

The Educators'



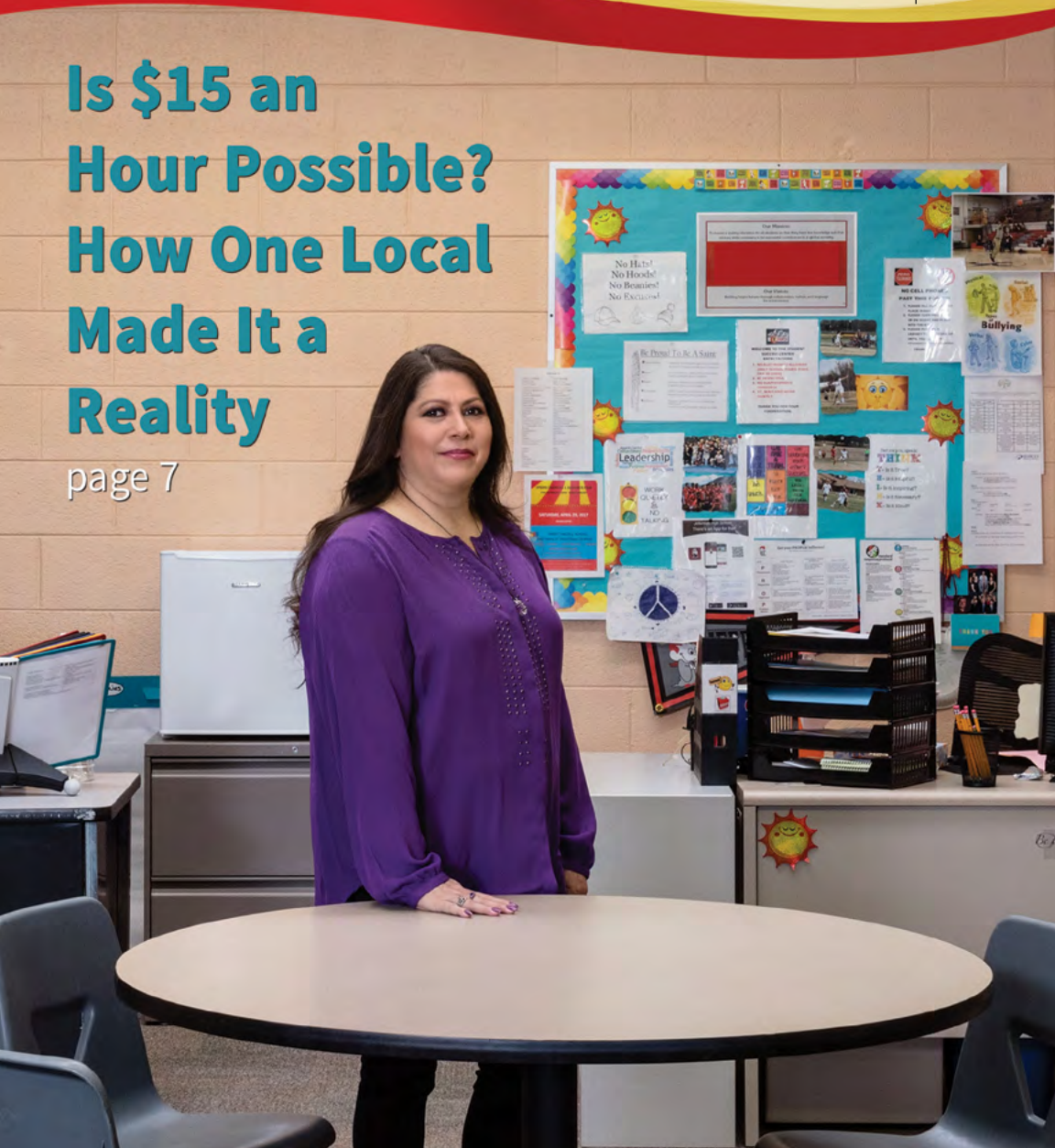
# ADVOCATE

SEPT/OCT 2021

Volume 53 | Issue 1

## Is \$15 an Hour Possible? How One Local Made It a Reality

page 7



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**SEPT/OCT 2021**

Volume 53 | Issue 1

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**Vision**

We envision valued education professionals providing quality public education for all students.

