

Report of the NGEN (Early Educators) Committee
By Rae Carbaugh, Niobrara Education Association, Chair

This year has been a great stepping stone for NGEN.

As a committee, we have dedicated time and resources into recruitment and retention. For the first time, we attempted to do webinar professional development (Managing Student Behavior, Work/Life Balance, and Engagement) as a way to connect to as many early career educators as possible. Another focus area has been communication. We have used Facebook and Snapchat as communication pathways to publicize important information and events.

Time has always been an issue for early career educators, so we have utilized Zoom three times this year as a way to conduct our meetings. The committee anticipates utilizing Zoom more in the future.

Connecting with future educators is our next focus. We will participate in an early career panel at the SEAN Delegate Assembly. Additionally, we have had several NGEN members attend career fairs at UNK, UNL, and UNO. This networking helps engage future active members.

Tatiana Eskridge, Omaha, and Jake Barry, Papillion-LaVista, had the opportunity to travel and present the work of NGEN at NEA's Leadership Summit. We will also present a Professional Development workshop during Delegate Assembly's Friday evening professional development sessions.

NGEN has also presented professional development in the form of a Degrees Not Debt program at Lincoln, Elkhorn, Omaha, Kearney and Millard.

NGEN has also encouraged many early careers to participate in the mentoring and coaching NSEA has to offer.

Overall, we are trying to make our name more noticeable and recognizable and aiming to get more contact with graduating SEAN members to create the flow of membership from student to active. We look forward to this next year and hope we will continue to grow.