

Unite, Inspire, Lead with Missouri NEA

March 25, 2017, St. Louis

Conference attendees may attend any breakout session. Although we've organized breakout sessions by target audiences--education support professionals, higher education professionals, student NEA members, organizers and social justice advocates--conferees may wish to mix up their session agenda with options from various audience categories. Many sessions are useful for every audience group.

Social Justice Advocates

9-9:30 a.m.

Addressing Racial Disparities in Schools

Presenters: Chandra Keairnes and Carrie Romo, social justice advocates and teachers in Des Moines, Iowa

Chandra Keairnes has spent 12 years as a public school educator in the Des Moines public school district. She spent a year as an instructional coach, missed the classroom, and is now a Title 1 math instructor. Keairnes received her master's degree from Drake University in Urban Education. Through this program, she became more aware of social issues and the implications for classroom teaching and learning. Her passion for equality in the classroom was renewed, and she decided to start taking action through continued self-education, reflection and acknowledging her privilege. By doing so, she also facilitates learning for her colleagues and leverages her privileges to create equitable outcomes for students. Keairnes is currently helping create a cultural proficiency course through the Iowa State Education Association Academy. She also works to create change in her workplace through co-planning and facilitating professional development for staff members around cultural proficiency. Keairnes has spoken internationally at multiple conferences, including the White Privilege Conference and the National Association of Multicultural Education conference.

Carrie Romo is an educator and activist from Kansas City, Kansas. She attended Central College in Pella, Iowa, where she quickly found her calling toward social justice and equity. As a freshman she got involved with the White Privilege Conference, which she credits to helping her channel her confusion and anger into education and action. She currently serves as a board member for the non-profit organization The Privilege Institute, which works to provide challenging, collaborative and comprehensive strategies to empower and equip people to work for equity and justice through self, organizational and social transformation. In addition, Romo is a full-time middle school Spanish teacher within Des Moines public schools. Her passion is learning and helping others understand how the intersections of identities and privileges impact teaching and learning. To this end, Romo plans, leads and contributes to the professional development opportunities within her school building, across the district and in

the community. Furthermore, Romo serves as the program coordinator for Dream to Teach, an initiative to increase the representation of educators of color in the Des Moines public school system.

9:45-10:45 a.m.

Critical Conversations: Moving from Diversity to Equity

Presenters: Chandra Keairnes and Carrie Romo, social justice advocates and teachers in Des Moines, Iowa

Schools have spent years discussing the diversity of students while ignoring institutional injustices placed predominately upon students of color. To get beyond that conversation, educators must start becoming aware of their place in perpetuating institutional racism and further taking action to dismantle the injustices our students experience every day.

11 a.m.-noon

Whiteness: Building the Capacity to Become Allies for Justice

Presenters: Chandra Keairnes and Carrie Romo, social justice advocates and teachers in Des Moines, Iowa

What would it look like to be allies of all colors to affect change in education? As people of color, what does it look like to call your white colleagues to action? How do we trust each other to work within our spheres of influence? This session will provide strategies and space to get at the root of institutional racism.

2-3 p.m.

Inclusivity: Creating Equitable Experiences for All Students

Presenters: Chandra Keairnes and Carrie Romo, social justice advocates and teachers in Des Moines, Iowa

Our traditional curriculum tends to exclude students of color by ignoring their history and the contributions people of color have made. To interrupt institutional racism, there must be changes to the written and learned curriculum, both academic and non-academic (social/behavioral). We will explore the inequities inherent in traditional curriculum, and participants will leave with tools and strategies to dismantle everyday inequities in the classroom.

Organizers

9-9:30 a.m.

Organizing for Public Education

Presenter: Chasity Young, Missouri NEA western region field director

Join us to understand how to organize for the long-term instead of just mobilizing for right now.

9:45-10:45 a.m.

New Educator Outreach Organizing

Presenter: Matt Bennett, NEA regional coordinator, and Stephanie Price, MNEA organizing director

Missouri NEA piloted an organizing strategy centered on one-on-one conversations with every new educator in selected districts in 2016-2017. New educators then received follow-up emails based on the interests they expressed. Learn what new educators want from the association, what locals learned during the process, and what's in store for the 2017-2018 MNEA New Educator Outreach campaign.

11 a.m.-noon

Organize, Virtually

Presenter: Chastity Young, Missouri NEA western region field director

Overcome the biggest challenges of your next organizing campaign with good communication. Finding the social media tool that perfectly fits your campaign is essential for today's fast-paced world. Join us to learn ways to open communication channels and optimize your organizing efforts. Bring your smartphone or tablet.

2-3 p.m.

Organizing Around Social Justice Issues

Presenter: Eric Scott, Coalition of Graduate Workers, University of Missouri.

This session demonstrates a model for quickly building successful union campaigns.

Education Support Professionals

9-9:30 a.m.

Current Education Support Professional Issues

Presenter: Debby Chandler, National Council for Education Support Professionals president

The National Council for Education Support Professionals works within NEA to represent the specific interests of education support professionals. Any active NEA ESP member is eligible for NCESP membership. Hear what is happening on issues important to education support professionals around the country.

9:45-10:45 a.m.

Education Support Professionals: Meeting the Needs of the Whole Student

Presenter: Debby Chandler, National Council for Education Support Professionals president

ESP members keep students physically and emotionally healthy and safe, engage students so they feel connected to the wider school community, support students who require specialized interventions, and challenge students to understand the connection between education and

lifelong success. Through their involvement, they help to ensure students' success in college, career and citizenship.

