The South Dakota Education Association (SDEA) presented Donna DeKraai of Brookings, SD with the first Larry Mintzlaff Memorial Lifetime Achievement Award at its Representative Assembly in Pierre. DeKraai teaches at Dakota Prairie Elementary School in Brookings and has dedicated her professional career to students and advocating for the teaching profession.

“This is a very special award for SDEA. Larry Mintzlaff was involved in everything. If you put out a call to get something done, Larry made sure it was done. The same can be said for Donna. She, like Larry, has spent her entire career serving her profession, her community, and most importantly, the children of South Dakota,” said SDEA President Mary McCorkle.

“This award is SDEA’s way of saying thank you for your dedication, your support and your commitment to our members and the students they serve. Donna taught me so much about that work and the importance of the work, and, for that, I am very grateful.”

The Mintzlaff Memorial Lifetime Achievement Award was created in honor of Larry Mintzlaff of Rapid City who was a career-long member of SDEA and tragically lost his life in 2017. The award recognizes educators who have been members of SDEA for at least 20 years, exemplify the personification of professionalism and have demonstrated a strong advocacy for students and for the Association. Like the award’s namesake, the recipients contributed to public education through activism at the local, state, or national level, demonstrated community involvement, and inspired others to be active within the Association.

DeKraai was nominated by Susan Turnipseed, a retired teacher from Brookings. “I can think of no one more deserving of the SDEA/NEA Larry Mintzlaff Memorial Award than Donna DeKraai. Every one of the qualifications listed for this award describe Donna’s commitment to our profession and the children of South Dakota. Knowing Donna as I do, I know the hours she puts in for her students. She goes above and beyond to be sure their needs are met,” wrote Turnipseed. “I am grateful for the example she set during my career and know she continues to be a leader in our profession.”

At the local level, DeKraai served as president of the Brookings Education Association for many years. She served as the treasurer for SDEA and was the SDEA president for six years. In the Brookings community, DeKraai serves on numerous boards and committees and led many community projects including the playground development at Dakota Prairie.
Thank You…

It’s the time of year we all look forward to… especially after such a long and white winter. It is spring! With spring comes a burst of activity — concerts, field trips, graduation — and before we know it, educators across the state are wrapping up the school year and preparing to send another group of students off to the next grade or next stage in life. Educators are proud of their students and their work, but at this point we are just plain exhausted.

As you each take time to rest and relax before summer kicks into high gear with workshops, classes and summer school, please put up your feet, get a cold drink and let me take a moment to say thank you.

First, I want to thank you for the dedication you have for the students of South Dakota. There is not a day that goes by where I do not see SDEA members going above and beyond for their students. You spend countless hours at school, late nights correcting and planning, cleaning up after a school concert or early morning preparing breakfast and lunch to be served on time. You put in all those hours for your students. Thank you for stepping up when it comes to issues that matter. You’ve used your voice to advocate for students, for funding, and against legislation that silenced your voice and hurt your students. You’ve seized opportunities and attended local meetings, unit meetings, said “yes” to serving on a committee or to being a part of an advisory council. You came to Pierre to the Representative Assembly and you used your voice to advocate.

Thank you for your desire to grow as a professional to better understand and serve your students. You’ve attended SDEA trauma informed trainings, poverty simulations, and many other professional development events. I’ve been inspired by the locals who have reached out to our newest early career educators and brought NEA blended learning, micro-credential cohorts and Early Leadership Institutes to their locals to engage these members. I’ve watched as you’ve worked on membership by hosting back to school events and luncheon for new teachers. You were willing to have those all-important one-on-one conversations about the difference a collective voice can make.

You’ve done a lot this year and you deserve to take time for yourself and your family; you’ve earned it. As you wrap up the school year, know that you are appreciated for everything you do for the students of South Dakota and for your Association. Never lose sight of the fact that what you do as an educator and as a member matter. It matters each and every day… and so do each of you!

Have a good and restful summer. Take time to recharge…and be ready for next year. We are going to need each and every one of you!

Mary J. McCorkle

Questions or Concerns

Contact a UniServ Director today!

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NEA’s Early Leadership Institute Engages SDEA Leaders of Tomorrow

Who will be the Association leaders of tomorrow? SDEA hopes a new opportunity for early career educators will help answer that question. This past year, SDEA received a grant from the NEA to launch the state’s first Early Leadership Institute (ELI) Fellow program. The ELI program is a learning community of early career educators designed to enhance leadership skills, strengthen professional connections and advocate for student success. The cohort of 26 members launched with a statewide training meeting in December includes educators from Brookings, Rapid City and Sioux Falls.

