast.

What can we offer Probationary teachers? How often? (September and once during the Spring.) Set-up – Booth arrangements in OEA Board room.

- Where to go to find information to find information -- No dumb questions
- Reading paycheck
- Insurance
- Who can I talk to in my building about the Association? How can I find out this information?
- Discounts through NSEA
- Pension/Retirement/OSERS
- Empowering tactics for a new teacher
- What does OEA, NSEA and NEA mean? (Current members want to know about this one.)

Black teachers Social – Lead members: April Morris, Blackburn & Sharon Rhodes

When? Opening of the school year / Beginning of the year

How will you notify Black teachers? Send out an email to all of the Black teachers – Teachers would like to meet and greet with you.

Voice phone –

- Conference room

Identify point of contact by Regions (school)

Names – schools

Berry/Nicole – EMAC – 9 a.m.

How can we become more involved – Attending OEA Board meeting & EMAC meetings.

Three things to focus on:

Community

Black Teacher Social

It will take time – meet for now on – monthly meetings – to get this moving.

Visualize how things will look like.

Black teachers social – May 25th – Before memorial day weekend

Conversation: PROTECTION – This is how OEA was presented

What is going on?

We want to plant a seed.

I did not know this side of OEA. This is my fourth year.

The caucus – it's about building and developing / building a legacy of support instead of just support for yourself.

Other Conversation. ***Golf Tournament – Debra Garza (It takes a lot to host a Golf Tournament – Anthony Williams, North.

Upcoming Community EVENTS:

April 2016

Early Voting Open

April 11 - May 9

Douglas County



Voters may cast an early ballot in-person at the election commission office from April 11 - May 9 for the state's primary election taking place on May 10.

[Find out more »](#)

Career Boot Camp Session 3

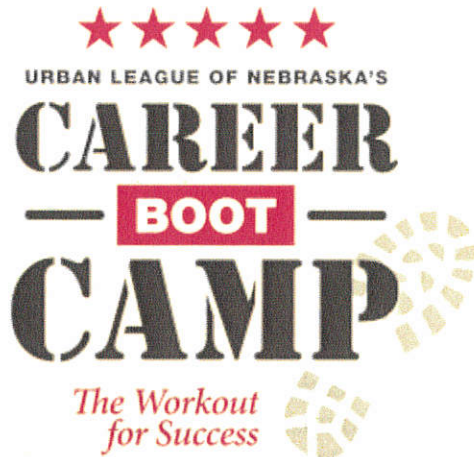
April 11 @ 8:00 am - May 6 @ 5:00 pm

Urban League of Nebraska,

3040 Lake Street

Omaha, NE 68111 United States

+ [Google Map](#)



The Urban League of Nebraska Career Boot Camp is an intensive 3-week program that gives participants the job skills and training needed to find a sustainable career in a high-demand field. Numerous sessions are offered throughout the year. Find more information here. Participants of the third session will graduate on May 6, 2016.

[Find out more »](#)

Fair Deal Village Marketplace Farmer's Market

April 15 @ 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Omaha Economic Development Corporation,

2221 North 24th St.

Omaha, NE United States

+ [Google Map](#)

The Omaha Economic Development Corporation (OEDC) will be hosting a Farmer's Market every Friday from April 8 - September 9, 2016. Each Farmer's Market will run from 4 PM - 7 PM in the OEDC parking lot located at the southeast corner of 24th and Grant Streets. These weekly markets are a wonderful opportunity to buy fresh foods and meet local vendors.

[Find out more »](#)

Voter Registration Deadline (Most Methods)

April 22 @ 8:00 am - 6:00 pm

GET OUT THE VOTE

For individuals who would like to vote in the state's primary election taking place on May 10, today is the last day to register to vote using the following methods: By mail (mailed registrations must be postmarked by this date) At agencies At Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) locations By the deputy registrar (6 PM) Online Via deliverance of the voter registration form to the election office by someone other than the person registering. Voter registration can still be done in-person at...

[Find out more »](#)

Fair Deal Village Marketplace Farmer's Market

April 22 @ 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Omaha Economic Development Corporation,

2221 North 24th St.

Omaha, NE United States

+ [Google Map](#)

The Omaha Economic Development Corporation (OEDC) will be hosting a Farmer's Market every Friday from April 8 - September 9, 2016. Each Farmer's Market will run from 4 PM - 7 PM in the OEDC parking lot located at the southeast corner of 24th and Grant Streets. These weekly markets are a wonderful opportunity to buy fresh foods and meet local vendors.

