NEA-NM, in partnership with the Center for Community Schools and NEA EdJustice, is proud to present you with the inaugural cohort of the NEA-NM Education Justice Fellowship. The purpose of this fellowship is to foster the creation of a cohort of NEA-NM member-fellows who have deep awareness of racial/social justice issues in education and are empowered to organize local coalitions and advance education justice in their communities across New Mexico, in collaboration with local affiliates and community stakeholders. Our fellows come from both urban and rural districts in our state, work in varied roles in their schools, and have differing levels of experience with organizing and advocacy; however, they all share a clear passion for and commitment to advancing education justice through their work. Throughout the fellowship year, these fellows will learn about social/racial justice, develop their leadership and coalition-building skills, meet with community activists and grassroots organizers, receive one-on-one coaching and peer-mentoring, and engage with community stakeholders in order to identify and pursue an education justice project with local impact. We cannot wait to see this stellar group of education professionals grow into a model cohort of leaders and advocates for education justice in their communities!

We welcome the participation of local leaders, peer educators, and all other stakeholders in this fellowship. If you would like to offer assistance/mentoring to a fellow or simply introduce yourself as a resource in your community, we encourage you to reach out to fellows from your locals. As fellows get further along in their project development and stakeholder engagement, they may also be reaching out to you! We believe this fellowship is a model for promoting leadership development and professional excellence aligned with NEA-NM’s racial/social justice priorities that can be scaled and replicated to meet local affiliate needs in the future. Please do not hesitate to reach out and get involved!

To contact the Fellowship Planning Team, please email: bianca.fel.gonzalez@gmail.com and cc: dgreenberg@neanm.org.

Mary Parr-Sánchez
President, NEA-New Mexico
**Legislative Updates**

The major highlight of this legislative week is the 60-10 House Floor vote on HB 2 Sub, the $7.39 billion proposed budget for FY22. The bill represents a 4.6% increase in spending over FY21. A very significant and positive budget considering that the pandemic has created such financial uncertainty. The proposed budget now heads now to the Senate Finance Committee.

For K-12 Public Education, the House budget allocates $3.39 billion or 46% of the total budget. It represents a 5.5% increase from the previous school budget. Overall, that’s good news for public education given the pandemic. We can still, however, do better for our students and educators.

View Updates

**Professional Development Opportunities**

Take a minute to review these valuable PD opportunities that provide cutting edge resources from NEA experts—our staff, affiliates, and members—on the skills and topics educators need to join, stay in, and advance our profession.

Learn More

**COVID Expanded Reopening Alerts**

Our recent Press Releases and Member Alerts are a great way to stay informed as they contain information that is both relevant and useful right now!

Member Alert & Press Releases
Keleher and McLeod Distinguished Scholarship Award

All eligible NEA-NM certified and educational support members are invited to apply for the Keleher and McLeod Distinguished Scholarship Award for 2021.

Apply Today

Building Your Union

As a member organizer, Peter Madsen is an emerging leader vested in building a strong Local in Española. In addition to helping facilitate Espanola-NEA member meetings to address the urgent theme of school reentry models, he spoke before the School Board on two separate occasions to convey a collective position. He also opened the virtual Town-Hall meeting, in early February, with PED Secretary Dr. Ryan Stewart, welcoming and thanking members and appealed to Potential Members to join our movement to strengthen NM schools.

On the importance being active, he shares, “I decided to become a member organizer so that I could do the work of building my local's membership with a lot of support from NEA-NM and NEA. Having a strong Union is very important amid this pandemic, and I wanted to help organize my colleagues to advocate for safe working conditions... The value of getting involved is that you have something to add. You have something to say. You have something to contribute to your team. One thing that inspires me about being a member organizer is being able to help people find their voices and use them. To people who are thinking about taking a more active role, I say go for it! You have a place here.”

Peter’s work inspires us to reflect on what we are doing to build our union. Do you know someone who is considering joining? Invite them! It’s never been easier, simply have them go to the website nea-nm.org and select the Join Now.
Educators Deserve More

The Mission of NEA Member Benefits is “Our enduring promise is to make NEA members’ lives better. Through our carefully vetted, best-in-class programs and services, as well as know-how and solutions to help you be an empowered consumer, we’re here to help you make the most of your membership every day.”

Discover how this fantastic program can benefit you too!

Learn More

Take Note of...

- March - Women's History Month
- March 2 - NEA Read Across America Day
- Due April 2 - Veterans for Peace Essay Contest
- April 17, 2021 - Read Across America, NEA-New Mexico, “Celebrating a Nation of Diverse Readers.”

Putting Kids First • Promoting Professional Excellence • Improving the Well-Being of School Employees

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