The program is based on the NEA Teacher Leadership Competencies. Local teams meet monthly from January–June for a two-hour block of professional learning led by a local ELI coach to explore the teacher leadership competencies.

As part of the program fellows interview association leaders, attend education “influencer” meetings such as school board or legislative meetings, hold “sounding board” conversations with other early career educators in their district and identify a common concern of early career educators for an “action project” jointly developed by the ELI fellows.

**What Did the Fellows Learn from the Process?**

Marrina Kaun, a third-grade teacher in Sioux Falls didn’t know a lot about the state or local association, but that changed when she and her fellow teachers reached out to SFEA President Tony Martinet about an issue they were having with an administrator. That experience made her realize how you could make change by working through the association and she wanted to learn more. For her, the experience has been about the importance of seeking out information as a new educator. “It’s good to ask questions to dig deeper; otherwise nothing happens.” She hopes to take what she learned and the plan that was developed to the YESS Committee, which she chairs and engage new teachers in the next school year.

Julia Schrier is new to Sioux Falls from Chicago, and wanted to get involved in her new school. “I came from a leadership position in Chicago, and being new, I wasn’t sure if I would find that leadership position here, but I still wanted to find a way to impact change,” said Schrier. Like Kaun, she didn’t know a lot about how her local functions, but she was looking for a way to get involved. “I learned a lot about how SFEA functions and the actual power we have when we come together with an idea. Now, it’s going to get done and I can’t wait to see the impact we will have for new teachers.”

Kayla Herbener, ELI Fellow at Robbinsdale Elementary in Rapid City, said the experience has really energized her. “It has really been an amazing experience for me, and I have been having so much fun. It was so energizing to hear everyone’s thoughts and have a platform for conversations about issues that I’m super passionate about” said Herbener.

**What Projects Did the Fellows Create?**

The three groups of fellows spent part of their time interviewing new or early career educators in their districts. The findings were similar in all three districts; new teachers struggle to find the resources they need and the systems in place, such as mentoring programs, were not as effective as they could be.

For their projects, each group took a little different approach in finding solutions. The Sioux Falls fellows created a first-four-week check-list to distribute to new teachers. They also want to work with the district to re-organize the district’s website to make it easier for new teachers to find resources. Brookings is also working to create a website to bring resources together, and they are recommending a mentoring timeline that lays out what information and when new teachers should receive information from their mentors. Rapid City’s project is designed to collect more data from new teachers about what they wished they would have received from their teacher preparation programs and share that data with the state’s schools of education in hopes to persuade the universities to add more classroom management to graduation requirements.

The groups are sharing this information about their projects with their local administrators and it is creating positive dialogue. The fellows are providing valuable feedback the districts might not otherwise receive. All three districts have expressed interest in working with the local associations to implement the fellows’ proposals.

The fellows all received three graduate credits from the University of Sioux Falls. To learn more about the ELI program contact Ryan Rolfs at ryan.rolfs@sdea.org.

**Leaders of Tomorrow**

Institute Engages SDEA

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President: Mary J. McCorkle Executive Director: Richard Kern Communications Director: Sandra Waltman Communications Specialist: Rebecca Uhrig
The South Dakota Education Association (SDEA) named Jenifer Zoller, a paraprofessional at Spearfish Middle School, the 2019 Educational Support Professional of the Year. Zoller received the award at the annual SDEA/NEA Representative Assembly in Pierre.

“Jenifer’s commitment to the students she works with is evident in the effort she puts forth to make her Alternative Learning and Attendance Center room a positive environment for the students she serves,” said SDEA President Mary McCorkle. “She takes what she learns and puts it into practice for the benefit of her students. Jenifer exemplifies what it means to be a dedicated educator. She is most deserving of this award.”

Zoller was nominated by the Spearfish Education Association’s Co-President Teri Bauerly. “As an Education Support Professional, Jen has the ability to work with many students and staff in our building. Jen takes this opportunity to make sure that all those she encounters feel valued and cared for. During passing periods Jen stands in the hallway smiling and high fiving all who pass,” wrote Bauerly. “No matter the reason a student is visiting the ALAC room, Jen builds a relationship with that student.”

