



A newsletter by and for members of the Student Education Association of Nebraska.

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DECEMBER 2017



## IMPORTANT DATES

### 2ND ANNUAL SEAN LOBBY DAY NSEA, LINCOLN

Date TBD based on Legislative Calendar

### INTERGENERATIONAL MENTORING NORFOLK, OMAHA & HASTINGS

Saturday, April 7

### SPRING CONFERENCE & DELEGATE ASSEMBLY TENTATIVE: UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA, KEARNEY

April 13-14

### NSEA DELEGATE ASSEMBLY 2018 CORNHUSKER HOTEL LINCOLN, NE

April 27-28

### NEA SUMMER LEADERSHIP MINNEAPOLIS, MN

June 27-30, 2018

### NEA REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY MINNEAPOLIS, MN

June 30 - July 5, 2018

## INTERGENERATIONAL MENTORING

Every college student about to head out into the teaching profession should be paired with a veteran teacher as a mentor.

Such a pairing rarely happens – unless you participate in the NSEA-Retired Intergenerational Mentoring Program!

The 15th edition of the mentoring program will take shape again next year. Rather than meeting in one location at Lincoln, the NSEA-Retired organization will bring the program to college and university students at three sites on Saturday, April 7: the Livelong Learning Center in Norfolk; at UNO; and at Hastings College.

The long-running program pairs NSEA-Retired members with members of the Student Education Association of Nebraska – college students – during the student’s sophomore or junior year in teacher education. The NSEA-Retired members act as mentor to the students through their senior student teaching semester and into their first year as a professional teacher.

The relationship between the mentor and the student is non-judgmental and non-evaluative. The mentor can help the prospective teacher get through the tough day-to-day moments and challenging situations that every student teacher and every first-year teacher will face. Through telephone, e-mail, and face-to-face conversations, the student knows he or she has an experienced mentor to ask for an idea for a lesson, a hint for handling a discipline problem, or a trusting shoulder to lean on.

To sign up, go to: [www.nsea.org/2018IGM](http://www.nsea.org/2018IGM)



**Mentoring Moment:** SEAN Southeast Region Rep. Evann Vrana chats with NSEA-Retired Mentor Marcia Rastede at the 2016 NSEA Intergenerational Mentoring Event held in Lincoln. There will be three separate locations for Intergenerational Mentoring held on April 7, 2018, allowing more students and mentors to participate.

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# CHAPTER REPORTS

## University of Nebraska Omaha

The University of Nebraska at Omaha Chapter of SEAN had a busy first semester, with many events under their belts.

Chapter President Elizabeth Milliken reports that a Sept. 9 car wash at a local HyVee grocery store raised more than \$300. Fifteen chapter members helped out, and now the proceeds will be used to defray conference costs and to assist with the UNO chapter's Outreach to Teach effort.

Two days earlier, the chapter hosted a campus pancake feed. For \$5, students rushing to class could get unlimited pancakes and juice. The flapjack flipping raised another \$300-plus, with proceeds designated for the Outreach to Teach event.

On Oct. 5, statewide SEAN Advisor Kristen Sedlacek, an organizational specialist for NSEA, talked to chapter members about utilizing the NEA Member Benefits program to save money. Finally, on Oct. 7, representatives from three community organizations talked to members about the services and resources they provide for local students and their families.

They also held an October Rake-a-Thon. They distributed fliers announcing that members would rake lawns for a donation. On the day of the event, seven members sent four hours raking two yards. Donations from that effort then supported the chapter's Outreach to Teach event.

Members then enjoyed a fall party. They enjoyed networking with each other, carving pumpkins and playing 'Minute to Win It' games.

Finally, the UNO College of Education staff and family Christmas Party on Dec. 7 saw chapter officers volunteer to assist. Officers worked on craft projects with the children of staff, while staff members enjoyed the holiday party.

Lexie Landolt is the chapter vice president, and Shandra Shillingstad is the chapter sponsor.

## Nebraska Wesleyan University

Nebraska Wesleyan University Chapter President Brooke Scheitel reports that the chapter's first meeting of the semester was quite a success.

"We talked about what the entire semester looked like at our local level and at the state and national level. It was very exciting to introduce the new members to everyone and talk about everything that SEAN has to offer," she said.

Members also kicked off the chapter's book drive project, which will collect new and used books from people across the campus.

"This event has been really successful, especially with professors and members of our staff, because it seems that they are doing some house cleaning and bringing us any books that they do not want or use," said Scheitel.

The books will be donated to a local school or schools,

depending on how many books are collected by semester's end. About 100 were on hand in late November, with a goal of collecting 250. Scheitel said the project may continue through the year.

"This is a project that for the most part kind of runs itself, so I would recommend it to any and all chapters because we all know that everyone is always in need of more books in their classrooms," she said.

In November, the chapter selected an elementary school in Lincoln for the annual Giving Tree Project.

"This project is one that our members constantly look forward to because we can see the impact that we are having on kiddos," said Scheitel.

