

# The Educators' **ADVOCATE**



**MAY/JUNE 2025**

Volume 56 | Issue 5



# SUMMER ACADEMY



**July 20–22**

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**10–11 South Dakota Moves to 46 in Average Teacher Pay**

**12 ACT NOW: The Urgent Threat of Dismantling the DOE To SD Students**



# NEA Member<sup>\*</sup> Exclusive

## A trusted and valuable benefit

As an NEA member, did you know you receive \$1,000 of term life insurance at **no cost** to you? You're already enrolled in the NEA® Complimentary Life Insurance Plan, but it's a good time to make sure you've selected a beneficiary.

When you do, you can have some peace of mind that your loved ones will receive their benefit in a time of need. This unique benefit helps ensure educators like you have additional coverage beyond what may be provided through your district. It's just one of the many ways your union membership works hard for you.

**Scan the code or go to  
neamb.com/mycomp for a  
quick and easy path to update  
your beneficiary information.**



**\*Must maintain NEA membership.** This coverage is offered to Active, Reserve and Staff members, as well as to Life and Retired members who are actively employed in education.

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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.

**MAY/JUNE 2025**

Volume 56 | Issue 5

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# President's Corner

## Farewell from President Loren Paul

Dear SDEA Members,

I am writing this message with a lot of gratitude and mixed emotions, but I am announcing that I will be retiring at the end of August and will be stepping down as your SDEA President. This decision to leave a year before my term expires wasn't made lightly, but it is time for me to move closer to my grandchildren, who are growing up so fast. My wife, Brenda, and I don't want to miss the precious opportunity to be with them during these formative years.

Reflecting on my years with SDEA, I am grateful for the unwavering support and dedication of SDEA members. You have given me so much, and together, we have achieved many things for the educators and students of South Dakota. Your commitment to our shared mission has been truly inspiring.

I will leave with many great memories from my time as your president. Whether it was the times members gathered at the State Capitol to help defeat vouchers, pass the pay accountability bill, or lobby for more funding, I was always so proud to stand along with you in the halls of the Capitol.

Despite the many hours in the car, I truly enjoyed traveling across the state to meet you in your schools and classrooms, at SDEA conferences and trainings, and unit meetings. I learned so much from each and every one of you who gave me a little bit of your time while I was in the community. Whether helping to prepare a meal for the New Educator Retreat or joining you for an

awards presentation, each interaction with our members brought me great joy and usually a little laughter.

As I depart from SDEA, I know that everything in public education is far from perfect. There are many challenges ahead, but I am leaving the Association better equipped to meet these challenges straight on. Whether that is leaving our financial house in order or bringing together a staff and a governance team that has embraced a collaborative approach to the work, your Association is positioned to grow and move public education forward.

I am confident that the Association will continue to thrive under the capable leadership of our Vice President, Stephanie Hageman, who will step into the role for the final year of my term. The future of SDEA is bright, and I am excited to see the continued progress and success that lies ahead.

Thank you for your dedication and support. I may be coming to the end of my presidency, but this is the beginning of much success for our Association in the years to come.

In solidarity,

**Loren Paul**  
SDEA President

605-224-9263  
[loren.paul@sdea.org](mailto:loren.paul@sdea.org)





# A Word from Our NEA Director

**Kelsey Lovseth**

NEA Director

kelsey.lovseth@gmail.com

President Paul and I are heading to Capitol Hill to continue our work lobbying for legislation that supports public schools. Lobbying, as I explain to my students, is the “neck of politics”, responsible for moving the head (government officials). The fate of the Congressional budget bill will be determined in May, making it a pivotal month for our cause. Federal funding for our public schools is vital, bridging the gap where state and local funding sometimes falls short. South Dakota, for instance, receives significant support from federal programs like the Individuals with Disability in Education Act (IDEA), Title I, Pell Grants, and Career and Technical Education grants.

## South Dakota

IDEA FUNDING

**\$48,100,000**

TITLE I FUNDING

**\$57.8 M**

PELL GRANTS

**\$66.4 M**

CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION  
GRANTS

**\$30.7 M**

These are the issues on our list of things to discuss with our congressional delegation:

- **Medicaid:** A crucial part of the budget reconciliation, Medicaid plays a significant role in providing health care to 38 million children and funding school-based services that benefit the entire student population. These services, including those provided by nurses, psychologists, and audiologists,

are essential for the well-being and academic success of our students.