**Mission**

South Dakota Education Association ensures the collective voice for South Dakota public education professionals.





# President's Corner

## How to Have a Great 2021–2022 School Year!

First, I want to welcome everyone back to school. Last year was an enormous challenge, but we got through it together. I know there is still a great deal of uncertainty with how the Delta variant will impact the number of COVID-19 cases in our school districts and how many school districts began the school year with open positions, but, despite this, I am hoping that this year will go a lot smoother than last year. You may ask, how? Here are a few of my thoughts on what we can all do to make the coming weeks and months better for all.

First, take care of yourself. I truly believe our members are superheroes, but often you perform your magical acts at the expense of your own physical and emotional health. I know the phrase 'self-care' has been used a lot in the last year, but it truly is important. Make sure you are taking time for yourself, whether that is spending more time with your family and friends, immersing yourself in a good book, or practicing your favorite hobby. We are better educators when we have a balanced life.

The next thing we can do is support one another. Our Association is built on the notion that we are stronger together. Whether that is getting involved with your local association or just lending a hand to a fellow educator in need, when we stick together, we improve the circumstances for everyone including our students. Please let SDEA know how we can support you and your fellow members as you work to have a safe and successful year.

Lastly, look to the future. Yes, there is a shortage of educators, but we have an opportunity to start inspiring the next generation. In the coming months, we will be talking more about SDEA's partnership with the South Dakota Chapter of Educators Rising, which is a non-profit career and technical education program to help inspire high school and college students to enter the teaching profession. They have launched a handful of local chapters, but we are hoping with your help, we can launch some more. Most of you can name a teacher or two who motivated you to go into the profession, and I am positive you have a student or two who will someday say you inspired them to go into education. It is a fact that the work you do today will have a positive impact on the lives of students in the future.

Yes, every school year brings a unique set of challenges, and I am sure this year will be no different. If we all practice the three things I outlined above, we will have a better year and we will overcome anything that is thrown our way. Again, it is an honor to represent the hardest working and most dedicated people in our state. Good luck in the new year.

**Loren Paul**  
SDEA President

605-224-9263, ext 116  
loren.paul@sdea.org



# A Word from Our **NEA Director**



## **Dana Livermont**

Dana is a certified school counselor and K-12 specialist with the SD Statewide Family Engagement Center who serves as your representative on the NEA Board of Directors. She is passionate about organizing around issues and equity for students in South Dakota. Twitter [@theDanamyte](#)

## **Reality Check**

Let's look at the South Dakota Dept. of Education Report card from the 2018–2019 school year, which is the last year that we have reliable data, due to COVID-19. Below is a table from that school year that shows the proficiency and graduation rates of our Native American students versus all South Dakota students. We should all be completely alarmed by this data. Our Native American students are reaching proficiency at under half the rate of all students, and a third of them aren't completing high school. You may be saying to yourself, "But that is those other districts. We're doing better here!" I challenge you to check out your school and your district's report cards at [sdschools.sd.gov](https://sdschools.sd.gov) and sift through the data.

Surely, we can't convince ourselves that, somehow, Native American students are less capable of learning? That their brains are somehow wired differently than their peers, resulting in them less likely to read and do math? We absolutely know that this isn't true. They are just as capable as other students.

We then have to ask, how can these numbers be? That is a difficult question with which to wrestle, because the common denominator between our Native American students and their peers is us. It is our schools, and it is our systems.

The factors contributing to student belonging, learning, and achievement are complex, and it will take all of us

working together to make change. We owe it to every single one of our students to work toward more equitable learning opportunities for them. Over the next few days, take some time to be reflective of your students, your school, and your district. What do you think is happening to cause these discrepancies? And what are you willing to do to fix things?