Each year in the past, members have collected up to 60 gifts for students who would not typically receive a Christmas gift.

"Again, this is another campus wide event that we host because we want to get as many people involved as we can. The holiday season is a time of giving and we are so excited to host this event again this year," she said.

Dallas Burrigh is chapter vice president, and Tim Anderson is the chapter advisor.

## York College

In the fall, York College Chapter members were busy introducing new students to SEAN: explaining what SEAN is, how to be involved, and signing up students. The first meeting of the year had a great turnout of nearly 60 students.

In October, they discussed upcoming events and reviewed and reflected on the leadership conference. They reviewed the Fall Conference in detail and discussed the disaster relief and "Change for Change," concluding the meeting and enjoying smores for a treat.

The York Chapter is also making arrangements for the EME4L members and organizers from Hastings College (Tahj Willingham, Steven Dunham and Casey Molifua) to speak with athletic teams and education classes about the importance of minority teachers.

Sierra Valerio is chapter president, Tommy Eckhart serves as vice president, and Bob DeHart is the chapter sponsor.



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# GRANT FUNDING FOR EVENTS & PROJECTS NOW AVAILABLE

Does your chapter need to add some spice and pizzazz to a meeting, or have the need for cash to finance a special project?

Beginning now, NSEA will offer grant funding to local chapters of the Student Education Association of Nebraska (SEAN) on a first-come, first-served basis for Chapters with financial needs. Chapters can apply for grants to assist with local events or community service projects/outreach events. Grants will be awarded to Chapters that apply using the online request form found at:

[www.nsea.org/SEANGrant](http://www.nsea.org/SEANGrant)

All fields in the grant request form must be completed. SEAN representatives will contact the campus chapter advisor to ensure the funding request is legitimate. Funds will be made payable to the chapter and not directly to an advisor or student member.

Up to \$100 each semester may be awarded to a chapter. Funding for chapter events may include, but are not limited to: food/prizes for chapter meetings; chapter social events or parties; chapter recruitment events.

Up to \$500 annually may be awarded to chapters for community service projects or outreach events. Those events may include, but are not limited to: supplies for an outreach event at a local public school; an outreach event at your college/university; community service fair.

Remember, funds will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis. Once the budgeted funding has been exhausted, additional grant applications will not be accepted.

Questions? Contact SEAN State Student Organizer Kristen Sedlacek at (800) 742-0047 or at: [kristen.sedlacek@nsea.org](mailto:kristen.sedlacek@nsea.org)



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# SEAN Makes Change for One Texas District

## Cash, Knapsacks Given; Students Learn of DACA

When nearly 100 members of the Student Education Association of Nebraska all pull together in the same direction, good things happen.

The collective effort of chapters at colleges and universities across the state resulted in nearly \$1,100 and more than 120 knapsacks of school and other supplies being sent to a hurricane-ravaged school district in Texas last month.

SEAN's Change for Change drive saw local chapters collect spare change on each campus for the past month. The drive resulted in \$1,093.38 for the Port Arthur Independent School District.

"The dedication these SEAN members have to their future profession is truly inspiring. The education of my children is, proudly, in extremely good hands," said Kristen Sedlacek, NSEA organizational specialist and SEAN advisor.

SEAN members also heard from a panel discussing DACA – the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals – issues.

Crete High School counselor Joel Lemus-Leon urged teachers to be steady when working with children facing immigration issues.

"Show consistency in being an advocate for students, for students who are vulnerable – even after hours," he said.

He urged teachers to build relationships with students, to identify and learn from ethnic minority staff members, and to find and learn from reliable information about immigration issues.

Maricia Guzman is a program coordinator for the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Jackie Gaughan Multicultural Center. She said where there are vulnerable people, there are those waiting to take advantage. Reliable information, she said can be found at [nilah.org](http://nilah.org) – the Nebraska Immigration Legal Assistance Hotline.



**Making the Call:** During one session, SEAN members were urged to call a parent or favorite teacher, thank them and tell them they loved them. Above, from left, Peru State College's Emily Whipple, Damian Causgrove and Rose Villeda make the call. At right, Hastings College students Christy Acevedo and Tatum Stenger pack Texas-bound bags with supplies. Below, SEAN members write short notes of encouragement to students to be included in the Texas bags. At bottom, students fill bags wearing 'Aspire to be the Change' t-shirts.



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## Keep Current on Legislative Events!

The NSEA Legislative Update is a weekly email that recaps the past week's legislative action and gives a peek at what's headed down the aisle in the coming weeks.

The Update begins in early January, and repeats weekly until the end of the session. Special events may also dictate special editions of the Update, as well.

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# Attention Graduates!

Have you been an officer, active in your chapter or at the state level in the Student Education Association of Nebraska?

Are you about to graduate? Consider that graduates-to-be with records of participation are eligible to wear graduation cords or sashes over their graduation gowns.

If you're interested in recognizing your participation in SEAN during your graduation ceremonies, visit with your campus advisor for details.