- **School meals and SNAP (as part of budget reconciliation):** We are deeply concerned about the potential impact of new restrictions on eligibility for school meals and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). These changes could lead to millions of students going hungry, a situation we must work to prevent.
- **Energy Tax Credits:** Preserving the energy tax credits will allow school districts to invest in healthier learning environments, cleaner vehicles, and energy-efficient technologies that lower operating costs. Through an IRS program called Elective Pay, districts are using these tax credits to modernize everything from HVAC systems to school buses. They are also increasing energy efficiency, which frees up funds for staffing, supplies, and other priorities.

## Take Action Now





# SDEA Names Ashley Renner — 2025 ESP of the Year

SDEA named Ashley Renner the 2025 Education Support Professional (ESP) of the Year award recipient. Ashley's dedication and hard work have made a big difference at Watertown Middle School and the Watertown community.

Kathy Busch, a Watertown Middle School Science Teacher and Watertown Education Association member, nominated Ashley for the award. She wrote, "Ashley's qualifications

in professional practice, commitment to the local WEA Association, extensive community engagement, and dedication to personal and professional growth make her an outstanding candidate for the ESP of the Year award. Her impact on our students and her unwavering support for their diverse needs exemplify the essence of this recognition."

Ashley was honored as the WMS Classified Staff Member of the Year, showing her skill in managing classroom behavior and providing crucial support in the Structured Learning Center. Her ability to support students emotionally, especially those facing communication difficulties, is exceptional. She goes above and beyond to assist students with daily living skills, including toileting, feeding, and personal hygiene, ensuring they have the support they need to thrive.

In addition to her school involvement, Ashley actively engages with the local WEA

association, contributing to the birthday committee and promoting community engagement through PACH (People Against Child Hunger) activities. She passionately advocates for the benefits of joining SDEA/NEA, fostering a culture of solidarity and

professional growth among staff.

Ashley's dedication extends beyond the school. She serves as PTO president, volunteers for community events, and leads church confirmation classes. She also leads couples dance classes with her

husband, donating proceeds to the 4-H program.

Ashley is working towards becoming a certified special education teacher through the South Dakota Teacher Apprenticeship Pathway program. She maintains a 3.6 GPA while balancing her full-time job, family responsibilities, and studies. Ashley aims to complete her degree by August 2025, driven by her passion for helping students develop essential life skills. As a role model and mentor, she strives to instill empathy and self-confidence in her students, continually seeking effective strategies to enhance her future career.

Congratulations, Ashley.



**If you wish to nominate someone for the for the ESP of the Year Award visit:** <https://www.sdea.org/resource-library/esp-year>

# SDEA Presents 2025 Taking A Stand, Making A Difference Award to Amy Rambow and Watertown Love

SDEA proudly presented the 2025 Taking a Stand, Making A Difference Human and Civil Rights Award to Amy Rambow, founder of Watertown Love. This nonprofit organization, based in Watertown, is dedicated to providing a safe space for LGBTQIA+ individuals and allies to be themselves without fear of persecution. Watertown Love hosts monthly meetings and organizes Pride in the Park every June, fostering a supportive community in a state with conservative viewpoints.

Amy Rambow was nominated by Watertown Association member Allison Foster, who praised Rambow's impactful work since founding Watertown Love in 2019.

Foster highlighted the importance of the organization, especially for older youth, in a state where legislative challenges often alienate the LGBTQIA+ community.

SDEA President Loren Paul congratulated Amy Rambow, saying, "Amy's dedication and leadership have made a profound impact on the community. Watertown Love's work is vital for the students of the



LGBTQIA+ community, providing them with a safe and supportive environment."

The Taking A Stand, Making A Difference Human and Civil Rights Award recognizes individuals, groups, or organizations for their work in promoting human and civil

rights. SDEA/NEA presents this award for involvement in areas such as child abuse prevention, cultural awareness, eliminating racial and gender inequities, drop-out prevention, suicide prevention, strengthening minority education, women's concerns, disability awareness, or working with the disadvantaged.

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## SDEA Members Only:

Sign up and log into the new [SDEA.org](https://SDEA.org) to access Members Only documents and information like the SDEA Board of Director minutes and Educators Employment Liability (EEL) Program documents.