In the coming months, SDEA will begin the work of helping our members find the tools and resources to confront these disparities. It won't be easy but if we work together, we can truly make a difference in the lives of our Native American students. Will you join us?

	<b>NA Students</b>	<b>All Students</b>
ELA Proficiency	<b>23%</b>	<b>54%</b>
Math Proficiency	<b>14%</b>	<b>46%</b>
Science Proficiency	<b>13%</b>	<b>40%</b>
Graduation Rate	<b>66%</b>	<b>90%</b>

**Check out school, district, and state report card data at [sdschools.sd.gov](https://sdschools.sd.gov)**

# Honored Women Educators of South Dakota



Left to Right: Katie Larson, Judy Thiesse, Linda Pietz, Nancy Leach and Sue Podoll

Honored Women Educators of South Dakota met on August 7 at the RR Event Center in Yankton. Five new members were inducted into Honored Women Educators of South Dakota, formerly known as the Annie D. Tallent Club of SD from 1954–1993. Educators are invited to join through a nomination process of current members. New members include: Katie Larson, Gettysburg; Nancy Leach, Mitchell; Linda Pietz, Huron; Sue Podoll, Rapid City and Judy Thiesse, Mitchell.

**Katie Larson** is a second-grade teacher at Gettysburg Elementary School. She has been a member of South Dakota Education Association and Gettysburg Education Association for many years.

**Nancy Leach** is a math teacher and Student Council advisor at Mitchell High School. She has also taught at Dakota Wesleyan as an adjunct instructor. She has been a member of South Dakota Education Association and served as treasurer of the Mitchell Education Association for many years.

**Linda Pietz** is the director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment in the Huron

School District. She has held many positions throughout the years. Pietz has been a member of Huron Education Association (HEA) and South Dakota Education Association for 28 years. She also served as HEA president.

**Sue Podoll** works with students who have been suspended long term from the school district. She has been a member of South Dakota Education Association and has served as president of the Rapid City Education Association for 16 years.

**Judy Thiesse** taught home economics (family and consumer science) for many years in Mitchell. She then earned a master's degree in guidance and counseling. She has been a member of South Dakota Education Association and Mitchell Education Association for many years.

Each year a \$500 scholarship is awarded a female student majoring in the field of education who is in the second semester of her junior year. The award is based on post-secondary accomplishments and involvement and financial need and is targeted toward providing resources

— continued to page 19

# Is \$15 an Hour Possible? How One Local Made It a Reality



South Dakota's rank for teacher salaries often makes the headlines, but how about the classified staff? Historically, pay for Education Support Professionals (ESPs) has been at or right above minimum wage. However, workforce shortages

give potential employees more options and South Dakota's school districts are starting to feel the effects. SDEA's ESP members are making it clear to their districts that if they want to hire and retain qualified and caring workers, they are going to have to make pay more competitive and districts like Sioux Falls are raising pay to \$15 an hour. How did this happen?

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**“We put the data together and started talking about a living wage”**

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Sioux Falls Education Assistants' Association (SFEAA) President Kim Parke says her local began researching the data and presenting it to the Sioux Falls School Board in 2018. “We put the data together and started talking about a living wage”

This translated into the Sioux Falls School District moving its starting wage for Education Assistants (EAs) to \$15 an hour. “We did two things: we calculated the average paycheck for someone starting as an EA (in the district), and then compared the starting wages at fast food and places

like Walmart to Sioux Falls School District starting wage.

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**“Along with the pay raise, the district is implementing practices that will hopefully make new EAs feel more welcomed in the buildings and part of the overall team educating our students”**

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Then, we created a budget with very conservative estimates of costs of living in Sioux Falls for one person. For example, we used the average cost of a one-bedroom apartment, no car payment, minimal food budget, etc. We did not include categories such as clothing, entertainment. EAs who receive \$2 differential barely made ends meet. Other EAs could not make it. In addition, none of this considered no pay during the summer months.”

SFEAA presented the information to the district and after some more conversations, the district was persuaded to change the pay scale. Education assistants received a \$1 to \$2 an hour pay raise depending on the length of service with the district.

