



DIVERSITY COMMITTEE

Annual Report to the 2026 KEA Delegate Assembly

All Committee Weekend: The Diversity Committee began its 2025-26 work at All Committee Weekend, which occurred virtually on Friday and Saturday, September 5 & 6, 2025. The committee elected Zach Neal as Chair and Aleia Ellis as Vice Chair. They determined their meeting schedule for the year and discussed the charges from the KEA President.

October 18, 2025: The Committee met to review the applications for the 2025 KEA Ethnic Minority Scholarship. All applications were presented to the committee anonymously and using the rubric as a guide, all committee members agreed that applications #2 (Anadalay Rodriguez, Georgetown College) and #9 (Gabrielle Haynes, University of Louisville) most closely matched the criteria. The committee decided to recommend to the officers that AE membership be required of all scholarship winners and included in the guidelines going forward. The committee agreed to submit the 2025 Smith Wilson Award winner for consideration NEA Virginia Uribe Award. The Committee discussed the efficacy of the Diversity Lesson Plan and ESP Project contests. Although the committee agreed that contests don't generate the participation that they should they decided to continue the contests and consider a possible revamp in the future.

February 7, 2026: This meeting was convened to select the annual Diversity Lesson Plan winners; the ESP Diversity Project winners; the Marnel Moorman Scholarship Winners and the 2026 Smith-Wilson Award winner. The Smith-Wilson Award is presented each year to a person or organization that has made notable contributions in any of the following areas: encouraging and supporting minorities to enter the teaching profession; advancing opportunities, especially educational opportunities, for youth of color; initiating or continuing impactful work in the areas of human and civil rights or; leading in the field of innovative, creative, and equitable education for all students. The committee reviewed the timely submitted, complete nominations for the Smith Wilson Award and selected the winner, who will be announced at the 2026 DA. The committee reviewed the applications for the Diversity Lesson Plan, ESP Diversity Project and Marnel Moorman Scholarship and selected winners using the criteria established for each award.

The committee discussed the format of the 2026 Diversity Celebration presentation, which will be presented to all delegates during the DA. The Diversity Committee members who are also elected delegates to the DA were identified and most will participate in the presentation. The Diversity Committee will meet briefly at the Delegate Assembly to finalize the presentation.

Respectfully submitted by the 2025-26 Diversity Committee members:

Zach Neal, NKEA Chair

Matthew Callahan, 1st District

Larissa "Michelle" Davis, 3rd District

Aleia Ellis, 4th District Vice Chair

Madelyn Mann, 5th District

Quentin Johnson, Central District

Lisa Williams, EKEA

Alfonso DeTorres Nunez, JCTA

Shaquita Garrett, KESPA

Courtney Hunter, MCEA

Jessica Scarse, UCEA

John Day, UKREA

Joyce Redd, KEA-Retired

Nadia Pratt, KEA Aspiring Educators

Natalie Rashad, Ethnic Minority Director