[Find out more »](#)

"I Am" Young Ladies Chat & Chew

April 25 @ 11:00 am - 1:00 pm

Monroe Middle School,

5105 Bedford Avenue

Omaha, NE 68104 United States

+ [Google Map](#)

We invite you to rejoin us from the “I Am” Young Ladies Conference for our follow-up “chat and chew” luncheon. Contact Nicole Mitchell at 402-451-1066 to claim your seat. Must RSVP by Thursday, April 21, 2016.

Find out more »

Urban League of Nebraska Young Professionals 2nd Annual National Day of Service Fair

April 25 @ 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Omaha North High School, Viking Center,

4410 N. 36th Street Select a Country:

+ Google Map

The Urban League of Nebraska Young Professionals is hosting its Second Annual National Day of Service Fair. This year's event will incorporate STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and math) education and mentoring. The event is targeted toward high school students, who can come to meet with representatives from STEAM fields to talk about their work and mentorship opportunities. Representatives from Interface Web School, Lauritzen Gardens, UNMC, Fliye Arts and more will be in attendance. Attendees can visit with each representative to...

Youth Diversity Leadership Summit: Growing Roots

April 29

UNO Barbara Weitz Community Engagement Center,

6001 Dodge Street

Omaha, NE 68182 United States

+ Google Map

The Metro Omaha Tobacco Action Coalition (MOTAC) and Queer People of Color (QPOC) Nebraska are hosting the 2nd Annual Youth Diversity Leadership Summit. The summit will focus on high school and college aged students 14-24 years old who identify as being part of a marginalized population (to include, but not limited to: LGBTQIA and allies, racial/ethnic groups, women, and/or a background of low socioeconomic status). Community leaders and advocates will be in attendance at the event, which will also...

Fair Deal Village Marketplace Farmer's Market

April 29 @ 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Omaha Economic Development Corporation,

2221 North 24th St.

Omaha, NE United States

+ Google Map

The Omaha Economic Development Corporation (OEDC) will be hosting a Farmer's Market every Friday from April 8 - September 9, 2016. Each Farmer's Market will run from 4 PM - 7 PM in the OEDC parking lot located at the southeast corner of 24th and Grant Streets. These weekly markets are a wonderful opportunity to buy fresh foods and meet local vendors.

Omaha sees spike in black college grad rate, as outreach programs aim to close education's race gap



MATT DIXON/THE WORLD-HERALD

University of Nebraska at Omaha students Brendan Brown of Omaha, a senior in public relations and advertising, and Paris Scott of Washington, D.C., a senior in journalism and broadcasting, catch up on campus. Today nearly one in five black adults in Omaha has at least a four-year college degree, up from less than one in seven in 2000.



MATT DIXON/THE WORLD-HERALD

UNO - multicultural affairs office

Taricka Fairgood, left, of UNO's multicultural affairs office counsels Paris Cross, a sophomore majoring in chemistry. "They will not fall

through the cracks on my watch." Fairgood says of making sure



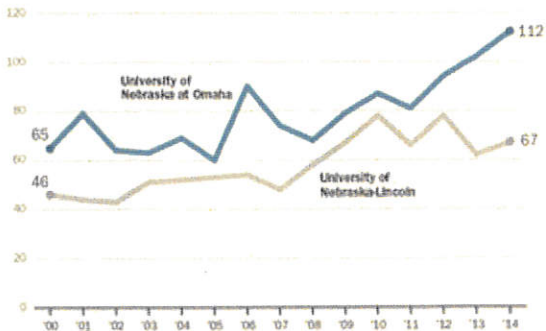
students have access to academic services.

MORE BLACK GRADUATES

The percentage of black adults

NUMBER OF BLACK GRADS ON THE RISE ...

Since 2000, the number of bachelor's degrees awarded to black students is up more than 70 percent at UNO and nearly 50 percent at UNL.



[View all 6 images in gallery.](#)

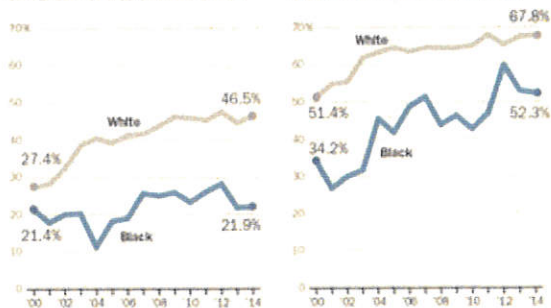
... BUT RATES TELL A MIXED STORY

At UNO, black graduation rates have only marginally increased, and the black/white gap is increasing. UNL is narrowing its black-white gap.

Six-year graduation rate for full-time, first-time freshmen

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT OMAHA

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA LINCOLN





Jeff Collins

POSTED: MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2016 12:15 AM

Omaha sees spike in black college grad rate, as outreach programs aim to close education's race gap **By Henry J. Cordes / World-Herald staff writer**

During his days growing up in north Omaha, Jeff Collins admits he wasn't exactly college material.