Parke says the conversations about a living wage have also fostered a better working relationship with the district. “Along with the pay raise, the district is implementing practices that will hopefully make new EAs feel more welcomed in the buildings and part of the overall team educating our students,” said Parke. SFEAA will be meeting with the head of HR regularly this year to discuss progress and any other

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# SDEA/NEA OPPORTUNITIES

## GRANT, SCHOLARSHIPS, CAREER



### SDEA/NEA's ESP Award

SDEA/NEA's ESP of the Year Award recognizes the contributions of Education Support Professionals (ESPs) in their schools, communities, and their profession. The award is presented to a member of SDEA/NEA who demonstrates outstanding accomplishments and reflects the contributions of ESP to public education.

**Deadline:** *November 1*



### SDEA/NEA Friend of Education Award

The South Dakota Education Association/NEA is seeking nominations for the Friend of Education Award.

- The nominee must be a person or organization outside of SDEA/NEA.
- The nominee should have proven to be a genuine friend of education, educators, and/or students.
- The nominee should reflect the philosophy and principles of the association.
- The nominee through leadership, acts and support must have made contributions toward achieving a first-rate education for students in South Dakota.

**Deadline:** *November 1*



### SDEA/NEA Human and Civil Rights Awards

The South Dakota Education Association/NEA is seeking nominations for the Human and Civil Rights Award to honor an individual, student group, or organization for their work in promoting human and civil rights.

**Deadline:** *November 1*



### SDEA/NEA Early Career Educator Award

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 2021 Representative Assembly in Pierre.

**Deadline:** *December 1*

**For more information on all grants and awards offered by SDEA, visit [SDEA.org](http://SDEA.org).**

**Questions or Concerns** — *Contact a UniServ Director today! 605-224-9263*



# What Can I Say? What Can I Teach?

## Best Practices

Educators are experts in making sure our students learn honesty about who we are, integrity in how we treat others, and courage to do what's right. Recent broad-ranging attacks on how we teach and what we teach have created confusion about how we can safely continue teaching accurate and updated curricula to help our students understand our past and present to create a better future.

### **You are protected in teaching the curriculum.**

We are instructed by our school districts to teach prescribed curricula and cannot be disciplined for teaching these. We know that by presenting factual information, we allow our students to draw their own conclusions and engage deeply with the material. The best practice is to use the state standards as your guide and or use the district-approved curriculum.

### **Note that the First Amendment does not extend into the classroom.**

When instructing students, legally speaking, we are speaking on behalf of the district. That means, unless otherwise stated in your contracts, we must refrain from taking political positions or espousing personal beliefs. That includes our speech, classroom decorations, and displays.

### **Know Your School Districts Parental Complaint Policy**

Your school district policy should outline the procedures for parents to submit complaints. Make sure you read and understand the complaint policy. If policies have been violated, SDEA can assist you in seeking the appropriate remedies.

*Disclaimer: This publication is for informational purposes only and is not intended as a substitute for specific legal or other professional advice. If you have specific questions about your legal or contractual rights, contact your SDEA UniServ Director. This guidance will be updated periodically based on new information and guidance, so please refer back to this link for the most current information.*

### **Some contracts and school board policies go further to ensure academic freedom.**

Read your local contract or board policy to determine whether you have additional protections for speech in the classroom. If you're not sure, talk with your building representative or UniServ Director.



### **Safety comes first.**

For our students and ourselves, the first consideration is safety. We must create an environment where all students feel safe, and we must demand that our employers protect our personal safety. If you feel that your or your students may be threatened by activists, report this to your administration immediately, and to the police as well if necessary.