# SDEA Names Representative Roger DeGroot the 2025 Friend of Education

The SDEA presented its 2025 Friend of Education Award to Representative Roger DeGroot of Brookings 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 statewide toward achieving quality public education for all students. "On behalf of the South Dakota Education Association, I am thrilled to congratulate Representative DeGroot on being selected as the 2025 SDEA Friend of Education winner. Roger's

unwavering commitment to public education has been truly inspiring, from his days as an educator to his service on the Brookings School Board and now as State Representative for District 7," said SDEA President Loren Paul. "His tireless advocacy for public schools, educators, and students exemplifies the spirit of this award. We are grateful for his dedication and proud to

honor him for his outstanding contributions to public education in South Dakota." Kelsey Lovseth, President of the Brookings Education Association (BEA), nominated Rep. DeGroot for the award. In her nomination letter, she wrote: "Dr. DeGroot has proven to be a legislative champion for

our Association, South Dakota educators, and students. Since his election in 2022, he has been an avid supporter of public-school issues and a strong voice of reason among his colleagues. His professional experience

shines through in every House Education Committee hearing. In 2024, he sponsored HB 1072 to establish criteria for the South Dakota Board of Education Standards. Behind the scenes, Dr. DeGroot's background as a teacher, administrator, superintendent, and school board member ensures public school issues remain a priority."



## Local Treasurer's Training

- Responsibilities as an Association Officer
- Important Tax Topics
- Reporting Association Income and Expenses
- Membership Dues/Reconciliation
- ACH payment option

Contact Holly Frederick at [holly.frederick@sdea.org](mailto:holly.frederick@sdea.org) and Lathie Under Baggage at [lathie.underbaggage@sdea.org](mailto:lathie.underbaggage@sdea.org) to set up your training date!



# 2025 SDEA Representative Assembly at Drifters Event Center



## Get your SDEA Member ID Card on sdea.org!

You can now print or download a digital copy of your SDEA Member ID Card through the website.

Ever wanted an easy way to show you are eligible for members-only discounts, to have your member ID number handy, or just wanted to be able to say that you're a card carrying union member? Great news...

Now you can print or download a copy of your SDEA Member ID Card through the website on your **My Account page**.

If you've never set up a website account on sdea.org, you can do it today! You will just need this information to verify your membership when you set up your account:

**First and Last Name** – Use the same first and last name as your SDEA membership.

**Personal Email** – The website does not accept K12 email addresses.

**Member ID Number** – Find your Member ID on the mailing label of your SDEA *The Educators' Advocate* or by emailing [membership@sdea.org](mailto:membership@sdea.org).

Already have a website account but forgot your password? No worries! Go to **<https://www.sdea.org/user/password>**.

Reach out to **[rebecca.feller@sdea.org](mailto:rebecca.feller@sdea.org)** if you have any questions or need help with setting up your account!

# South Dakota Moves to 46 in Average Teacher Pay

## Highest Ranking in History of NEA's Rankings and Estimates Report SDEA Cautions Lawmakers to Not Become Complacent

The South Dakota Education Association (SDEA) announces that South Dakota has moved up three positions to rank 46th in average teacher salary according to the latest NEA Rankings and Estimates report. For the 2023–2024 school year, South Dakota's average teacher salary is \$56,328, a significant increase from last year's average of \$53,153 when the state ranked 49th. This current rank of 46 is the highest South Dakota has achieved since the report's inception.

SDEA President Loren Paul credits three years of strong investments in South Dakota's public school funding formula, including six percent increases for FY 2023, seven percent for FY 2024, and four percent for FY 2025. These investments were all above the statutory increase of three percent.

*"The state's investments in public schools are paying off for teachers. Most school districts saw some nice bumps in pay, which encouraged teachers to stay," said Paul. "We believe that it was a smart investment on the part of those legislators, and coupled with the strong accountability measures we passed in 2024, we saw meaningful gains in pay."*

However, Paul cautions that a drop-off in investment may lead to the state average sliding back again. With the 2025 legislators only giving schools a 1.25 percent increase, South Dakota falls behind inflation, and schools will struggle to keep salaries competitive. Despite the increase in the average, teachers across the nation still have less buying power.

The report shows that while the national average teacher salary increased by 3.8% from 2022–23 (\$69,381) to 2023–24 (\$72,030), this was the second-largest annual increase since 2006–07, following the 4.0% growth from 2021–22 to 2022–23. Twenty-three states experienced growth of over 4%. However, adjusted for inflation, teachers still make less than they did a decade ago.

