

**Report of the Higher Education Affairs Committee  
Submitted by Kristi Rastede, Chair**

NSEA's Higher Education Affairs Committee consists of Kathy Ewers (Central Community College), Amy Winters (Western Nebraska Community College), Will Aviles (University of Nebraska–Kearney), Joe Blankenau (Wayne State College), and Kristi Rastede (Northeast Community College; chair). The Higher Education Affairs Committee discussed membership, ways to make higher education more visible, dues, politics and why it is important to lobby for higher education, and professional development opportunities. Of the topics discussed, the professional development topics for NSEA-U (and potential higher education monthly meetings) include how to use member benefits; membership organization with training, a clear layout to discuss with non-members, successful strategies for gaining membership, and ESP organization; trauma-based professional development; advocacy in the Unicameral Legislature; and lobbying. Finally, Higher Education. Affairs discussed the differences between the three systems negotiating contracts: the community college system, the state college system, and the university system. We are a small but mighty group and look forward to continuing our work to engage members, increase membership, and focus on higher education topics applicable to all.