# SDEA Professional Development

## Meet Teaching Fellow, Korey Erickson!



Korey Erickson is a 2021–22 NEA Great Public Schools Teaching Fellow with SDEA. He will be working to enhance and expand professional development opportunities for

members. He is the Library Coordinator for the Sioux Falls School District overseeing library operations at 34 schools. He received his Bachelor of Arts (2008) and Master of Education (2012) from Jamestown College (University of Jamestown) and continued his education to obtain a Master of Library Science (2018) and a Master of Science (2019) from Emporia State University. He received multiple grants for promoting literacy and a love of reading. He was inducted into Beta

Phi Mu (Library and Information Studies Honor Society) in 2019. The South Dakota State Library granted him the 21st Century Library Award in 2020. He advocates for student-focused outcomes and teacher professionalism through his local and state education associations. Through the state library association, he provides guidance on best practices for school librarians in South Dakota. He has spoken on adapting to change and burnout prevention. When he is not working, Korey enjoys spending time and traveling with his wife Megan and their two children Drake (8) and Felix (4).

“For this fellowship, I am most excited about finding ways to help teachers learn the best way possible. Whether it be virtually or in person, teachers need quality professional development to help their students. I want to not just help new teachers but also the experienced and professional teachers wanting to improve their art,” says Erickson.



LOOKING FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT?  
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**Purchase an annual SDEA course subscription to gain access to online graduate courses at a significant savings available to SDEA members.**



Learn more:

<https://bit.ly/3zBKBvo>

# Online Professional Development

(5:15pm CDT/ 4:15 MDT) Register at [bridge.sdea.org](https://bridge.sdea.org)

Week	Date	Topic	Invited Audience
1	10/5	<b>Trauma in the Classroom</b>	ESP & Certified
2	10/12	<b>Differentiated SLOs, SD Teacher Effectiveness Model</b>	Certified
3	10/19	<b>NEA MB By Savi</b>	ESP & Certified
4	10/26	<b>Mindfulness in the Classroom</b>	ESP & Certified
5	11/2	<b>Resilient Habbits for Educators</b>	ESP & Certified
6	11/9	<b>Creating Equitable Systems: Understanding "isms", Understanding Microagressions</b>	ESP & Certified
7	11/16	<b>What Medicaid Expansion Means for Your School Community</b>	ESP & Certified
8	11/23	<b>Classroom Tools for Paraprofessionals</b>	ESP & Certified
9	11/30	<b>Paraprofessional Rights &amp; Responsibilities</b>	ESP
10	12/7	<b>Become Your Own Special Ed Advocate</b>	ESP & Certified

*What are your PD needs?*  
**Let us know!**



**Questions?** Contact:  
**Rich Mittelstedt**, Teaching and Learning Coordinator  
605-886-4800 | [richard.mittelstedt@sdea.org](mailto:richard.mittelstedt@sdea.org)



# Spotlight on South Dakota Regional Teachers of the Year

SDEA is excited to announce that ALL of this year's Regional Teacher of the Year recipients are SDEA members! We appreciate everything South Dakota educators do and the difference you make in the lives of students. We couldn't be more proud of those representing South Dakota teachers and the South Dakota Education Association. Congratulations and good luck to all of this year's winners!!!



## REGION 1 | Stephanie Ballard

My name is Stephanie Ballard. I am currently a special education teacher at Mickelson Middle School in Brookings, SD. I am in my eighth year of teaching and my fifth year as a SDEA member. I joined SDEA to learn more about what goes on in my district and the state. I participated in the NEA Early Leadership Institute earlier in my career and am excited about how this program can help me grow in the skills as an educator and be more involved in SDEA.

## REGION 2 | Kristi Desaulniers

Kristi Desaulniers — TEA (Tea Area Education Association) Currently Grade 4 at Legacy Elementary in Tea, SD. 30 years as an SDEA member (Watertown, Lennox, Tea Area).

As a South Dakota educator for more than 30 years — as well as three additional years of teaching internationally in England, Switzerland, and Canada — I joined SDEA with my first teaching position which was in Watertown, SD. Joining SDEA allowed insights and opportunities to pursue continued learning on both personal and professional levels. Being part of a larger organization to work towards having one's voice for students be more visible has been a beneficial aspect of belonging to SDEA.

Recently, I had the honor of being selected as the Region 2 South Dakota Teacher of the Year. But most importantly, I celebrate all of my colleagues, students, and parents who have been impacting components of my teaching career.







