



Everyday Superheroes

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Living in Poverty

Simulation Helps Educators Develop a Better Understanding of Poverty's Effect on Our Schools



How does poverty affect the students we teach?

That is a question the South Dakota Education Association (SDEA) is working to

parents trying to care for their children to senior citizens trying to maintain their self-sufficiency on Social Security.

SDEA President Mary McCorkle says sessions can help those who participate have a better understanding of what life can be like for students who live in poverty. "Participants walk in the shoes of some of our poorest students and their families. The simulation helps educators realize the challenges that too many of our families

face and helps those who participate develop a better understanding of how some of our students struggle," said McCorkle. "SDEA's goal in delivering these simulations to educators, is to help build understanding, which will lead to teaching based on a deeper knowledge of students."

Participants often come away from the experience feeling a bit exhausted, but say it opens their eyes to how much little things many take for granted, can mean to families living in poverty.

Tori Borns, a Special Education teacher in Watertown, said she didn't realize the energy it takes for a family in poverty just to meet their daily needs. She also learned that there are no quick fixes to their struggles. "I didn't realize just how much energy it takes to get through the week or month with every requirement you have to meet," said Borns. "I didn't really understand that if your utilities get shut off you have a fee to turn them back on; or when you go to social services to apply for benefits that it takes 30 days to process; or if you get housing assistance it doesn't

help educators and communities understand as it delivers poverty simulations across the state. According to a study conducted by the Rural Schools and Community Trust, one out of six students in South Dakota lives in poverty. For South Dakota educators, this is not just a statistic, it is a brutal fact that too many of our students live with every day.

The Community Action Poverty Simulation (CAPS) promotes a greater understanding of poverty and its effects on families. The simulation was created by the Missouri Community Action Network of St. Louis. During the simulation, participants role-play the lives of low-income families from single



DATES TO REMEMBER

NOVEMBER 28-29

Thanksgiving Break
(SDEA offices closed)

DEC. 24-JAN. 1

Christmas Break
(SDEA offices closed)

JANUARY 15

SDEA Election
Bylaws/Candidacy due

MARCH 28

Breaking the Iron Cage
of Poverty

Find Us On





President's Corner

Find SDEA's President on Twitter



@Mary_McCorkle

I haven't always been a member...

I spent my first two years teaching in a school district which did not have an Association. I remember a UniServ Director coming to talk with us about the importance of membership and the response of the superintendent at a staff meeting. "We don't need outsiders," he said. "We take care of our own." The statement bothered me, but I was leaving the district.

I didn't join right away in my new district. One day there was an episode in a neighboring classroom which concerned me. I talked to my principal who told me to mind my own business and worry about my own students. That was all it took. I joined because I knew the issue in the neighboring classroom was symptomatic and I needed support... I needed more voices.

There is nothing more powerful than the educator voice. Educators are the experts. We understand curriculum, how students best learn, and what true school leadership looks like. Our challenge is to recognize our own power and then put it to work for the good of our students. In each of our schools we know what the issues are; we must talk about those issues with those who can influence the change. We are the experts. Our students need change. So, let's demand change together.

What do our students need to be successful? What is the optimal learning and working environment needed for that success? Think of what we can do if we use our collective voice to work with each other, with parents, with the community at large to make change. We don't need permission to make change; we need the will to use our power to make change happen.

The 2020 Legislative session will soon be upon us. Legislators need to hear our voice. Too many speak about education based on "when I was in school." If no other voices are "in the room," there are no counters to those claims. Two SDEA lobbyists use their voices on your behalf, but more important is the voice of the educators from the classrooms who work directly with our students. We have stories to tell—stories that touch on the wonder of students. We have stories about the heartbreak of not having adequate resources, too large class size, and behavioral problems caused by trauma. We have the tales of the desperate need for broader mental health services in our schools and the benefits of pre-K for all. We must use our educator voice to tell those stories because those stories have power. We, who care deeply about our students because

we know their first names, are the experts. We must lead this important conversation, not those who would equate our students to a score on a standardized test.

So, let's get started. Let's speak up and speak out and speak on behalf of our schools and students. They are counting on us to use our educator voice to make a difference.

Mary J. McCorkle

Questions or Concerns

Contact a UniServ Director today!