The North High student was bright but uninterested, favorite activities including talking back, showing off, cutting up and skipping out.

Thank you for reading and relying on Omaha.com for your news and information. You have now viewed your 30 day allowance of 14 free articles.

"I'd just hang out in the halls, and I spent a lot of time at lunch," the 26-year-old said with a laugh. "It was totally crazy."

What saved him, he said, was a program that pulls gifted underachievers out of Omaha high schools and immerses them in guided independent study and dual high school/college classes on the University of Nebraska at Omaha campus.

The program ultimately helped Collins land not only a high school diploma but also a UNO bachelor's degree and a job in the Omaha planning office of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

With his recent success story, Collins became part of a positive new trend in Omaha's black community: a steep rise in four-year college graduates.

According to U.S. Census Bureau data, the number of black residents in the metro area with at least a bachelor's degree has spiked nearly 80 percent since 2000.

Today nearly one in five black adults in the metro area has at least a four-year college degree. In 2000, it was less than one in seven.

Among America's metro areas with the largest black populations, only two have recently seen bigger growth in the rate of black college grads than Omaha.

"What's nice to see is the trend, which has been consistently going up," said David Drozd, a demographer in UNO's Center for Public Affairs Research. "It's important because we know education is a pathway out of poverty and to higher-paying jobs."

The growth trend is largely mirrored on the state's college campuses, with UNO, Bellevue University and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in particular seeing sizable increases in black graduates. UNO, which enrolls more black undergraduates than any other four-year school in the state, now awards bachelor's degrees to more than 100 black students a year, up from just over 60 during the early 2000s.

However, the picture for black student success is not completely rosy.

Black students in Nebraska are still less likely than whites to attend four-year colleges. At UNO, the black graduation rate is up only marginally since 2000, and the gap between white and black graduation rates has grown.

Conversely, UNL has seen a sharper increase in its black graduation rate and is narrowing its black-white gap. In fact, a recent national study found UNL over the past decade has reduced its graduation gap between whites and historically underrepresented minorities more than any other school in the country.

At UNO, recent concerns over lagging black graduation rates have prompted the launch of new programs aimed at early identification of struggling students and better connection of often-isolated black students to the campus and each other.

“We are taking it very seriously,” said Dan Shipp, UNO’s vice chancellor for student affairs. “I think we can do a lot better, and we have leadership on campus committed to doing it.”

Leaders in higher education say all Nebraskans have a stake in continuing to close the state’s racial education gap. With the baby boom generation aging into retirement and the state’s population growing increasingly diverse, Nebraska needs kids from all races and backgrounds to succeed in school if it’s going to have the workforce needed to fuel future economic growth.

“We are seeing things trend in the right direction, but there’s still a long way to go,” said Mike Baumgartner of Nebraska’s Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education. “It has to be a top priority for the state.”

When it comes to raising achievement rates, there are few places it’s more critical than in north Omaha, which in recent years has been home to one of the most impoverished black communities in the nation.

The metro area’s black poverty rate ranked as the 14th-worst among the nation’s 100 largest metro areas in census surveys between 2006 and 2010. More starkly, Omaha ranked fifth among those metro areas in the disparity between its black and white poverty rates.

Historically low rates of college success for blacks contributed to such numbers.

In 2000, 13.5 percent of Omaha-area blacks age 25 and over had at least a bachelor’s degree. That was less than half the 28.5 percent white rate in Omaha and nearly a percentage point below the U.S. black average.

But more recent data compiled and analyzed by UNO’s Drozd shows considerable progress on that front.

Census surveys from 2010 to 2014 show the rate of black four-year grads shot up to 19.8 percent, and it’s trending still higher. It’s also now slightly above the U.S. black average.

Among the 100 metro areas with the largest black populations, Omaha's percentage of black college graduates now ranks 33rd, improved from 55th five years ago. More impressively, among those metro areas, only Savannah, Georgia, and Tallahassee, Florida, in that time have seen a bigger percentage-point rise in black grads than Omaha.

The growth in black grads also has narrowed the metro area's black-white education gap. In 2000 the white percentage of Omahans with college degrees was 2.1 times the black rate. It's 1.8 times higher now.

In sheer numbers, black college graduates living in Omaha have grown since 2000 from 4,300 to 7,700.

There also has been marked growth in the number of Hispanic college grads in Omaha in that time. Four-year grads are up from 2,200 to 4,800, though such grads still represent only about 12 percent of the Hispanic population 25 and above, a figure that hasn't changed much.