### **REGION 3 | Barbara Nicholas**

Huron Education Association

Elementary Music Educator at the Buchanan K-1 Center

40 years as an SDEA Member

My reason for joining this organization is because I have always had the highest regard for teachers. Being a member affords me the opportunity to join the professional organization that represents educators and fosters a relationship among its members. It is rewarding to know that I am among professionals who like myself are dedicating themselves to educating students to the best of their ability.

I believe that it is highly important for our organization to continue its effort to encourage new teachers to become members. Educators who are non-members need to be apprised of the necessity to have professional representation in their local, state and national organizations that will interface with legislators and legislative issues, local school boards and administrators, and contractual issues. Our future is dependent upon the growth of our membership to remain the most relevant educational organization in our state.

### **REGION 4 | Jenna Peters**

My name is Jenna Peters. I am a 6-12 English/Language Arts teacher at Britton-Hecla Schools.

I am starting my 14th year of teaching, and I have been a member of SDEA for five years. I joined because I wanted to learn more about the legislature governing education. I have learned SO MUCH since joining SDEA. It was one of the best decisions I've made. I also feel that my fellow members and I have a special comradery and support system that I was missing before joining.



### **REGION 5 | Koreen Hammel**

Koreen Hammel — Hot Springs Education Association. I am a 5th grade teacher at Hot Springs. I have been a member for 14 years. I joined SDEA because I was encouraged to in college. The best part about joining is helping teachers have a voice in their profession. I want to help our teachers grow in their profession and be leaders in what they do.



# NEA FOUNDATION GLOBAL LEARNING FELLOWSHIP



Kristen Gonsoir

We are pleased to share that Kristen Gonsoir, a 9th-12th Grade Science, Speech, and Debate educator at Groton Area High School in Groton, has been named a 2022 Global Learning Fellow.

The NEA Foundation Global Learning Fellowship offers public school educators 12 months of professional development. The NEA Foundation staff, partners, and field experts support Global Learning Fellows as they participate in online coursework, webinars, and peer learning communities, including a two-day professional development workshop in Washington, DC.

## SUMMER INTERNATIONAL FIELD STUDY

Fellows get the opportunity to apply their global professional development training through a hands-on international study experience. In their field-study country, Fellows will interact with local educators, students, administrators, and policy-makers; make school visits; and hear from business and non-profit leaders.

Previous Fellowship classes have traveled to China (2011, 2012, 2014 and 2017), Brazil (2013), Peru (2015, 2016 and planned for 2020), and South Africa (2018 & 2019). The anticipated field study destination for the 2021 Global Learning Fellowship is South Africa.

This trip will take place in late July.



*Apply for  
the 2023  
fellowship!*

## NEA FOUNDATION GLOBAL LEARNING FELLOWSHIP ALUMNI

After the formal 12-month professional development program ends, NEA Foundation Global Learning Fellowship alumni continue to grow their global competencies. Together, the peer-learning community of more than 350 GLF alumni build on their shared Fellowship experience.

Fellowship alumni remain active. Their activities and resources include:

- **Online Global Learning Community**
- **Virtual and in-person workshops**
- **Collaborative global projects**
- **Mentoring current Fellows**
- **Participation in additional professional development opportunities**

— continued from page 7

issues needed. While \$2 an hour is not life-changing, it is a great starting point. The recognition that we were not compensated fairly for the work we do is priceless. We are moving in the right direction”

The South Dakota Department of Labor reported that South Dakota had more than 27,000 job openings during August and an unemployment rate of 2.9 percent. SDEA President Loren Paul says that like teacher pay, school districts are learning they must be better at offering competitive wages to attract applicants, but he says the classified staff must start the conversation.

“ESP members are an essential part of our school communities. Unfortunately, for too long school boards overlooked the importance of these individuals, but now they are losing them to other sectors of the economy because the pay the district was offering didn’t allow them to make ends meet,” said Paul. “Like teaching positions, districts are finding it difficult to fill their classified positions. When Walmart and fast-food restaurants are offering \$15 an hour, districts can no longer compete at minimum wage. Those negotiating for support staff should go to the table with the same kind of information the SFEAA presented to its district. You have to talk about it and you have to ask for it.”

