

**Report of the Education Support Professionals Committee
Submitted by Jenny Wood, ESP Chair/At-Large Board Member**

The purpose of the Education Support Professionals (ESP) Committee is to promote respect and understanding of ESPs and advocate for ESPs to be involved in Association activities. The Committee shall plan and implement programs that promote:

- o Advocating for the rights and needs of ESPs;
- o Recruiting ESP members;
- o Recruiting ESP leaders;
- o Training ESP leaders;
- o Facilitating communication among ESP members.

Below is a summary of the critical work our ESP leaders, members, and staff have been engaged in during the year:

At the June NSEA Board meeting, Jenny Wood was sworn in as the ESP Member at Large. During the NSEA-U in Lincoln, Jenny Wood did a session on The 411 of Sign Language Interpretation and Judy Roach had a session for ESP members. The ESP Committee met on March 1, 2023, via Zoom. At this meeting, introductions were made. Judy Roach discussed membership numbers. Currently, we have 459 ESP members with 117 new members this year. The Just One campaign brought in 16 new members. Wyoming is hosting an ESP Conference with Nebraska on April 14-16, 2023, that ESP members and Judy Roach will attend. We have included ESP spotlights in The Voice magazine. We request members to please submit names to Judy Roach of ESP's in your district that have done outstanding work. There will be a short ESP meeting on April 28 at 5:30 p.m. just prior to Delegate Assembly. NSEA members joined colleagues from across the country to collaborate and learn about issues affecting education support professionals at NEA's annual Education Support Professionals Conference. Workshop topics included: Self-sacrifice vs Self Care; Transformative Conversations; Social Racial Justice; Building Strong ESP Locals; Success of Students; Journey to Leadership; and many more. The conference was held from March 23-26 in Seattle, Washington. NSEA was well represented by ESP members, including Jenny Wood, South Sioux City, and Judy Bennett and Trish Harrahill, Palmer. NSEA Organizational Specialist Judy Roach attended as well. Additionally, Trish Harrahill was recognized as Nebraska's nominee for NEA ESP of the Year.