*"While we see moving up in rank as good news, we are concerned that lawmakers will take their feet off the gas and salary increases will stall, forcing many teachers to leave the profession because they can't pay their bills," said Paul. "My message to state policymakers is that we were moving in the right direction, but the work is not done. If we want to ensure we have qualified and caring teachers in the classroom, we need to continue making strong investments in our schools."*

The report also shows good news for starting salaries. South Dakota moved up in average starting salary to number 25, with an average starting salary of \$45,530 for the 2023–2024 school year, up from 27th place the previous year.

### Comparison with Neighboring States:

North Dakota: Average teacher salary is \$58,581

Nebraska: Average teacher salary is \$60,239

Minnesota: Average teacher salary is \$72,430

Iowa: Average teacher salary is \$62,399

Montana: Average teacher is \$57,556

Wyoming: Average teacher salary is \$63,669

Other Report Findings:

- The national average teacher salary increased by 3.8% from 2022–23 (\$69,381) to 2023–24 (\$72,030). This was the second-largest annual increase since 2006–07, following the 4.0% growth from 2021–22 to 2022–23, and 23 states experienced growth of over 4%. **However, adjusted for inflation, teachers still make less than they did a decade ago.**
- The national average beginning teacher salary is \$46,526, an increase of 4.4% and the largest in the 15 years that NEA, has tracked teacher salary benchmarks. Only 16.6% of school districts have starting salaries below \$40,000, a drop of over 10 percentage points from the prior year. The average starting salary exceeds \$50,000 in 13 states.
- All categories of salaries are higher in states that permit collective bargaining compared to states where it is prohibited, clearly showing the union edge.
- All categories of educators are experiencing financial stress, including trouble making credit card payments and skipping medical appointments due to other financial priorities.

Find the complete  
Rankings and  
Estimates Report  
here:



2025 SDEA Election Winners

The SDEA/NEA Elections Committee met on April 27, 2025, to count and certify the results of the election.

SDEA Officers

SDEA Treasurer

- 1. Tess Canet

Board of Directors

Western

- 1. Rob Dahlenburg
- 2. Debbie Rohlff

Eastern Prairie

- 1. Susan Zueger
- 2. Andrew Travers

EGL

- 1. Vacant

SEE

- 1. Amanda Sonne

Plains

- 1. Shawn Olsen

Minority At- Large

- 1. Heather Harmon

NEA RA UNIT DELEGATE WINNERS

Eastern Prairie

- 1. Tim Eckart
- 2. Lisa Jennings

Western

- 1. Heather Harmon

Plains

- 1. Jeremy Schultz

NEA RA AT-LARGE DELEGATE WINNERS

Minority At-Large

- 1. Qiang Ai

AT-LARGE DELEGATES

- 1. Emily Deinken
- 2. Bob Hoffmann
- 3. Emily Meyer

Contact a UniServ Director today! 605-224-9263

- Shannon Maxon | Western UniServ Director | Shannon.Maxon@sdea.org
- LouAnn Jensen | EGL UniServ Director | LouAnn.Jensen@sdea.org
- Rich Mittelstedt | SEE UniServ Director | Richard.Mittelstedt@sdea.org
- Sandy Arseneault | Plains UniServ Director | Sandy.Arseneault@sdea.org
- Steve Binkley | Eastern Prairie UniServ Director | Steve.Binkley@sdea.org

# ACT NOW: The Urgent Threat of Dismantling the Department of Education To South Dakota Students

When the White House talks about dismantling Department of Education programs, it uses phrases such as “back to the states” to obscure the fact that students—especially lower-income students in rural communities and students with disabilities—will lose big. What does it really mean for students?

## Key impacts on students include:

- **Loss of Funding:** Schools with high poverty rates could lose critical funding, affecting programs like Title I that provide supports such as reading specialists and smaller class sizes.
- **Reduced Special Education Services:** The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) provides \$15 billion to support students with disabilities. Transferring this program to another agency could reduce the services and support these students need.
- **Weakened Civil Rights Protections:** Moving the Education Department’s Office for Civil Rights to the Department of Justice would weaken protections against discrimination based on race, gender, and disability.

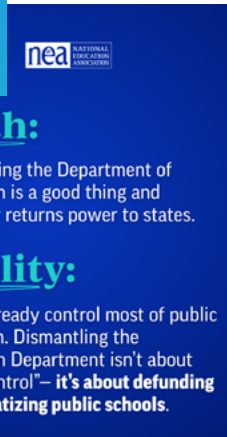
- **Threats to Federal Student Loans:** The department administers Pell Grants and federal student loans. Students and families could lose this support, leading to more students dropping out and fewer options for higher education, potentially limiting their future opportunities.