“I believe that Jenifer Zoller is incredibly deserving of this award. Jen is an advocate for all students, compassionate and kind to everyone and a life-long learner,” continued Bauerly. “I am so grateful to call her a colleague and friend.”

Dr. Shafiqur Rahman Receives SDEA/NEA’s Taking a Stand, Making a Difference Human & Civil Rights Award

The South Dakota Education Association (SDEA) presented the Taking a Stand, Making a Difference Human Civil Rights award to Dr. Shafiqur Rahman of Brookings at its annual Representative Assembly in Pierre. The award is given annually to honor an individual or organization for their work in promoting human and civil rights.

“SDEA is honored to present Dr. Rahman with the Taking a Stand Human and Civil Rights Award. He exemplifies what this award represents. He initiates and engages in activities that positively impact educational, social and economic life of the Brookings community,” said SDEA President Mary McCorkle. “Dr. Rahman’s contribution will have a positive and lasting effect for students and community members alike. We thank him for his service and hope he continues this important work.

Rahman was nominated by fellow SDSU faculty members Huitian Lu and Mary Kraljic. “Dr. Shafiqur Rahman has initiated or engaged people that positively impact educational, social and cross-cultural life in the Brookings community,” wrote Lu. “Dr. Rahman volunteered time, resources and displayed creativity, determination or perseverance in achieving human and civil rights of many people of diverse backgrounds in the Brookings community.”

SDEA is South Dakota’s largest education professionals’ organization, representing more than 5,000 elementary and secondary teachers, higher education faculty, education support professionals, retired educators and students preparing to become teachers.

SDEA Members Only
Log into MyNEA360 to join the “SDEA Members Only” group to access SDEA/NEA member only documents and information.

New users will need to create a MyNEA360 profile in order to be verified as an SDEA member.
Billie Sutton Receive SDEA’s 2019 Friend of Education Award

The South Dakota Education Association (SDEA) presented its 2019 Friend of Education Award to former State Senator Billie Sutton at its annual Representative Assembly in Pierre. SDEA/NEA’s Friend of Education Award honors a person or organization that has made a significant contribution on a statewide basis toward achieving quality public education for all students.

“We are honored to present this year’s Friend of Education Award to Billie Sutton who was a tireless advocate for public education and a champion for South Dakota’s kids during his time in the South Dakota State Senate,” said SDEA President Mary McCorkle. “His commitment to reaching across party lines was most evident during his time on the Blue-Ribbon Task Force. He worked with Republicans, business leaders and education stakeholders and together brought South Dakota teachers out of the bottom in terms of pay. Even though he is no longer in the State Senate, he continues to work for the children of South Dakota and that is why he is truly a great friend to public education.”

Sutton was nominated by Dana Livermont of the Rapid City Education Association. “When it comes to legislative action, educators continually relied on Mr. Sutton to support bills that improve the quality of education for the students of this state,” wrote Livermont in her nomination letter. “Similarly, he has been very reliable and vocal in voting against bills that discriminate against our marginalized youth or that weaken our collective voice as educators.”

“In reflecting on his tenure in the South Dakota Legislature, it is evident that Senator Billie Sutton has been a true ally to education, not only in his words, but also in his action,” wrote Livermont.

SDEA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes can now be found online at: https://bit.ly/2PwangL
Jump Start to National Board Certification

SDEA is offering those interested in becoming a National Board-Certified Teacher the opportunity to participate in Jump Start. The two-day training will be July 22–24 at the Arrowwood Resort and Conference Center in Oacoma. Jump Start is early support for those who have registered as candidates with the National Board and have selected their certification area. It is the first piece in a continuum of professional learning; one that ideally includes year-long candidate support. Jump Start’s core beliefs and structure dovetail with the philosophy behind the National Board’s Professional Learning Facilitator (PLF) materials. Jump Start is candidate centered, builds a professional learning community, and focuses on the skills, knowledge, dispositions, and strategies needed to be successful in the National Board Certification process. We believe candidates are masters of their own National Board journey. The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards holds up Jump Start as the best training out there to prepare NBCT candidates for the process of certification.

NEA National Board Jump Start is a comprehensive seminar designed to provide National Board candidates important information about the certification process, time to examine component and Assessment Center requirements, the opportunity to plan how to meet requirements, and time to collaborate, gather resources and information needed to pursue certification — all in a supportive, constructive, and collegial environment.