Lisa Ali

Western UniServ Director

800-529-0090 ext. 311 | 605-342-8068
lisa.ali@sdea.org

Ahrien T. Johnson

Plains & Educators Guiding Learners UniServ Director

800-529-0090 ext. 510 | 605-224-9263
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Ryan Rolfs

Eastern Prairie UniServ Director

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ryan.rolfs@sdea.org

Philip Moore

Plains & SouthEast Educators UniServ Director

800-529-0090 | 605-224-9263
philip.moore@sdea.org

Plains Unit being covered by SEE and EGL UniServ Directors



SAVE THE DATE



SDEA presents
Dr. Donna Beegle:

Breaking the Iron Cage of Poverty

Saturday | March 28, 2020

About Dr. Donna M. Beegle

After growing up in generational migrant-labor poverty, leaving school at 15 to get married, and having two children while continuing to cope with poverty, Donna Beegle found herself—at 25—with no husband, little education, and no job skills. Within 10 short years, she gained the confidence to get her GED and advance through to a Doctorate Degree. All these experiences provide Dr. Beegle with an authentic voice to speak, write, and train across the nation to break the iron cage of poverty.

As president of Communication Across Barriers, a consulting firm dedicated to building poverty informed communities

that are armed with tools to break barriers, she works directly with children and adults currently in poverty, as well as all professionals who want to make a difference for those living in the crisis of poverty. For over 27 years, Dr. Beegle's work has spread word of mouth to all 50 states and six countries. Dr. Beegle is also the founder of the Opportunity Community movement which provides the foundation for a contemporary war on poverty.

Dr. Donna M. Beegle,
National Poverty Expert

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Scholarship, Grant and Award Deadlines



Early Career Educator Award

Last April, delegates at the 2019 SDEA Representative Assembly passed New Business Item 4, which created an award to recognize outstanding educators in their first five years. The Early Career Educator (ECE) Award will recognize an ECE who is a SDEA member and who has excelled in differentiating instruction, developed engaging lessons, successfully built relationships with their students, and actively engaged in union activities.

An individual member or a local may nominate an early career educator for this award. Each governance unit may select an Early Career Educator of the Year from nominations submitted in their unit. All the unit winners will be candidates for the statewide award, which will be announced at the 2020 Representative Assembly in Pierre.

Nominations of outstanding ECE are due to the SDEA office no later than December 1, 2019. SDEA will send all nominees a questionnaire to complete and return by December 15. All submissions must be done electronically. Only nominees who have completed the questionnaire by the deadline will be sent to the units for consideration.

Each governance unit will have until February 25 to select unit winners and send those names to the SDEA President. For more information, contact mary.mccorkle@sdea.org.

Deadline: *December 1*

Gordon Horgen Memorial Scholarship

The South Dakota Education Association/NEA is calling for applications for the Gordon Horgen Memorial Scholarship, which is awarded to Native American students who are planning on entering the teaching profession. This scholarship was created by the 2014 Representative Assembly to honor the late Gordon Horgen from Winner.

The Association may annually award up to four \$750 scholarships for each academic year. The scholarships are open to Native American high school seniors or college sophomores who are planning to enter the teaching profession.

Deadline: *February 15*

Ramia Boersma Scholarship

The South Dakota Education Association/NEA awards scholarships to outstanding students who are planning on entering the teaching profession. The Association may annually award up to three \$750 scholarships for each academic year.

Deadline: *February 15*

SDEA/NEA Educational Innovation Grant

The SDEA/NEA Educational Innovation Grant Program provides grants to members in support of innovative educational and student-oriented projects. The grant program funds new member-led projects. It does not fund projects on an on-going basis. The SDEA/NEA Educational Innovation Grants give preference to proposals that address student achievement, cultural diversity issues, include community partnerships, and can be duplicated by others.

Deadline: *May 1*

State and National Grant Opportunities for Local Affiliates

There are several opportunities for local affiliates to partner with SDEA and the NEA to build a stronger association at the local level. Through SDEA/NEA partnership grants, local affiliates can develop projects that will build organizing capacity for years to come. Here is your one-stop shop for the current grant opportunities for local leaders to explore.

For more information on all scholarships and grants offered by SDEA, visit SDEA.org.

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.

2020 SDEA/NEA Election

Executive Office Positions

President – (1) 3-year | Vice-President – (1) 3-year | NEA Director – (1) 3-year

Note: Please include a 150-word statement of why you are running for SDEA President, Vice President or NEA Director and a candidate photo.

Board of Directors Positions

ESP At-Large – (1) 1-year | Western – (1) 2-year
Plains – (1) 2-year | EGL – (1) 2-year
Eastern Prairie – (2) 2-year | SEE – (1) 2-year

Note: Please include 50-word statement of why you are running for the Board of Directors positions. In addition to a statement, please submit a candidate photo.

