

**Report of the Nebraska NEA Directors
to the 2016 NSEA Delegate Assembly,
By John Heineman, Omaha, and Deb Gnuse, Grand Island**

The National Education Association Board of Directors meetings have been full of political activity this past school year. It is evident that every decision made in education is based on a political decision. While attended NEA Board of Director meetings, your Nebraska members of the board have continued to advocate for change that will have a positive impact on the students we teach and the members we support.

One huge celebration was the passage of the Every Student Succeeds Act, or ESSA. This replaces No Child Left Behind and gets rid of AYP (adequate yearly progress). It also includes an opportunity dashboard that focuses on multiple indicators of student success. ESSA includes more local control so education decisions can be made closest to where the students are: at the state and local levels.

Funding a strong public education system is critical. Providing mandates without the resources necessary to implement them simply sets up schools and students for failure.

Your Nebraska NEA directors will continue to push national leaders and policymakers for positive education change and improved funding to accomplish those changes.

Another major focus for the NEA board of directors has been institutional racism. At our February meeting we held an intense discussion about institutional racism in American schools. This topic was also a focus at the NEA Leadership Summit. Keynote speakers addressed the topic and led discussion in a variety of ways. This topic will continue to be our focus as we head into the Representative Assembly this summer.