



Raising achievement and closing the gaps for ALL students.

Tip-Off

December 13, 2021

2020 Retirees and Award Winners

We want to publicly honor those that retired in 2020. Traditionally, this would have taken place out our annual Laurel's Night, but this thing called COVID-19 just will not go away to allow that to happen. We attempted to reschedule many times, but holding a large gathering was not a possibility. So, we have sent out the awards to all Retirees, 25-Years of Service and Award Winners along with a gift certificate for dinner. A total of 1,730 years had been dedicated to the many children that entered their classrooms.

The foundation was laid for the many students that were entrusted to them for a moment in time as they ventured along on their educational journey. OEA thanks them for their time and dedication in making a difference in the life of their students.



Congrats to the Retirees, 25-year recipients and all award winners.

2020 Retirees

Julie Anderson-Harr
Jane Axtell
Karen Bertelsen
Kathleen Bilek
Mary Ann Boscardin
Catherine Brand
Barbara Brewer
Cheryl Brodkey
Charlene Brown
Mark Buell
Colette Burkhalter Michael
Jesse Busse
Danny Carruthers
Elizabeth Champion
Ellen Chuda
Mary Circo
Mary Colasacco
Jennifer Conahan

Andrea Cooney
Barbara Craig
Dennis Damewood
Victoria Deniston-Reed
Bridget Donovan
Diane Eubanks
Harry Gaylor
Joyce Geibert
Joseph Gregory
Janice Henninger
Marie Hernandez
Nina Hewitt
Kathleen Hinman
Mary Alice Howick
Coleen Jensen
Humphrey Karen
Robert Ketterer
Kenneth Kielniarz

William Kingston
Kolb Krystal
Paula Lathrop
Frances Merica
Melinda Morath
Ratna Mukherjee
Denise Niemann
Joseph Nuss
Kathryn ODonnell
Tena Perry
Mary Pitts
Kathleen Poore
Steven Pulverenti
Janet Puncochar Carper
Lance Purdy
Robert Rail
Sheryl Rich
Lisa Robinson

Linda Seaberg
Beth Sittig
Devra Spiegel
Larry St Hilaire
Diana Styles
Turner Tegwin
Merry Terkelsen Johnson
Nina Tisinger
Theresa Tolle
Mary Twohey
Walt Valentine
Jacqueline Wagner
Deborah Ward
Victoria Wiles
Annette Willett
Linda Wood
Janel Zagurski

25 Years of Service Honorees

Suzanna Averill
Vojmir Benak Jr.
Cari Briscoe
Andrea Carlson
Angela Chadwick
Jay Daugherty
Patricia Frampton
Christiane Hamilton

Brett Hanson
Susan Hinchik
Lisa Howard
Karen Knowles
Amy Krist
Trent Lodge
Bobbie Martinie
Mark Meier

Judith Messerschmidt
Karen Mohrbutter
Julee Niemants
Danielle Ratzlaff
Jamie Redinbaugh
Michele Rivera
Lisa Robinson
Michelle Ross

Donna Sabag-Mauer
Carol Salerno
Kristin Swanson
Laura Teachout
Tegwin Turner
Todd Wesslund

2020 Award Winners

Spirit of Collaboration Award

Kaye Kennedy, Principal, Dundee Elementary

Human Relations Award

Minnesota Humanities Center

John E. Jensen Memorial Award

Boys and Girls Club of the Midlands

Media Award

Damon Bening, KOZN-AM

Rookie of the Year

Hannah Krommenhoek,
Washington Elementary

Learning from LANE

Virtual Instructional Coaches will guide teaching methods and practices directly related to their subject matter. The program will use Danielson Group's Framework for Teaching online curriculum, a series of modules made available to ELP participants.

Successful Virtual Instructional Coaches (VIC) firmly believe that relationships built on trust, exceptional teacher practice and equitable student learning should be at the center of new teacher mentoring and induction. VIC are passionate about the instructional development of new teachers.

Are You Someone Who:

- Is dedicated to improving the lives of educators in our communities and wants to play a key role in helping new teachers succeed?
- Enjoys implementing strategies and systems to solve problems effectively?
- Is motivated, professional, and thrives within a collaborative, team-driven environment?
- Instills confidence in students, parents, and colleagues to promote success in the classroom and beyond?
- Sets high expectations and maintains the ability to be flexible in a dynamic environment?
- Promotes a culture of high performance and continuous improvement that values learning and quality?

Compensation and Requirements:

Virtual Instructional Coaches must be active union members.

Compensation: The yearly stipend for Virtual Instructional Coaches ranges between \$2,000 to \$6,000 depending on the number of New Teachers matched.

Virtual Instructional Coaches are considered independent contractors.

The estimated time commitment for Virtual Instructional Coaches is 5 hours per week, including coaching New Teachers, VIC training, and planning time. VIC work shall primarily take place during non-school hours.

Application Instructions:

To be considered for the role of Virtual Instructional Coach, please submit the following to:

opportunities@educatorsleadingtheprofession.org

and include VIC and the name of your state in the subject line.

Current CV or resume which includes all years of teaching experience, including grade levels, content area, online instruction experience, technology proficiencies and professional development.

Letter of interest describing why you would like to join the ELP pilot test as a Virtual Instructional Coach.