2020 NEA RA Delegate Positions

Western – 2 delegates | Plains – 1 delegate
EGL – 1 delegate | Eastern Prairie – 2 delegates
SEE – 1 delegate | Minority At-Large – 1 delegate
At-Large 5 delegates

Note: Please include a 50-word statement of why you are running for delegate to the NEA RA.

January 15, 2020 is the last day to notify Mary McCorkle, SDEA/NEA President of your intent to run for SDEA President, Vice President or NEA Director, SDEA Board of Director position, At-large Board of Director position, or as a state-funded delegate to the NEA Representative Assembly.

Members who wish to serve as a delegate to the 2020 NEA RA must indicate whether they want to be on the ballot as a state delegate and/or as a unit delegate. The NEA annual meeting will be held

July 2 – July 6 in Atlanta, GA. Candidate declarations are due **January 15, 2020.**

You may contact SDEA President, Mary McCorkle at mary.mccorkle@sdea.org or the SDEA Board of Directors' Election Staff Liaison, Anne Plooster at anne.plooster@sdea.org.

Return completed forms by one of the following methods:

All necessary election forms and policies may be found online at www.sdea.org.

Mail:
SDEA President
Attn: Elections
411 East Capitol Avenue, Pierre, SD 57501

Scan & email:
mary.mccorkle@sdea.org
or
anne.plooster@sdea.org

Planning for a Successful Supervisor Meeting

Questions? Contact:

Ahrien T. Johnson, ESP Coordinator

411 E. Capitol | Pierre, SD 57501

800-529-0090 | 605-224-9263 ext. 510

ahrien.johnson@sdea.org

There are several ways in which a supervisor meeting can help you succeed:

- It demonstrates your poise and professional demeanor
- It shows that you and the supervisor are on the same team
- It encourages working together to find approaches that best meet the district's and your needs



- Don't wait too long to schedule a meeting with your supervisor. Let him or her know that you know your job. If needed, ask clarifying questions. Make an effort to periodically communicate with your supervisor throughout the school year.
- Schedule adequate time. Remember to allow yourself enough time to write notes and to discuss mutual concerns.
- Try scheduling your meeting at a convenient time and place for your supervisor.
- If a job description has not been provided for your position, consider making up a fact sheet about your job description. Sharing this with your supervisor will clarify everyone's expectations.
- Relax, smile, speak slowly, and don't be afraid to ask questions of your supervisor. If your supervisor is not able to answer a question, ask for help in getting an answer.
- Set a positive tone. Open with a positive statement about your work and abilities. Whenever possible during the conference, include good news about your job experiences.

Focus on your strengths and frame any difficulties as "areas of need."

- Be specific. When commenting on positive or negative aspects of your position, use specific examples of what you know or have experienced. Don't refer to any rumors.
- Ask for your supervisor's opinions. He or she may have ideas about your job. He or she may have worked in your position at one time. Ask if there is anything he or she wants to know about you and/or additional job expectations.
- Stress cooperation. Let your supervisor know that you want to work together to help the district. Listen to his or her concerns and try to design approaches that meet your supervisor's needs, your needs and, most importantly, the district's needs.
- End on a positive note. Be sure to end the conference on a positive note, summarizing the actions that you will take. Offer to meet again. Be sure to thank your supervisor for his/her time.



- Keep a record of the meeting. Keep notes that summarize your conversations. Include specific suggestions for improvement that were discussed during the conference. You might also consider making copies of notes made and actions agreed upon during the conference so that your supervisor also has a clear record of your activity.



SDEA

Retired

Questions? Contact:

Philip Moore, Retired Program Coordinator

411 E. Capitol | Pierre, SD 57501

800-529-0090 | 605-224-9263

philip.moore@sdea.org

SDEA-Retired is warming up the activities for the winter season.

If you are already an annual, life, or pre-retired member of SDEA-Retired Educators, be sure that you've returned the annual renewal form (with the \$10 dues) to SDEA-Retired, PO Box 62, Pierre, SD 57501.

By making sure your contact information (home address and phone, PLUS your HOME email) is current and up-to-date, we can keep you informed of activities, events, and issues through a variety of communication channels.

We are in the process of consolidating our documentation into standardized Microsoft Office products, so please note that our common source of information will now be through: sdearetirededucators@outlook.com

Our 'state-wide local' association has received a grant from NEA-Retired to expand our participation and offerings in the upcoming months.

During the 2020 legislative session, we should be able to provide some expense reimbursement for participation with the SDEA Lobby Days. You might want to contact your local association about sharing rides to Pierre to advocate for retirement security and public education with your community compatriots. What fun, too!