Willie Barney of the Empowerment Network, a north Omaha community development organization, had recently noted the spike in black education levels. He said it goes hand in hand with other positive trends, including falling unemployment and poverty rates, fewer high school dropouts and an increase in black-owned businesses.

"Education is critical," he said. "We still have issues to address with a sense of urgency. (But) there is a lot more focus on getting African-American kids to college and more programs and support available to assist students getting through college."

Research has long documented the barriers to college success faced by economically disadvantaged students.

They often arrive as freshmen less academically prepared. They can struggle financially, many working their way through school or being forced to drop to part time or drop out due to family financial crises. Often they represent the first generation in their family to attend college, leaving them few role models and little guidance on what's required to succeed.

"When you're the first in your family to navigate the financial aid process and to sit in a college classroom, it's a foreign land," said Joshua Williams, a 2011 UNO graduate who now serves as coordinator for inclusion and equity on campus.

UNO has long recognized the barriers faced by disadvantaged students, more than four decades ago launching the Goodrich scholarship program. Besides providing state-funded tuition assistance, Goodrich provides low-income students close interaction with faculty and fellow Goodrich students, instruction in study skills, tutoring and other support services designed to reduce isolation and boost chances of success.

Such efforts were significantly ramped up in 2008 when the Susan Thompson Buffett Foundation launched the Thompson Scholars Learning Community on the NU campuses in Omaha, Lincoln and Kearney.

While offering scholarships for needy students and support services similar to the Goodrich program, the Thompson community is much larger. At UNO, Goodrich currently enrolls 277 students overall, 36 of them black; Thompson includes 84 black students and 923 in all.

“It’s a very conducive environment to be successful,” said Chris Knight, a 2012 grad who was among the first black students in UNO’s Thompson community.

It’s likely no coincidence that UNO black graduates have particularly spiked in the years since Thompson came on line.

UNL has similarly seen black grads hit all-time highs. And in December, the school was cited in a study by Education Trust for narrowing the graduation rate gap for black, Hispanic and Native American students more than any school in the country.

Amy Goodburn, UNL’s interim dean of enrollment, attributed the school’s gains to a number of factors, including the school’s general efforts to boost retention of all students, programs specifically supporting disadvantaged students and the Thompson community.

“It’s a game-changer for those students,” Goodburn said of the Thompson program. “It’s a community that creates a sense of belonging.”

However, while UNO has seen big gains in its black enrollment — up 30 percent over the last decade — and in its number of black graduates, its black graduation rates are only marginally higher than they were in the early 2000s. That’s even as white completion rates at the school have climbed markedly.

To be sure, metropolitan universities like UNO tend to have lower graduation rates than other types of schools. Such urban institutions have more open enrollment policies, higher numbers of students who work or go part time, and more transfers both in and out.

But while UNO's overall and white graduation rates exceed those of its peer metropolitan institutions, that's not true for black students. Just 22 percent of black full-time, first-time freshmen at UNO graduate within six years, compared with 30 percent for its peers.

UNO officials have taken note. Two years ago they decided they needed to better support the school's nearly 800 black undergraduates, the vast majority of whom are not part of the Goodrich or Thompson programs. Shipp traveled with black students and administrators to UCLA to look at a potential model program there.

In the end, UNO created a new position in its multicultural affairs office whose duties include looking for early warning signs that students are struggling. The school has also created the Brotherhood and Sisterhood, gender-specific organizations that seek to provide some of the same academic services and peer connections that students in those scholarship programs receive.

"If I haven't seen them in two or three weeks, I will go find them," said Taricka Fairgood, who facilitates the Sisterhood. "They will not fall through the cracks on my watch."

Not all of the metro area's recent four-year black grads have been traditional students coming right out of high school. Many appear to be adult learners, including significant numbers earning degrees at Bellevue University.

State figures show Bellevue actually awards more bachelor's degrees to black students than any college in Nebraska — more than 200 a year — though it appears almost two-thirds of those degrees are going to students living in other states, taking courses online. Still, it appears Bellevue ranks second only to UNO in producing local four-year grads.

Terrence Mackey, who returned to school at Bellevue two decades after dropping out at UNO, said he appreciated the credit Bellevue gave him for his real-life work at Boys Town and its accelerated degree program. He feels his degree is now helping him give back to his community in his work as an Omaha police gang specialist in north Omaha.

Recent UNO grads Collins and Knight say they also hope to serve as beacons for their community. Knight says he stresses education to kids while volunteering as a youth mentor for 100 Black Men of Omaha.

“I tell them a lot of the things you may think are cool to do right now aren’t going to be that way,” Knight said. “The only thing that will last is your education.”

Contact the writer: 402-444-1130, henry.cordes@owh.com

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