Sample Instructional Materials: Please attach 1-2 pieces of evidence of your instructional practice or mentoring skills (examples could include a link to your class website or Learning Management System, lesson or unit plans, culturally responsive pedagogy, project-based learning, mentoring materials, published articles, or online instruction).

Two to three professional references, including name, title, employer, email address and phone number.

Any relevant awards or recognitions may be included.

In the body of your application email, please include:

- Name
- Address
- Email address
- Phone number
- Grade and/or content area
- Optional: Preferred name and/or preferred pronouns

If you have any questions, please feel free email her at

Jacqelle.lane@nsea.org

Alice Buffett Outstanding Teacher Award

Do you know an Omaha Public Schools teacher who deserves recognition?

A great teacher can turn a geography lesson into an exciting adventure or make a conversation become a life lesson. We are very fortunate to have so many great teachers. It's why the Alice Buffett Outstanding Teacher Award was created more than 30 years ago — to recognize those teachers who have gone above and beyond to help their students in the classroom and in life.

Nominate an Omaha Public Schools teacher for this award and tell us what they have done that has made a difference. Now more than ever, let's recognize the extraordinary efforts of educators within the Omaha Public Schools. Omaha Public Schools teachers continue to meet today's challenges with an unwavering spirit and passionate dedication to their students.

Please submit your nomination by January 15, 2022.

[Nominate | Alice Buffett Outstanding Teacher Award \(buffettoutstandingteachers.org\)](https://buffettoutstandingteachers.org)

Transfer Window/Process

The Transfer Process is now open and will close on January 18th, 2022. You should have received an email from Human Resource that laid out all the specifics to apply. ALL CURRENT TEACHERS REGARDLESS OF TENURE STATUS in the Omaha Public Schools are eligible to request a transfer with the following exceptions: Teachers currently on an HR approved plan of assistance, informal or formal, are not eligible to transfer. This applies at the time of application AND should a teacher be placed on a plan at any time during the transfer window before accepting an offer to another school.

If you have questions about the process you will need to contact HR.

Letter of intent date: March 15

Know your rights if asked to sign letter early

Signing and returning a letter of intent to your district employer is important, but don't let the pressure get to you – especially if you're asked to do so too early.

A letter of intent (and/or accompanying contract) signifies your plan to return to teaching in your district next year. State law allows school districts, on or after March 15 each year, to require certificated employees – teachers, counselors, speech pathologists, psychologists and others – to sign binding letters of intent and/or individual contracts.

Yet some administrators distribute letters – and ask for them back – even before the winter holidays. Often in an effort to get a handle on next year's staffing situation, superintendents might suggest letters be returned by Feb. 1 or March 1.

Knowing your rights is important. Members should not rush to sign but be deliberate and use the time allotted by law. Making a decision months in advance may cause problems down the road if your personal situation changes.

State statute is clear: a school district cannot require teachers to make a commitment before March 15.

However, failure to sign and return the letter by stated deadlines that fall ***on*** or ***after*** March 15 is a threat to a teacher's employment.

If administrators distribute such a letter or contract prior to March 15 and ask for its return prior to March 15, a local association representative should fax a copy to their assigned NSEA organizational specialist at 1-402-475-2630.

In the meantime, an appropriate response to the letter is "I don't know yet" or "I'm not sure."

Letters that ask for a signature and return ***on*** March 15 or on a specified date ***after*** March 15 are appropriate. In such cases, it is vital to sign and return it by the due date.

Have questions? Call NSEA at 1-800-742-0047 to speak with your region's organizational specialist.

Student in NEED? Contact the NSEA CHILDREN'S FUND



Where there is a child in need, there is likely a teacher willing to help by opening their wallet. With many teachers already on limited budgets, filling each and every student need just isn't possible.

Our members see children who go without coats in winter weather, who come to school in the same clothes every day and who can't see the whiteboard because they lack much-needed vision care.

That's why the NSEA Children's Fund was created. Since 1994, donors to the Children's Fund have provided close to \$1 million to help children in need – to buy them clean clothes, mittens, warm hats and shoes, or to pay for eye doctor and dentist appointments. Donors have even purchased public bus passes for students when they had no other way to get to school.

During the pandemic in 2020, the NSEA Board of Directors, along with NSEA-Retired, directed a combined \$60,000 to food banks serving all 93 Nebraska counties to help reach students and families who needed meals.

Contributions to the Children's Fund are tax-deductible, and every penny goes to help children. NSEA covers the administrative costs out of its own budget.

Local associations are encouraged to host fundraisers and challenge other associations to contribute to the fund.

For more information, to make a donation or to request help for a child in need,

call 1-800-742-0047 or go to www.nsea.org/childrensfund.

Wishing you a holiday season
filled with good cheer,
And a happy, healthy, and peaceful
New Year!

2021/2022 Committee Meetings

All meetings @ 4:45pm

Meetings will be held via ZOOM until further notice. All links will be sent out the day before the meeting to those who are on the email list from last year and those who have contacted the office to let us know what committee they are interested in.

Visit the website for further committee information:
www.Omahaoea.org



1/4 Instructional Advocacy

1/6 DEI

1/13 Governance

1/18 PACE

1/19 Membership

1/20 PCR

1/20 Comp/Benefits

1/26 Retirement not meeting

1/27 EMAC

1/27 NewGEN

OEA Tip-Off

The OEA Tip-Off is a bi-monthly publication printed for members of the Omaha Education Association.

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