Sioux Falls isn’t the only district moving to \$15 an hour. Harrisburg is also offering a starting salary of over \$15 an hour and paraeducators in Brookings are receiving \$13 an hour.

“The silver lining to the labor shortage is that it is making school boards and administrators finally understand the value of the support professionals. They are finally understanding that they need to be treated better and paid better,” said Paul. “It may take some districts a little longer to get there, but if the support staff start the conversation and present the data, they will see better wages. That is the power of

coming together with one voice. SFEAA’s experience shows it truly does make a difference.”

## American Education Week 2021

American Education Week presents all Americans with an opportunity to celebrate public education and honor individuals making a difference in ensuring that every child receives a quality education.

**NOVEMBER 15 — 19, 2021**

Monday:  
**Kickoff Day**

Tuesday:  
**Parents Day**

Wednesday:  
**Education Support Professionals Day**

Thursday:  
**Educator for a Day**

Friday:  
**Substitute Educators Day**

# New SDEA UniServ Staff



## **Sandy Arseneault**

### **What is your role?**

Plains UniServ  
Director

### **Something you want the members to know about you?**

I am very passionate about the work we do at SDEA for our members. Having been a member as both an ESP and Certified Staff,

I understand the concerns and challenges educators are dealing with. I am excited to be able work with and for the members of our Plains UniServ.

### **What did you do before SDEA?**

Teacher for Custer School District and the district librarian.

### **Anything you want to share about family?**

I am married with 2 grown daughters and 4 grandchildren.

## **UniServ Program – Advocating for our members since 1970**

The UniServ program provides services to SDEA members and local associations. The term “UniServ” refers to unified service, integrating the local, state and national programs in the delivery of services and benefits to members.

Members and local associations have access to well-trained UniServ staff who provide training, assistance, and information covering each program area of SDEA negotiations, member rights and membership development.

### **Eric Herold**

*Western UniServ Director*

Eric.Herold@sdea.org

### **Philip Moore**

*SEE UniServ Director*

Philip.Moore@sdea.org

### **LouAnn Jensen**

*EGL UniServ Director*

Louann.Jensen@sdea.org

### **Sandy Aseneault**

*Plains UniServ Director*

Sandy.Arseneault@sdea.org

### **Grace Gill**

*Eastern Prairie UniServ Director*

Grace.Gill@sdea.org

### **Questions or Concerns**

*Contact a UniServ Director today! 605-224-9263*

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## **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.





## Why Should South Dakota's Educators Care About Medicaid Expansion?

The South Dakota Education Association is joining a diverse coalition of healthcare providers, farmers, businesses, and other civic organizations to expand healthcare options for South Dakota's working families. Our Board of Directors voted to support the efforts of South Dakotans Decide Healthcare to expand Medicaid coverage for over 40,000 people in the state. **Why? Supporting Medicaid expansion is yet another way we, as educators, can support our students and their families.**

- As educators, we know there is a link between how well students perform in the classroom and the overall health and well-being of the family. We believe expanding healthcare options for working parents will have a positive effect on their children's ability to thrive in school. The bottom line is **giving parents better access to healthcare means our students will have better access to healthcare. That makes a huge difference in a student's ability to reach his or her potential.**
- Expanding Medicaid will help the families of some of our fellow educators gain access to more affordable healthcare. Currently, some classified staff must return a large portion or the entirety of their wages to the school district to cover insurance costs. **Expansion will give those individuals more affordable healthcare options** allowing them to keep their paycheck to cover other needs.
- Medicaid expansion will prevent educators and their families in the most rural parts of the state from having to drive hundreds of miles to meet their most basic healthcare needs. **Expanding Medicaid will keep small town hospitals and clinics open** ensuring a healthier community for all.

