

[here.](#)

Can't see the images? [View as webpage](#)  
Member ID:

January 2021  
Rishanda Richardson, Editor

# In the Loop

Missouri NEA's electronic newsletter



[News](#)

[Training](#)

[Benefits](#)

[Take Action](#)



## Missouri Teacher of the Year Inspires

Watch the story by CBS news

Darrion Cockrell, MNEA member and Missouri Teacher of the Year, inspires and leads students to stay active and healthy every day. Mr. D.C. shares with CBS news how educators in his life inspired him, and he hopes to do the same.

[Watch Now](#)

## Educators Rising Conference

KEYNOTE SPEAKER  
2021 MISSOURI TEACHER OF THE YEAR

# DARRION COCKRELL

MARCH 10-11, 2021

Registration Deadline: Jan. 25  
Sign up at [mnea.org/EducatorsRising](https://mnea.org/EducatorsRising).

 Sponsored by Missouri NEA.

 **EDUCATORS  
RISING**

## Educators Rising VIRTUAL Conference March 10-11, 2021

Fee: \$15 per person  
Deadline: Mon., Jan. 25,  
2021

Educators Rising is an organization for high-schoolers pursuing a career in education. During the annual conference, students have a chance to compete for prizes and to advance to the national competition. In addition to competitions, the program offers:

- Keynote speaker Darrion Cockrell, 2021 Missouri Teacher of the Year.
- A variety of breakout discussions with professional educators.
- Information about the educator preparation programs in Missouri.



## Conversations about Race and Belonging No Cost

In partnership with Nebraska State Education Association, MNEA is offering this opportunity free of charge to members. Conversations About Race and Belonging is a six-session interactive virtual program that provides a foundation for initiating and engaging in relational conversations about race, otherness, equity, and belonging in various settings: home, work, community. This program uses episodes from the podcast [Seeing White](#) (Scene On Radio, 2017, Center for Documentary Studies, Duke University) and a selection of literary works by authors of color to frame conversations about race and belonging.

**Introduction:** Sat., March 13 (10 a.m.-noon and 1-3 p.m.)

**POLITICIANS HAVE A PLAN FOR YOU, YOUR STUDENTS, AND YOUR HEALTH  
ELECTED OFFICIALS NEED TO HEAR FROM EDUCATORS  
MNEA HAS THE TOOLS TO CONNECT YOU**

 Missouri  
**NEA**  
*Unite. Inspire. Lead.*

Zoom Lobby Days



Tips for Contacting Your Legislator via Phone



Social Media



To the Honorable:  
As an educator....



Becoming a local resource for elected officials



Sign up now to receive training and support to connect with your elected official virtually

[mnea.org/LegConnect](https://mnea.org/LegConnect)

## Sign up for MNEA Legislative Connection Virtual Action Events

There is every indication that the Missouri Legislature will try to defund public schools this year through voucher schemes and the budgeting process. We need your help to stop these attacks and protect public schools. MNEA is creating a series of virtual conversations with Missouri legislators lasting 30-60 minutes to connect educators with their elected officials.

In preparation for your virtual visit with your legislator, MNEA will provide you with the following:

- An update on key issues from MNEA Legislative Director Otto Fajen.
- A guide on how to lobby when you are not physically there

Questions? Contact MNEA Teaching and Learning Director Ann Jarrett at [ann.jarrett@mnea.org](mailto:ann.jarrett@mnea.org) or (573)644-9625.

[Read More >](#)

**Full 6-Week Program (six sessions, each 2.5 hours):**  
Saturdays (1-3:30 p.m.)  
April 3, April 17, May 1, May 15, June 5 and June 12

[Read More >](#)

from MNEA Political Director Elizabeth Zerr.

- An overview of your legislator.

Questions? Contact MNEA Political Director Elizabeth Zerr by email at [elizabeth.zerr@mnea.org](mailto:elizabeth.zerr@mnea.org) or phone at (573) 644-9610.

[Learn More & Sign Up >](#)



## Important Update **COVID-19 Vaccinations: When will educators be eligible?**

Missouri NEA believes the vaccination of public-school staff is an important step in getting all schools back to in-person learning. It is critical to ensure the health and safety of Missouri educators, so they can continue the important work of educating Missouri's youth.

This week, the State of Missouri announced new details about Missouri's COVID-19 vaccine distribution plan and availability. Missouri school districts are currently awaiting the delivery of vaccination supplies. School districts may enlist the help of MNEA local affiliates to devise vaccine implementation plans for their school district staff. School nurses vaccinated during Phase 1B-Tier 1 will assist with the vaccinations for school staff.