The Department of Education is a critical champion in enforcing federal statutes prohibiting discrimination and ensuring every student has access to an education that will help them reach their full potential. Dismantling means defunding programs that feed,

educate, and protect our most vulnerable and underserved students, and leaving many families fearful and anxious and communities reeling.

Educators and our allies will

push back, protecting popular programs that support students, staff, and strong public schools. We need your help.



## IT'S TIME TO ACT.

Contact the South Dakota Congressional Delegation and make your voice heard:



# 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*



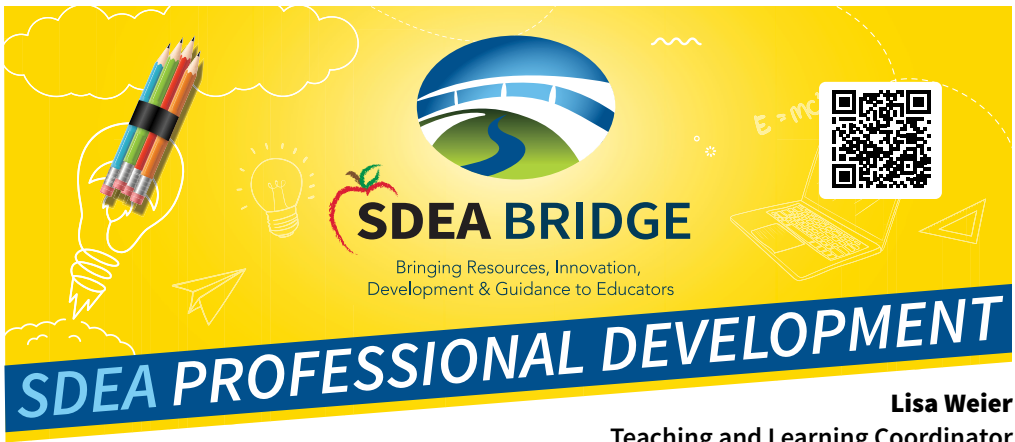
### **SDEA/NEA Early Career Educator Award**

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 2023 Representative Assembly in Pierre.

**Deadline:** *December 1*

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





**Lisa Weier**

Teaching and Learning Coordinator

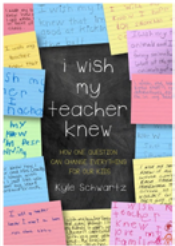
Lisa.Weier@sdea.org

## Summer Book Study

### Book Studies (free for members and \$50 for non-members)

Earn fifteen continuing education contact hours (CECH) for free or one graduate credit from University for an additional \$50 per credit. \* Indicates 30 CECH or 2 grad credits.

\*\* (This is a year-long book club similar to Onward. CECH are not available.)

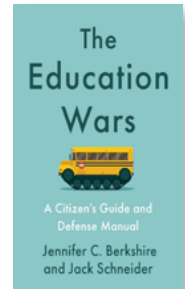


### **I Wish My Teacher Knew:** **How One Question Can Change Everything for Our Kids**

by Kyle Schwartz

### **The Education Wars:** **A Citizen's Guide and Defense Manual**

by Jennifer C. Berkshire  
& Jack Schneider



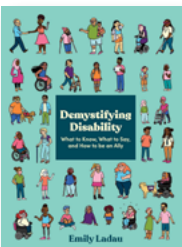
### **Awakened:** **Change Your Mindset to Transform Your Teaching**

by Angela Watson



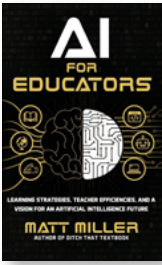
### **Educator Wellness:** **A Guide for Sustaining Physical, Mental, Emotional, and Social Well-Being \*\***

(This is a year-long book club similar to Onward.)  
by Timothy D. Kanold & Tina H. Boogren