Coming in the spring will be expanded opportunities for 'soon-to-be-retired' educators to become informed about preparing for those 'golden years' at a Pre-Retired Workshop, which have been well-received in recent years.

Bob Hoffmann,
SDEA-Retired President



**And please follow us on Facebook at:
SDEA-Retired Educators**



Penny Shuster Louks | Belle Fourche EA

Penny Shuster Louks; Belle Fourche Education Association; 8th Language Arts; I have been a member of SDEA since 2004; previously, I was a member while teaching in Casper, Wyoming and a student member at BHSU as well. My reasons for joining SDEA are to engage with other professionals, to safeguard my rights as a teacher, and to advocate for new and continuing educators. The best parts about joining SDEA have been the opportunities to participate in continuing education that is meaningful and to work in my local, supporting others and effecting change within the district and my building.

I am SDEA.

— member spotlight —

**Visit sdea.org for more
member spotlights**

I Spy a Superhero!



All educators are superheroes. You use your superpowers to accomplish a lot, often in a short amount of time, including reading the *Educators Advocate* from cover to cover. For that, you shall be rewarded. How? Use your superpower vision to spy the hidden SDEA superhero icon hidden somewhere in this issue.

Once you find it, take out your phone, snap a picture and send it to us to win an SDEA Superheroes T-Shirt. The first 50 SDEA members to find the icon will receive a t-shirt! Send us your photo via SDEA's app or by visiting sdea.org and click on the Superhero icon. Good luck!



EXAMPLE of the icon that can be found in this issue.



Tell us how your local is making a difference

Once a month, SDEA turns the spotlight on a local that is making a difference in its school, district, community or the state association. Local spotlights are featured on sdea.org, Facebook and Twitter. This is a great opportunity for locals to share experiences and how they have made their schools, communities, or SDEA stronger.

Please take a moment to submit a short statement about your local. Statements should include: what, when and how your local has empowered members to make their schools and communities better, and a photo of your local or your local in action. (100 words or less)

Summit statements at: <https://bit.ly/2NFqV4m>

Visit sdea.org for upcoming local member spotlights

I am SDEA.
— local spotlight —

Alison Ter Horst Named Milken Educator



Congratulations to Alison Ter Horst, a Social Studies teacher at Washington High School in Sioux Falls, who was selected as South Dakota's 2019 Milken Educator. She teaches psychology, a popular elective, at both introductory and AP levels. Ter Horst chairs the school improvement team, promotes professional development for the school and district, and she has also served on district accreditation and curriculum review teams. She is also a member of the Sioux Falls Education Association.

Ter Horst prioritizes building meaningful relationships with students and families. She has a knack for finding what motivates student of all backgrounds and ability levels. Last summer Ter Horst worked with 10 recent graduates to help them move on to the next phase of their education. Moving on and staying positive is something Ter Horst knows a lot about. When Ter Horst's first child died of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome in 2012, the teacher and her husband channeled

their grief into creating "Quinnidence Day," an annual event where students, teachers and community members come together to perform random acts of kindness in baby Quinn's memory.

Ter Horst earned a bachelor's degree in psychology in 2005 from Northwestern College and a master's The Milken Educator Awards are presented by the Milken Family Foundation. The Awards provide public recognition and individual financial rewards of \$25,000 to elementary and secondary school teachers, principals and specialists from around the country who are furthering excellence in education. Recipients are heralded in early to mid-career for what they have achieved and for the promise of what they will accomplish.

SDEA Board of Directors meeting minutes can now be found online at NEA EdCommunities on SDEA's Members Only group page.

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Amanda Harris Named 2020 South Dakota Teacher of the Year

Congratulations to SDEA member Amanda Harris, a fourth-grade teacher at Endeavor Elementary in the Harrisburg School District, who has been named the 2020 South Dakota Teacher of the Year. Harris has taught in the Harrisburg School District since 2013. She has served on curriculum committees in her district and regularly presents at educator conferences. She has started several afterschool clubs at her school, including a STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and math) club and stop-motion movie making club. She also helped start her school's theater company. Harris is an active member of the Harrisburg Education Association.

A statewide panel of educators selected Harris from among five regional



finalists. The other finalists were Jean Gunderson, K-6 Title reading, Elkton Elementary; Dina Vander Wilt, kindergarten, L.B. Williams Elementary (Mitchell); Nicole Dallman, third grade, Mobridge-Pollock Upper Elementary; and Penny Shuster Louks, eighth grade English language arts, Belle Fourche Middle School. Harris will represent South Dakota as a candidate for the 2020 National Teacher of the Year award, which will be announced during a ceremony in Washington, D.C., in the spring.