Phase 1B now includes the following priority tiers:

<i>Priority</i>	<i>Included Population</i>	<i>Planned Activation Date</i>
Tier 1	First responders and public health personnel (school nurses).	NOW ACTIVATED
Tier 2	Missourians who are at an increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19.	NOW ACTIVATED
Tier 3	Critical infrastructure workforce members, including teachers and school staff.	To be determined. Will begin upon the delivery of vaccine supplies.

More information can be found at <https://covidvaccine.mo.gov/priority/>.

## Working on your National Board Certification?

Receive help from mentors during NBC Candidate Boost Days

VIRTUAL: Sat., Feb. 27 and Sat., April 10

MNEA continues its National Board Certification Boost Days in 2021. These virtual sessions are intended for those currently working to submit entries during the 2020-2021 National Board Certification cycle.

Have your component work, videos, portfolios, and standards ready for discussion and guidance from NBCTs and mentors. We will address all questions and allow time to collaborate with others in the group.

For more information, visit [www.mnea.org/nbc](http://www.mnea.org/nbc).

**Interested in National Board Certification and want to learn more about it?** Attend one of the following virtual Exploring National Board Certification sessions.

## Vote for NEA R.A. State Delegate

Watch for email Feb. 1, 2021

MNEA has a new virtual voting system. You will NOT need to log in to vote. You will NOT need to know your NEA ID. It is as simple as clicking a link from an email and choosing the candidates you would like to represent Missouri at the NEA Representative Assembly July 2-6, 2021.

Each eligible MNEA member will be allowed to vote once and only once by virtual ballot. You will be allowed to vote for up to 22 Category I delegates and one Category II candidate. Virtual voting will be open Feb. 1 through March 1, 2021.

Mon., Jan. 25 at 7-8:30 p.m.  
Mon., April 19 at 7-8:30 p.m.

Register at [www.mnea.org/nbc](http://www.mnea.org/nbc).



## 2021 Read-On Missouri Tour May 3-7, 2021

Since 1999, Missouri NEA has sponsored a state tour, celebrating NEA's Read Across America, to help inspire Missouri's youth. YES, we are still having a tour in 2021. However it has been rescheduled for May 3-7. MNEA Pres. Phil Murray and Vice Pres. Rebeka McIntosh hope to inspire students by showing them the connection between reading and succeeding.

Educators, we encourage you to organize classroom activities, skits, parades and games to celebrate Read

Questions? Contact Roxane Bly by email at [roxane.bly@mnea.org](mailto:roxane.bly@mnea.org) or by phone at (573) 644-9606.



## Tuition Grants for Probationary Teachers and Education Support Professionals

Missouri NEA understands the challenges educators and education support professionals face when seeking financial support for college courses. Missouri NEA can help. Thanks to funding from Reliant Financial Services, your MNEA membership means you are eligible for a chance to receive a \$500 tuition grant toward the cost of a three-hour course. Members will have financial support as they strive toward academic growth and teaching excellence.

Applications must be received or postmarked on or before Jan. 31. The drawing will be held Feb. 8.

[Apply Now >](#)

## California Casualty \$2,500 Educator Jackpot

In partnership with NEA Member Benefits, California Casualty is offering NEA Members eight chances to win cash in 2021.

Across America March 2. Continue to teach your students how developing good reading skills and habits will help them be successful at all of their life goals.

**Would you like a visit from MNEA leaders?** Apply for a stop on the Read-On Missouri Tour by March 1, 2021.

Apply Now >

The \$2,500 Educator Jackpot giveaway was created to bring a little excitement to educators across the country. The timing could not be better. An ever-changing learning environment has brought more challenges to the everyday lives of members, their students, their peers and their families. This giveaway is California Casualty's way to give a glimmer of hope in a world where you never know what tomorrow will bring.

Winners for the \$2,500 prize will be randomly selected every three months of the year with two winners chosen each round.

No obligation to enter.

[Click Here to Enter!](#)





## CMU Graduate Courses Earn up to nine credits per year for just \$225

For one low annual fee of \$225, Missouri NEA members may take one course each term (fall, spring and summer) to complete up to three graduate courses in 12 months. Or they may take two courses in the summer and skip either the fall or spring semester.

Each course is two or three graduate credit hours, so educators can earn from six to nine graduate credits. Choose from 17 self-paced, online courses for professional growth or salary advancement.

MNEA partners with Central Methodist University and Virtual Education Software to offer these courses. We recommend members check with their school districts to be sure these courses are accepted for salary schedule credit before signing up.

