

**Report of the New Generation of Educators in Nebraska (Early Educators) Committee  
Submitted by Jacob Barry, Elkhorn Education Association,  
and Jake Joliffe, Lincoln Education Association**

This year, amid the challenges, NGEN continued to work to engage and support early career educators. To start, NGEN conducted summer 2020 focus groups from which we gained insight and had tremendous conversations with early career educators on the topics of stressors and challenges in the profession and how they felt they could best be supported.

We used the NSEA New Educator Cards to contact early career educators that were both members and non-members in order to facilitate conversation and gain data on the current realities of early career educators. These powerful conversations led us to the decision to conduct another series of focus groups this spring. We plan to use these opportunities to further engage early career educators and use the data to make decisions on how to best support our target group in the future.

Further, Jake Joliffe, Hana Krommenhoek and Eddie Powers led a New Teacher Panel Q&A NSEA webinar, which opened up many avenues for constructive conversation and building relationships with educators across the state. Jordan Koch and Jake Barry hosted the “I am a Member, Now What? Engagement and Opportunities” webinar via the NSEA webinar platform. They engaged early career educators and other members on the ample ways in which they could become involved in the association at the local, state and national levels. Jordan and Jake have submitted a proposal to host this opportunity again at NSEA-U.

This past fall, the NGEN committee hosted a Trivia Night in conjunction with the NEA Member Benefits webinar. In conjunction with the Self-Care NSEA webinar, NGEN hosted a yoga mini-session as a way to engage educators in a stress-reducing activity. Moreover, Jake Barry engaged Aspiring Educators at their fall virtual conference on the topic of True Colors - a personality and communication strategies tool. From this, Jake made connections with Aspiring Educator groups and was asked to attend local meetings for the University of Nebraska Omaha and Lincoln chapters. He presented the True Colors session for the UNO chapter. For the UNL chapter, he shared some of the realities of teaching currently and facilitated conversation and questions from the group about technology, work-life balance and best practices.

This spring, Hana Krommenhoek hosted a few events engaging the early career educators within the Omaha Education Association. She invited the NGEN committee to the “Feeling Bottled Up?” social event in which a mixologist led the group in how to create different mixed drinks. This was followed by conversation and socialization. The NGEN Committee plans to use this idea in conjunction with a trivia event for their end-of-the-year social on May 5.

In year three, the NGEN Committee also wrote policy to be included in the NSEA Board Policy book. Going into year four as a committee, NGEN looks forward to finding new, creative ways to engage early career educators as it strives to support, encourage and inspire as early career educator leaders.

The NSEA Board approved the committee policy in March of 2021. The Board also approved changing the NGEN acronym to NewGEN. The NewGEN committee will choose a new logo in the coming month.