Pay Attention: Lawmakers are Coming

Get ready for the 2020 Legislative Session, which kicks off with Governor Noem's State of the State Address on Tuesday, January 14, 2020. Debates over charter schools, early childhood education, and potential budget cuts are just a few of reasons educators will want to pay attention this year.

How can you get involved? First, make sure you sign up for Lobby Line to get the latest developments from the state capitol. Watch for Action Alerts to raise your voice for students and public education. Finally, support our students by signing up for Lobby Day scheduled for February 17 and 18. With one collective voice, South Dakota educators can make sure students receive the education they deserve. Learn more at sdea.org.



SIGN UP TODAY

<https://bit.ly/2oQFk30>

— continued from cover

Questions? Contact:

Rich Mittelstedt, Teaching and Learning Coordinator

800-529-0090 | 605-886-4800 | richard.mittelstedt@sdea.org



kick in until the next month. It was frustrating because every time you thought you were getting ahead some curve ball was thrown at you.”

Borns believes participating in the Poverty Simulation will help her be more mindful of the students she has who are living in poverty. “I will re-think the things I am sending home with students and the expectations that I put on families without knowing their back stories.”

A simulation conducted for Watertown’s elementary teachers was the second experience for Stacey Meyers, a K-4 Math and Reading Interventionist. This time she saw poverty from the perspective of a business owner. In her role as a pawn shop owner, she tried to be sympathetic to the stories but could only do so much. “I saw how bad it can be for some families and what they have to go through just to live day by day,” said Meyers. “I would see the desperation of people that were needing money to pay their bills, rent, or utilities. They would plead their case and sell just about anything, but in my role as the pawn shop owner, I was supposed to make a living too.”

Meyers thinks that going through the simulation will make participants empathetic and able to relate more to the students they are working with on a day to day basis. She also believes the experience will help educators be more aware of



what they can do to help kids living in difficult situations be more successful.

“We shouldn’t change the expectations we have for students living in poverty, but we need to be able to help them,” said Meyer. “Keeping our expectations high lets them dream and have goals, and with the help of educators, be able to reach them. We can give them hope.”

Several of SDEA’s staff members have been trained in conducting the Poverty Simulation, which lasts two to three hours. Participants go through four 25 minute “weeks” of a family living in poverty and includes a 30-minute discussion at the conclusion of the simulation. SDEA

offers the interactive sessions to schools and communities through requests from local associations. The Association has conducted simulations in Huron, Pierre, Watertown, and Spearfish with future Poverty Simulations happening in Mobridge and Miller. If you want to conduct a Poverty Simulation in your district or community, contact your UniServ Director.

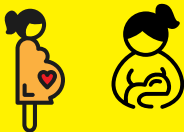
SDEA will continue its efforts to shine a light on the impacts of poverty on students when it hosts Dr. Donna Beegle, who will deliver a one-day conference called Breaking the Iron Cage of Poverty in Chamberlain on March 28, 2020. Beegle has dedicated her life to building poverty informed communities that are armed with tools to break barriers. For more information on the session visit www.sdea.org.



Just the Numbers: More About South Dakotan’s Living in Poverty



- One out of every six children are at risk of going hungry
- Single women with children are twice as likely to live in poverty
- South Dakota Child poverty rate: 16.5%



- Children receiving food stamps (SNAP): 46,000
- Households receiving federal rental assistance: 15,000
- Households receiving LIHEAP (Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program): 22,180
- Number of children enrolled in Medicaid and CHIP: 80,715



- Number of households with grandparents responsible for grandchildren under age 18: 4,231
- Percent of children living in single parent families: 31%
- Percent of working families under 200% of the poverty line: 29.2%





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UPCOMING EVENTS

November

28-29 Thanksgiving Break — SDEA offices closed

December

1 Early Career Educator Award Deadline

7 Budget Committee

13 Horace Mann's \$10,000 Fall into Funding Sweepstakes
Deadline

24-1/1 Christmas Break — SDEA offices closed

January

11 Plains Unit Meeting — 11am

13 Western Unit Meeting

14 1st Day of Legislature

14 SEE Unit Meeting

15 Bylaws/Candidacy due

16 EGL Unit Meeting

20 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (offices closed)

20 SDEA Board of Directors — conference call

21 ESP Advisory Council Virtual Meeting — 7pm

24 SDEA Board of Directors — meeting

25-26 Budget Committee