### **Demystifying Disability:** **What to Know, What to Say, and How to Be an Ally**

by Emily Ladau



**AI for Educators:  
Learning Strategies,  
Teacher Efficiencies,  
and a Vision for an  
Artificial Intelligence  
Future**

by Matt Miller

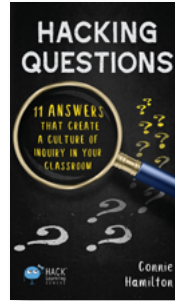
**Happy Kids Don't  
Punch You in  
the Face:  
A Guide to  
Eliminating  
Aggressive Behavior  
in School**

by Ben Springer



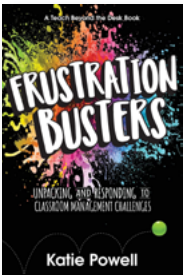
**The Body Keeps  
the Score:  
Brain, Mind, and  
Body in the Healing  
of Trauma \***

by Bessel van der Kolk



**Hacking Questions:  
11 Answers That  
Create a Culture  
of Inquiry in Your  
Classroom**

by Connie Hamilton

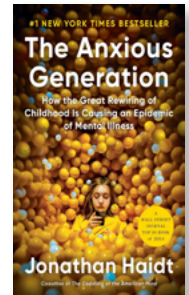


**Frustration Busters:  
Unpacking and  
Responding to  
Classroom  
Management  
Challenges**

by Katie Powell

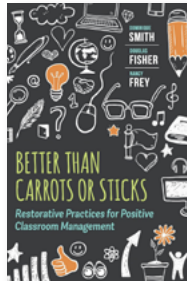
**The Anxious  
Generation:  
How the Great  
Rewiring of  
Childhood Is Causing  
an Epidemic of  
Mental Illness \***

by Jonathan Haidt



**Better Than  
Carrots or Sticks:  
Restorative  
Practices for  
Positive Classroom  
Management**

by Dominique Smith,  
Douglas Fisher &  
Nancy Frey



**\$275  
for three,  
NO additional fee.**

SDEA members can take THREE  
online graduate credit courses  
(up to nine credits) for only \$275.



**Enroll Today!**

SDEA has partnered with Augustana University and VESi to offer members a yearly subscription to online graduate courses for \$275 per year. You can enroll in one course per term or two courses during the summer (if you skip fall or spring), for a total of 3 courses per year.

# Honored Women Educators of South Dakota

The purpose of HWE of South Dakota is to recognize outstanding South Dakota women educators and to promise better relationships among women engaged in educational work.

Because it can be difficult to get all necessary information on the nominee, while not divulging the fact that the person is being nominated, a new format was voted on in August 2017. The new format is to submit the information that can be obtained, with **items listed below required**. Submit the information by **May 31, 2025** to: Deb Everson, 1428 Pinehurst Ave., Mitchell, SD 57301. Nominations can be submitted electronically to: debeverson1@gmail.com

Once the nomination information is received, the nominee will be notified and will be asked to complete the form by May 31, 2025. Those selected for membership in Honored Women Educators of South Dakota will be notified and will be invited to the 2025 luncheon.

**Each SDEA Member may submit one nominee per year.**

**Requirements of nominees:**

1. Be active in education at present and be a present SDEA member. Or, if retired, the nominee must have been an SDEA member during her active career
2. Have a minimum of four years of college
3. Should have spent at least ten years in the field of education
4. Be fully qualified educationally for their field of work
5. Have made major contributions in the area of education
6. Should be active in the community and exhibit character traits worthy of the honor of membership
7. Those eligible for membership are classroom teachers, administrators, librarians, supervisors, and former educators

**Submit the following information on a word document.**

1. Full name of nominee
2. Mailing address of nominee
3. Phone number of nominee
4. Email address of nominee
5. Present position of nominee, if currently teaching; past position, if retired
6. Write a paragraph that reveals the personality and real worth of the nominee
7. Name, signature, addresses, phone number of nominator who submits the nomination, and date
8. Submit 2 or 3 letters of recommendation from others who are familiar with the contributions of the nominee. Possible choices could be co-workers, administrators, students or former students, or parents of present or former students. If the nominator does not submit the letters of recommendation, the nominee will be asked to do so.

**Honored Women Educators of South Dakota Book Award**

The \$500 Book Award is for a female student majoring in the field of education who is in the second semester of her junior year. The award is based on financial need.

**Requirements:**

- Minimum of 2.5 GPA on a 4.0 scale
- Attach a copy of most recent transcript
- Attach a list of two (2) contact persons if follow-up reference should be needed.
- Write an essay of not less than 250 words on “How I Feel I will Make a Difference in the Field of Education” (Attach to application found at [sdea.org](http://sdea.org))

Deadline date for application, including transcript, personal contacts, and essay is **May 31, 2025.**

Submit the information to:

Deb Everson  
1428 Pinehurst Ave.  
Mitchell, SD 57301  
[debeverson1@gmail.com](mailto:debeverson1@gmail.com)



**Nomination  
& Application  
Forms**

**SDEA Scholarship Recipients**

**Ramia Boersma  
Scholarship**

SDEA awards scholarships to outstanding students who are planning on entering the teaching profession.



