

**Report of the Ethnic Minority Affairs Committee
Submitted by Edward T. Ventura Jr.**

NSEA EMAC promotes respect and understanding of minority and ethnic groups, and works to maintain compliance with National Education Association and Nebraska State Education Association goals for minority participation, training, and leadership.

NSEA EMAC submitted two organizations as nominees for the 2022 NEA Human and Civil Rights Award – OutNebraska and Latino Center of the Midlands.

OutNebraska serves as the statewide organization to secure fairness and equality for LGBTQIA2S+ Nebraskans and their families. OutNebraska has advocated for a state law protecting LGBTQIA2S+ people from employment and housing discrimination, expressing skepticism that city-level laws are comprehensive enough. OutNebraska Executive Director Abbi Swatsworth said, “We are excited to partner with fellow Nebraskans from - Nebraska City to Scottsbluff - to ensure our state is a shining example of fairness and equality for all our families, including those who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender.”

The mission of the Latino Center of the Midlands is to enhance the lives of the Heartland Latino Community by supporting the education and development of our youth and adults; promoting comprehensive engagement of our families in all facets of their lives; and by fostering leadership through a variety of services and activities. The LCM referral support system helps individuals with community resources, connection, and awareness to health care, government, legal, housing, social supports, pantry, and education. “Because of our 50-plus year history, people know to come to the Latino Center of the Midlands. We are still making an impact on parent engagement and basic adult education,” said Latino Center of the Midlands Executive Director Albert Varas.

The 2022 Nebraska Teacher of the Year and NSEA EMAC Hispanic Representative Lee Perez (Omaha) was the Keynote at the NSEA Aspiring Ed Fall Conference. NSEA EMAC American Indian/Alaska Native Christina Running Hawk Ellison (Millard) along with Nebraska NEA Director Tracy Hartman Bradley (Omaha) spoke before the Nebraska Legislature’s Education Committee in support of LB 872 - Authorizing the wearing of tribal regalia by certain students. NSEA EMAC was a co-sponsor of the 2021 NSEA-U Zoo event and the 52nd Annual National Indian Education Association Convention held in Omaha. We also gave free books to over 56 members at NSEA-U 2021. We approved the NSEA Minority Involvement Plan which encourages greater involvement of minorities in Association activities at all levels.

We are glad to report 1,028 members have self-identified their ethnic minority status. A goal of the EMAC is to increase their membership by getting “unidentified” members to self-identify on the membership rolls. How can you update your ethnicity status? Contact your Organizational Specialist or call the NSEA at 1-800-742- 0047 to update your records.

In addition to Ventura, Perez, and Running Hawk Ellison the NSEA EMAC Executive Team has Vice-Chair Nora Lenz (Lincoln); Secretary Dr. Tanishia Jacobs (Bellevue); American Indian/Alaska Native Representative Larry Chandler (Omaha); Asian/Pacific Islander Representatives Kristy Lee and Sidd Thomas (both of Omaha); Black Representatives Brittany Hodges Bolkovac (Lincoln) and Adia Brightman (Omaha Administrators); and Hispanic Representative Dr. Elena Garcia (Grand Island).