[Read More](#)

## Why join a Professional Learning Community?

Free Micro-Credentials + Virtual Support = Professional Growth and Success

Missouri NEA and Kansas NEA Offer Joint Micro-Credential Professional Learning Opportunities!

A micro-credential is a short, competency-based recognition that allows an educator to demonstrate mastery in a particular area. NEA members are invited to participate in a virtual Professional Learning Community (PLC) to support your successful completion of an NEA Micro-credential. During this self-directed project-based professional development, you will collect evidence of proficiency in a specific area by working on a project designed to directly help you in your professional practice.

During this virtual PLC, a trained micro-credential facilitator will guide you and a group of fellow educators through the project by providing multiple opportunities for peer feedback during weekly support meetings via Zoom. PLCs will start during the week of Feb. 7, 2021, and end the week of March 14, on the weekday indicated below for 30-60 minutes during the evening.

-----Registrations accepted through Jan. 31, 2021-----

1. Classroom Expectations & Routines, Monday 7 p.m. Facilitator Sandy Humbyrd, NBCT.
2. Cultivating Socially Just Environment, Sunday 4 p.m. Facilitator Kimberly Gilman.
3. Virtual Engagement Strategies for Asynchronous Learning, Monday time TBD. Facilitator Kristy Oborny, NBCT.
4. Virtual Engagement Strategies for Synchronous Learning, Monday, time TBD. Facilitator Lara Stephens.
5. Building a Positive Classroom Environment with Affective Language, Monday time TBD. Facilitator Troy Fredde, NBCT.

Learn more and register at [www.mnea.org/Missouri/PLC-MicroCredentials.aspx](http://www.mnea.org/Missouri/PLC-MicroCredentials.aspx) or contact MNEA Teaching and Learning Director Ann Jarrett at [ann.jarrett@mnea.org](mailto:ann.jarrett@mnea.org) or (573) 644-9625.

[Read More >](#)



### 15% Off Auto Service at Honda of Frontenac

Live in the St. Louis area and in need of service to your vehicle? Honda of Frontnac is offering a 15 percent

### Auto Buying Program



### Auto Buying Program can save you thousands

The NEA Member Benefits Auto Buying Program gives you free access to online



### My Deals

[Download Flyer](#)

The My Deals mobile app allows you to access discounts



discount to education employees. They service most makes and models, even if you do not own a Honda.

To schedule an appointment, call (314) 817-2471. You must present [this coupon](#) when the service order is written, and it cannot be combined with any other offers or specials.

Expires March 31, 2021.

[Download Coupon >](#)

research tools and connects you with experienced certified dealers that are committed to price transparency and great service. See how much others paid, and then get your member pricing and head to the dealership for a test drive. Save an average of \$3,402 off the manufacturer's suggested retail price\*. Plus, by reporting your purchase you can receive up to \$2,000 in post-sale benefits in auto repair and auto deductible reimbursements. See site for more information on Buyer's Bonus.

[Shop Now](#)

easily on your smartphone. Simply download the app, register and save. Search for "My Deals" in either the Android Google Play store or Apple App store. To register, enter MNEA's Program ID **9461**. Provide your email address and if prompted, your NEA ID.

NEA ID:

**Need help with My Deals?**

Call (877) 428-4697

[Apple App Store](#)

[Android Google Play](#)

[Log into MNEA.org](#)

**User Name:** LastName+SSN4  
(ex. Smith1234)

**Password:** Your NEA ID without the preceding zeros.

Your NEA ID is

[Having trouble?](#)

Call (573) 634-3202.



Facebook



Twitter



YouTube



Pinterest



Instagram

MNEA | MYNEA360 | NEA

In the Loop is an electronic newsletter for Missouri NEA members.

It is published monthly September through May.

Missouri National Education Association  
1810 E Elm Street, Jefferson City, MO 65101

PH 573.634.3202 • 800.392.0236

Fax 573.634.5646

[www.mnea.org](http://www.mnea.org)

Phillip Murray, President • DeeAnn Aull, Executive Director  
Rishanda Richardson, Electronic Communications and Research Coordinator

-----  
You are currently subscribed to the MNEA In the Loop mailing list. Update your profile by sending an email message with your full name, old email address and new email address to [rishanda.richardson@mnea.org](mailto:rishanda.richardson@mnea.org).

MNEA does not share or sell your information.

-----  
[Privacy Policy & Terms of Use](#)

All Rights Reserved

Copyright © 2001-2021

---