**Jackson Rolston**  
*Wagner  
Community School*



**Colton Brady**  
*Stanley County  
High School*

**Educator Rising  
Scholarship**

SDEA awards scholarships to high school students that are involved in their local Educator Rising Chapter, participate in local and statewide Educator Rising activities and are planning on entering the teaching profession.



**Andie Ingalls**  
*West Central  
High School*



**Sarah Jenson**  
*Harrisburg  
High School*



SDEA members are invited to make plans to attend the Summer Academy July 20–22, 2025 on the Augustana University campus in Sioux Falls. We are proud to feature a keynote from freelance journalist and education podcaster Jennifer Berkshire.

Breakout sessions have selections for a variety of professional development, leadership development, advocacy, and organizing.

Attendees who participate in the sessions on all three days will earn enough hours for one graduate credit.

## 2025 SUMMER ACADEMY KEYNOTE



### Jennifer Berkshire

I've been writing, podcasting and opining about the intersection of education and politics for more than a decade now. (Though some of my loved ones will insist that it has been much longer!) My interest in the politics of education began when I took a part

time job editing the statewide newspaper for AFT Massachusetts. I went on to start a humorous blog chronicling the follies of the education reform movement. Along the way, that morphed into something more serious, and my strong opinions have now appeared in the New York Times, the Nation, the New Republic, the Baffler, and many other publications. I've also managed to produce three books: *More Worlds to Negotiate*, about former Secretary of Labor John Dunlop; *A Wolf at the Schoolhouse Door* and *The Education Wars*, both of which I wrote with education historian Jack Schneider.



**Registration  
& More Info**

<https://bit.ly/4b3y4od>

**Questions? Contact: Korey Erickson** (605) 222-3905 or [Korey.Erickson@sdea.org](mailto:Korey.Erickson@sdea.org)





As we approach another summer, we want to congratulate those retiring this year! SDEA-Retired appreciates your years of dedication and knowledge. While planning your summer activities, we hope you have added SDEA-Retired to your to-do list. Your leadership and commitment are still crucial to our students, even as you transition to retirement.

SDEA-Retired ensures that public education works for South Dakota's students and supports teachers in the classroom. We understand the value of your experience and are committed to supporting the next generation of teachers and policymakers. SDEA-R also updates you on the legislative and policy developments affecting social security and the SD Retirement System.

It's simple to join SDEA-Retired. Use the QR code to access our secure



***Join  
Now***

website. Once you've done that, you will receive a welcome email with information about upcoming events. If you have any questions, please get in touch with our SDEA-Retired Liaison, LouAnn Jensen, at 605-220-1688 or [louann.jensen@sdea.org](mailto:louann.jensen@sdea.org). We're here to help you every step of the way.

Thank you for re-electing me as your president and for re-electing Kathy Meyers as secretary for the next three years. We look forward to serving you. If you have ideas for something you would like to do in your community, please let us or LouAnn know, and we will see if it can be arranged.

One new activity that some of you have enjoyed is our online book club. We are just finishing our discussion of Kristin Hannah's *The Women*, a work of historical fiction about the nurses in Vietnam. We are taking a break for the summer and will resume in the fall. If you have a book you think would be fun to discuss with others, please send your suggestions to Lisa Weier, our Professional Development specialist, at 605-220-1920 or [lisa.weier@sdea.org](mailto:lisa.weier@sdea.org).

Mary Jane Chiles  
SDEA Retired President

### **ADDITIONAL CONTACTS**

SDEA Retired Staff Liaison:  
LouAnn Jensen | 605-220-1688  
[LouAnn.Jensen@sdea.org](mailto:LouAnn.Jensen@sdea.org)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### June

- 9 SDEA BOD meeting
- 9-11 SDEA Board/Staff Retreat
- 19 Juneteenth (SDEA offices closed)
- 28-7/1 NEA Aspiring Ed Conference
- 29 NCSEA Summer Meeting

### July

- 2-6 NEA Representative Assembly – Portland, OR
- 20-22 SDEA Summer Academy**  
Augustana University – Sioux Falls, SD



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