

**Student Education Association of Nebraska
2016-2017 Annual Report**

Denton Beacom, Wayne State College, President

The Student Education Association of Nebraska (SEAN) has had a very busy year. As President of SEAN, I respectfully submit the annual report for the 2016-17 association year.

The SEAN Executive team chose the first ever President-Elect, York College's Madison Kinney, who served as Western Region Representative a year earlier. She will of course return for her third term this Fall, but this time as president. We also had Mikayla Nelson serve a second term as Southeast Region Representative. She is set to graduate this May. It was really nice having a couple of returners on the executive team.

The other executive members consisted of Hannah Smith, secretary, Wayne State College; Bailey Schlueter, Northeast Region Representative, Wayne State College; Elizabeth Milliken, Metro Region Representative, UNO; Ali Johnson, Western Region Representative, Hastings College; and Evann Vrana, Underclass Representative, UNL. We really bonded well as a team and were very successful. I know that all of these members will be very successful as educators and leaders in the future.

A couple other changes to SEAN this year were the two new chapter advisors. Kristen Sedlacek and Kristi Capek shared the title as co-advisors. As their first year with the program they did a wonderful job and I can't wait to see how they continue to assist the student program in the future. The board member liaisons were Paul Schulte and Brad Wellman. Paul has been with the student program for some time and everyone was glad to have him back with his experience. Brad joined us for his first year and is a former SEAN president himself.

I have had the opportunity to work with a lot of other student members from around the country. Being on the National Education Association Advisory Committee of Student Members has allowed me to learn about other Student Programs from around the country. I can't express enough how well Nebraska is doing with their student program. We are definitely towards the top in how well our student program is doing among all student programs across the country.

Our year began very strong way back in June in Washington, D.C., Of the eight executive committee members, six were able to attend the Student Leadership Conference. We were also able to have both of our co-advisors along. This was a great opportunity as we used the time to get a lot of work done before our terms officially started. The slogan #BehindTheScenes was actually created while we were in D.C. Our biggest goal was to make our program stand out at colleges and universities in Nebraska. We also had a goal to increase membership or to break even. By mid-March, membership in SEAN was up by 20 members, and that number

was expected to grow even more by the end of the year. Several other goals were also set, most of which were able to be completed.

The big fall event was Fall Conference and Outreach to Teach. Friday night was Fall Conference and it was a big success. It was held at Wayne State College and had around 115 people in attendance. Our keynote was former Husker football star and current UNO Athletic Director Trev Alberts. He gave a great message on the importance of educators and being leaders. Joining us that night was also former retired WSC professor and former NSEA President Dennis Lichty. It was great to have him attend, as he is so passionate in everything that we do. We also were lucky enough to have NEA Student Chair Ashely Muscarella. She was able to stay for the whole weekend of activities. Saturday, we were at Emerson-Hubbard Elementary and High School buildings and got a lot of work completed. I think all in all it was another successful Outreach to Teach.

As I write this report, SEAN has several things left on its agenda for the year. First, we will rally against the retirement bill LB415. I will testify. Second, the NSEA-Retired will host around 15 students for their annual Intergenerational Mentoring Program. We appreciate their support with this event along with their donation to Outreach to Teach. The last big event of the year will be our Delegate Assembly and Spring Conference at Nebraska Wesleyan March 31 and April 1. The big theme on Saturday for Spring Conference will be social justice. We will also have a lobby day during the day on Friday at the Capitol in Lincoln, before our Delegate Assembly begins that night.

There was a tremendous amount of success this year. As president, I can say the generation of current Aspiring Educators are very powerful leaders. We started out very shy about the value of political action but we grew, and now we will not stand silent. I know that as our aspiring educators become NSEA-Actives, they will not let up on what they believe is the right direction for education. The student program has some really great things ahead as we continue to strive and set goals and dreams to be bigger and stronger than ever.