**Volunteer to help SDEA and South Dakotans Decide Healthcare gather the signatures needed to put the measure on the ballot. The deadline is by Tuesday, November 8, 2021, and every single signature you gather will make all the difference.**



Sign up here:  
<https://bit.ly/3jUVJOB>

# What Say You?

## SDEA Asks and You Answer.

In each issue of the Educators Advocate, our team will pose a question to our members, and we will share some of the best answers in the next issue. Over the summer, we asked some of your fellow educators the following question and here is what they had to say:

**What unique item or tradition do you have that students absolutely love?**

“

*My 4th grade students look forward to our Oregon Trail immersive unit where we get rid of our desks, assemble a covered wagon and form wagon trains. We read wonderful books, make tough decisions, write in our daily journals, and learn all about what it was like for the pioneers who traveled the trail.*

**Vikki Hasch**

Arlington, 4th grade

”

“

*I am a math teacher, and my birthday is on March 14, which is pi day. (3.14)*

**James Benning**

Estelline High School  
Math Teacher and  
X-C Coach

”

“

*First Friday of the month birthday celebrations...I bring treats for all students, and we recognize the kids with a birthday in that month.*

**Erika Hauck**

Middle School Math  
Estelline School District

”

**What say you?**

“

Answer here:



”

**Question for our next issue...**

**What is the best tip you have ever received to accommodate your students on an IEP?**



# Getting Ready for the Upcoming Year

The leadership of SDEA-Retired Educators has completed plans for an expanded events and activities schedule for this fall and next spring. Face-to-face social gatherings are being set-up across the state for the purpose of building local chapters for member participation.

We will be communicating the event schedules through our monthly email blasts, so be sure we have your preferred email address updated to SDEA-Retired.

Our quarterly newsletter will soon be mailed to your postal address, as well as the local \$10 annual dues notice for continuous membership renewal, so again, keep us updated on your status.

The newsletter provides important information about the South

Dakota Retirement System (SDRS), as well as federal status of Social Security and Medicare legislation in Congress.

Also follow our up-to-the-minute notifications on our Facebook page.

## **APPROACHING RETIREMENT?**

Current SDEA active members can be informed on all retired-member communications through a Pre-Retired Life membership, which also ensures a smooth transition of official status when the time comes.

## **Contact info:**

### **SDEA-Retired liaison:**

[philip.moore@sdea.org](mailto:philip.moore@sdea.org)

### **SDEA Leadership:**

[sdearetirededucators@outlook.com](mailto:sdearetirededucators@outlook.com)



### **Facebook page:**

“sdea retired educators”

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to purchase books for the student recipients. Two awards were given this year. Madison Hetland, Mitchell, and Libby Bailey, Bridgewater-Emery, received the scholarships. In addition, Ellisa Jacquot received a \$200 book stipend.

The purpose of the Honored Women Educators is to recognize outstanding South Dakota women educators and to

promote relationships and networking among women engaged in education careers. Members have also been in the field of education in South Dakota for a minimum of ten years, are/were active members of SDEA/NEA, and have made major contribution in the field education.

Submitted by: Jacqueline Sly  
President Honored Women Educators of SD

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## September

- 23 Eastern Prairie Unit meeting @ Sioux Falls
- 26 SDEA Board Zoom meeting

## October

- 1-2 SDEA Board meeting
- 5 SEE Unit meeting @ Mitchell
- 11 Native American Day (SDEA offices closed)
- 18 Western Unit meeting
- 25 EGL Unit meeting

## November

- 1 SDEA ESP of the Year Award
- SDEA Human and Civil Rights Awards
- SDEA ESP Friend of Ed Award
- nomination deadline
- 9 Eastern Prairie Unit meeting @ Dell Rapids  
Pizza Ranch
- 11 Veterans Day (SDEA offices closed)
- 15-19 **American Education Week**
- 15 Western Unit meeting
- 16 SEE Unit meeting
- 21 SDEA Board Zoom meeting
- 25 Thanksgiving (SDEA offices closed)
- 26 Thanksgiving observed (SDEA offices closed)

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