

DSEA Vice President

DSEA Vice President (one vacancy)



Name: Stephanie Ingram
School District: Colonial School District
Local Association: Colonial Education Association

More than ever, I believe that now is the time to reaffirm our desire to join together and work in earnest to empower our members to demand respect and understanding for our profession. A union works best when all of its members believe they have a place and belong. Each member is appreciated for what he or she brings to the group. This means that DSEA must be an inclusive organization that provides a voice for all educators. Every voice, in all educators groups, must be heard and respected in order for all of us to move ahead.

In my opinion, it is the perfect time to stand up and be heard. With upcoming change of leadership at the helm of DSEA, I believe that we have the opportunity to join together to work in earnest to preserve our profession, which is being debased and degraded right before our very eyes. ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act) gives up the chance to insist on changes that will be in the best interest for all stakeholders, in and out of the classroom. We must work to ensure we are a part of the creation of these potentially game-changing regulations.

Being a member of DSEA Leadership Team is an extremely important responsibility and not one I take lightly. As a member of this team, I will be counted on to interact with union members here in Delaware and across the country. I will be depended on to acquire knowledge about educational initiatives and best practices and to pass that learning on to others. I will be expected to work for social justice and create lasting change for our students and our members. I thank you for the opportunity and look forward to working to lead DSEA towards the future we all envision.



Name: Jackie Hildebrand Kook
School District: Christina School District
Local Association: Christina Education Association

Since graduating from the University of Delaware in 2001, I have been an agriscience educator and active union member in the Christina School District. After serving as an association representative for several years, I was invited to join the local's strategic plan committee, subsequent to which I was elected to the Communications Chair position. For six years I managed communications for the Christina EA, including website maintenance and the reimagining of the local's newsletter. I then served out the remainder of an unfinished term as Treasurer and was elected in 2014 to the office of Vice President, a position I currently hold. Two years ago I was appointed by NEA President Lily Eskelsen Garcia to the NEA's Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Committee.

Through my work with the union I have found my voice. My most significant professional accomplishments have been as a Christina, Delaware State, and National EA member, and my career ladder is firmly rooted in unionism. There is an unending need for people to stand up with and for others, and that is my passion. From providing professional development through DSEA's training cadre, to ensuring the needs of GLBTQ individuals are firmly represented in the NEA's strategic plan, I have both strengthened and honed my advocacy skills. The training I have received from NEA, the Montgomery County Education Association-NEA training center, DSEA, and my own local have instilled a confidence and capability that is prepared to serve more, serve greater, serve now.

It has always been my plan to serve the students and educators of the state of Delaware. By electing me to the position of Vice President, brothers and sisters, you will be part of a collaborative solution to issues in education. Your voice matters to me.

In Solidarity, Jackie Kook.