Graduate Credit or Continuing Education Hours: Jump Start will be available for either 16 CEU hours or one graduate credit through the University of Sioux Falls (pending). The cost for the credit is $45.

For more information visit sdea.org or contact Rich Mittelstedt at Richard.Mittelstedt@sdea.org.

SDEA Scholarship Winners

RAMIA BOERSMA SCHOLARSHIP
Mackenzie McClemans
Watertown High School
Micaiah Utecht
Redfield High School
Emma Yeske
Aberdeen Central High School

Jameson Meyer
Brookings High School

GORDON HORGEN SCHOLARSHIP
Riley Hannum
Stanley County High School

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text K12 to 73915
text ESP to 73915
NEA partially funded us to hold three of our previously popular and successful Pre-Retired Seminars this year. They were planned for Rapid City, Sioux Falls, and a new, this year, location in Yankton. Unfortunately, weather forced us to cancel the Yankton meeting not once but several times — in February, March and April. The Sioux Falls meeting was held, as scheduled in March; several people joined at that meeting. Rapid City’s meeting had to be cancelled due to lack of participants. Hopefully NEA funds can be carried over to next year to help fund our Pre-Retired Seminars as these Saturday meetings are a great source of information, for pre-retired and retired members alike. Certainly the evaluations have always been overwhelmingly positive.

The SDEA-Retire Annual Meeting was held Friday 5th of April at RedRossa prior to the Representative Assembly. Formal approval of the minutes of the 2018 meeting, approval of the 2019–2020 budget and election of a President, Bob Hoffmann, and Secretary, Mary Jane Chiles were the highlights of the meeting. Brad Reinke of Reinke Gray Investments provided a synopsis of our investment portfolio and answered questions. The popular ‘Fall Adventures’ were approved for next year. Three guests, Mary McCorkle, Paula McMann and Kim Soldake spoke briefly.

John R Salladay, SDEA-Retired President

Questions? Contact:
Loren Paul, Retired Program Coordinator
411 E. Capitol | Pierre, SD 57501
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loren.paul@sdea.org.

Last chance to Save Yourself $50!

Next year, starting September 1st, 2019, Lifetime membership in NEA/SDEA for both Pre-Retired & Retired will raise $50 to $400. Lifetime membership, of course, protects you from future National and State dues raises. Why not join Lifetime now; save that $50 & protect yourself?

2019 SDEA/NEA Election Results

The SDEA/NEA Elections Committee met on April 26, 2019, to count and certify the results of the election. Pursuant to SDEA Board of Directors motion at its January 19–20, 2019, meeting, no ballots were sent regarding uncontested races.

SDEA Treasurer
Kim Soldatke

Board of Directors

Western — (2) 2 year terms
1. David Sommers
2. Charles Arseneault

EGL — 2 year term
1. Stephanie Hageman

Plains — 2 year term
1. Greg Murley

Eastern Prairie — 2 year term
1. Danyelle Cleveland

SEE — 2 year term
1. Martin Sieverding

SEE — 1 year term
1. Sue May

Minority At-Large — 2 year term
1. Curt Anderson

COHE At-Large — 2 year term
1. Mark Geary

2019 NEA RA Unit Delegate Winners

Western
1. Dana Livermont
2. Brett Klopp

EGL
1. Stephanie Hageman

Plains
No Candidate
(candidate withdrew)

SEE
No Candidate

Eastern Prairie
1. Tony Martinet
2. Lisa Jennings

Alt.
1. Virginia Colgan

2019 NEA RA At-Large Delegate Winners

Minority At-Large
1. Curt Anderson

At-Large Delegate
1. Virginia Colgan
### May
- 20 Western Unit Meeting
- 27 Memorial Day (offices closed)

### June
- 1 NEA Student Achievement Grants — deadline
- 1 NEA Learning and Leadership Grants — deadline
- 17–18 SDEA Board/Staff Retreat — Pierre
- 19 SDEA Board meeting — Pierre
- 19–21 Sparks — Alexandria
- 30 California Casualty Music and Arts Grant — deadline

### July
- 1 NEA Board of Directors — Houston, TX
- 2–7 NEA RA — Houston, TX
- 16 SD EPIC — Pierre
- 19–20 SDEA Board meeting — (TBD)
- 22–24 Jump Start — Arrowwood Resort, Chamberlain

### September
- 22–24 South Dakota Indian Education Summit