During this workshop, participants will learn about the whole-student approach and how to communicate the important roles ESP members play in the education workforce. Understanding how ESP meet the needs of the whole student and contribute to student success is critical to gain respect and recognition for ESP careers.

11 a.m.-noon

Asserting Your Collective Voice and Rights

Presenter: Graylon Brown, Missouri NEA UniServ director

Learn steps you can take to make sure the ESP voice is not lost in the crowd. This workshop will focus on how to develop skills to assert your voice at the bargaining table, within your district and in your community.

2-3 p.m.

A Day in the Life of a School Nurse and What to Do When the Nurse is Not Available

Presenters: Carmen Hill, R.N. and Jane Sykes, R.N., NEA St. Louis

Description coming soon.

Higher Education Professionals

9-9:30 a.m.

What is NCHE?

Presenter: DeWayne Scheaffer, National Council for Higher Education president and at-large member of the NEA Board of Directors -- Shaffer's strong sense of advocacy began at an early age when he participated in picketing at his father's employer. He was inspired by the employees' activism and knowledge of the negotiation process, which ensured their voices would be heard. This still motivates his actions in supporting and protecting the collective bargaining process for all.

NCHE is an independent organization for all NEA higher education members who choose to join. Scheaffer will share the organization's mission and activities and answer questions about the benefits of membership.

9:45-10:45 a.m.

Higher Education Issues: A Conversation to Spark Action

Presenter: DeWayne Scheaffer, National Council for Higher Education president and at-large member of the NEA Board of Directors

Join this discussion around the issues affecting you and your campus. Discuss actions faculty and staff can take and hear what is happening around the country.

11 a.m.-noon

Coping with Trauma in the Classroom

Presenter: Dr. Patsy Carter, Missouri Department of Mental Health and Missouri Children's Division/Social Services -- Dr. Carter has worked with the Missouri Department of Mental Health since 1989 in various capacities with children and families. She has worked in both inpatient and community settings, providing clinical and administrative services. She is a certified forensic examiner for the Missouri Department of Mental Health and responsible for setting policy and supervising evaluations on individuals under the age of 18 years. Carter is the juvenile justice liaison as well as trauma lead for the department. Her current role as director of Children's Clinical Services focuses on enhancing clinical practices to promote quality care in meeting the needs of children and youth with emotional, behavioral, developmental or substance abuse disorders.

Science reveals trauma can impact almost any area of an individual's functioning and has an impact on brain development and functioning. This session will focus on an individual's ability to learn, even beyond any behavioral barriers. Participants will discuss the impact trauma has on academic performance, behaviors and relationships. The concept of trauma-informed academic settings will allow participants to begin exploring options and outcomes.

2-3 p.m.

We've Got to Communicate With One Another....Can You Hear Me Now?

Presenters: Kurt and Sharon Swanson, MNEA UniServ directors

"The single biggest problem in communication is the illusion that it has taken place." --George Bernard Shaw

In lieu of the current political climate, it is vital, more than ever, to learn to communicate with one another. This session will focus on components of a crucial/difficult conversations and tools to improve the process of communication within professional and personal life. Resources will draw upon the book, "Difficult Conversation," by Douglas Stone, Bruce Patton and Sheila Heen, "Getting to Yes," by Roger Fisher and William Ury, and "Crucial Conversations" by Kerry Patterson, Joseph Grenny, Ron McMillan and Al Switzler.

Student NEA Members

9-9:30 a.m.

Understanding the Impact of Pre-service Educators

Presenter: Ashley Muscarella, 2016 – 2018 NEA Student Program chairperson

In this role, she represents the voice of pre-service educators within NEA and advocates for educators, students, and high quality public education for every student. She has worked as a student leader within NEA on the chapter, state, and national level. She is pursuing her bachelor's degrees in secondary education and history at the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg. Muscarella is a sister, equestrian, yogi, friend, mentor, global citizen, and proud union member.

Join the NEA Student Program chairperson in discussing the responsibility pre-service educators are inheriting in their journey to become educators. Discuss what it means to be a pre-service educator, the vision and mission of pre-service educators, and what we can do today to make an impact on public education.

9:45-10:45 a.m.

Servant Leadership: Reclaiming Our Schools

Presenter: Ashley Muscarella, 2016-2018 NEA Student Program chairperson, Greenburg, Pennsylvania

How can you become a leader in education within your school and community? In this breakout session, learn about the choice to become a leader and how to foster love through your service. This session will focus on eight essential leadership principles that guide leaders through service, how to put students' interests first, and how to affect change. How can your students benefit from this approach to leadership in the classroom? Join this session to learn how.

11 a.m.-noon

Applying and Interviewing for Your First Teaching Job

Presenter: Dr. Patrick Layden, Missouri NEA eastern region field director

The process of applying and interviewing for your first teaching job can be a daunting and frustrating experience. This workshop will walk you through the process with tips and tricks to make your experience both productive and a little less stressful. The workshop will include a mock interview to help understand the dynamics of how to interview with an administrator.

2-3 p.m.

eMerging into the Profession – a Panel Discussion:

As you begin the journey into the education profession, dozens of questions about this next step fill your head. Spend a session with a panel of early career educators who will share their experiences and answer your questions about starting out as a new teacher.