



BUILDING BRIDGES

AEM Paves the Future

Aspiring Educators of Michigan Conference

November 16, 2024

MEA Headquarters • East Lansing, MI



WELCOME, ASPIRING EDUCATORS!



We are thrilled to welcome you to the 2024 AEM Aspiring Educator Conference! This year's theme, "Building Bridges: AEM Paves the Way," represents the important journey you are about to embark on as future educators. This conference is all about you — our aspiring educators — and we are excited to support your development and growth in the profession.

Education is a bridge that connects generations, communities, and possibilities. As aspiring educators, you are laying the foundation for the future of teaching and learning. The knowledge, relationships, and experiences you build today will not only shape your career but also impact the students and communities you will serve.

Throughout this conference, you will have the chance to explore new ideas, build your professional network, and engage with passionate leaders in education. Each session has been designed to empower you with the skills, tools, and inspiration needed to navigate the evolving landscape of education.

As you attend workshops and participate in discussions, remember that you are not just learning how to teach — you are becoming a bridge to a brighter future for students, schools, and the profession. Your dedication, creativity, and passion will help transform classrooms, nurture young minds, and drive meaningful change in education.

We hope you take this opportunity to connect with your peers, embrace new perspectives, and discover the many pathways that AEM can help pave in your journey ahead. Together, we will build bridges to a better future in education.

Thank you for joining us, and we look forward to a conference filled with learning, collaboration, and inspiration!

Enjoy the 2024 AEM Aspiring Educator Conference!

Chandra Madafferi

Chandra Madafferi, President

NOEL CANDELARIA



Secretary-Treasurer, National Education Association

Location: Grand Traverse

Noel Candelaria, a special education teacher and former teacher's aide from El Paso, Texas, is the Secretary-Treasurer of the National Education Association, the nation's largest professional organization. In this role, his primary responsibility is managing and maintaining the Association's multimillion-dollar budget.

Noel Candelaria is the Immediate Past President of the Texas State Teachers Association (TSTA), the state affiliate of the National Education Association (NEA). Prior to his election as TSTA President, Noel served as TSTA Vice President after a distinguished tenure as President of the Ysleta Teachers Association (YTA) in El Paso, Texas, where he worked as a Teacher's Aide and Special Education Teacher in the Ysleta Independent School District (YISD).

Noel was recently appointed by President Biden to serve as a member on the President's Advisory Commission on Advancing Educational Equity, Excellence, and Economic Opportunity for Hispanics. In this role, Noel is tasked with providing advice to the President on matters pertaining to educational equity and economic opportunity for the Hispanic and Latino community.

Noel and his wife Patty, who is a National Board-Certified teacher, are tireless advocates committed to the success of every student. Throughout his career, Noel has emphasized the importance of relationships built on trust. He believes our public schools must provide every student the best opportunity to fulfill their individual potential.

As a son of hard-working immigrants, the importance of education and the opportunities that a quality public education can provide were core values instilled in him at a very early age. That upbringing helped to shape Noel's passion to serve all students and reimagine a more just and equitable education system that benefits all students.

LAUREN KAZEE



Welcome and Wellness with Lauren Kazee

Location: Grand Traverse

As professionals heading into the field of education, it is natural to focus on the needs of those around us, especially those of the young people with whom we work. It is not easy to attend to our own needs, they often get neglected or ignored. Join in the discussion of simple self-care strategies to help ensure you prioritize you. You will have an opportunity to identify and try practices that are a good fit for you. This workshop will be engaging, interactive and include a variety of practical strategies for implementing your own well-being and self-care, even amidst chaos.



BUILDING BRIDGES



AEM Paves the Future

Aspiring Educators of Michigan Conference

November 16, 2024

MEA Headquarters • East Lansing, MI

We are excited to welcome everyone to MEA's first fall AEM conference. We have a lot of exciting opportunities to engage, network, and showcase your accomplishments. This conference was planned with your needs in mind. We are focusing on what information and skills you need to successfully complete your training to become a teacher and the tools you need to be successful in your future classrooms. Free professional headshots, interview practice with administrators, and resume help will be available. Fun games and prizes are planned. See you soon!

TIME	SESSION
7:30-8:30 a.m.	Registration, Headshots, Breakfast
8:30-9 a.m.	Welcome and Opening Address Noel Candelaria, NEA Secretary-Treasurer
9-9:50 a.m.	Wellness Session – Living Slow
9:55-10:40 a.m.	Breakout Series 1
10:50-11:50 a.m.	Breakout Series 2
11:50 a.m.-1:20 p.m.	Lunch and Keynote Resume Review and Interview Practice
1:25-2:25 p.m.	Breakout Series 3
2:30-3 p.m.	Awards and Prizes

AEM LESSON PLAN CONTEST



We know our AEM members are excited about connecting with students through great instruction. Here is your chance to showcase how excellent you already are.

Please record yourself talking about a lesson you have planned and taught. Recordings should be no longer than 3 minutes and should have the following elements:

- Your Name, College/University
- The target audience of your lesson (grade/content)
- A description of your lesson
- What worked well and why
- A reflection on what went well and what changes you would make if you taught it again

If you include images of the students that you worked with, please be sure that they are not identifiable by blurring or obscuring them or having pictures that do not show their faces.

PRIZES AND CATEGORIES

Best Secondary Lesson
\$100/plaque

Best Elementary Lesson
\$100/plaque

**Most Innovative Use of
Technology in a Lesson**
\$50/plaque

**Most Engaging Presentation
of Lesson**
\$50/plaque

All entries are due by Oct. 15 at 11:59 p.m. and will be judged by an MEA-R member panel. All decisions of this panel are final.

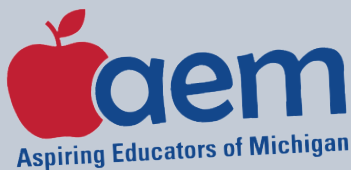
SUBMIT YOUR ENTRY

Email achristiansen@mea.org by Oct. 15 using the directions below:

- In the subject line specify the contest category you are entering. If you are submitting to multiple categories with the same video, list them all (e.g., "Video Contest – Best Elementary, Most Engaging Presentation,").
- In the body of your email, include all the requested elements as outlined above.
- Attach your video file to the email. Ensure the video is no longer than 3 minutes.

STUDENT TEACHER MENTORING

Student teaching soon?



STUDENT TEACHING?
**Want an expert educator
in your corner?**

AEM student teachers get an
experienced teacher for a
mentor/coach.

FREE!

Connect with your mentor
via FaceTime, Zoom, Skype,
email, text or talk.

All on **YOUR** schedule!

Scary, isn't it? Get an experienced teacher in your corner with the Student Teacher Mentoring Program through AEM. When you are being judged and graded by both your college supervisor and your mentor teacher, it may be difficult to approach them with questions and challenges. Don't worry, we have a solution! As an AEM member, you have access to an MEA-Retired mentor with years of classroom experience whose only goal is to support you as you embark on your career as an educator.

Use the link below to register the semester before your student teaching begins.

Scan the QR code to register or visit
[docs.google.com/forms/
d/e/1FAIpQLScLDrcLtfqP
50qLAQ1Co5Vtte2RUzZX
xpxEWlfSyBxKFEg3DA/
viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScLDrcLtfqP50qLAQ1Co5Vtte2RUzZXxpxEWlfSyBxKFEg3DA/viewform)



For questions, contact us at
(800) 292-1934 or email aem@mea.org.

MEA-Retired
THE COMMITMENT CONTINUES

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Registration Deadline: Oct. 25, 2024

REGISTRATION PROCESS

Online registration only.

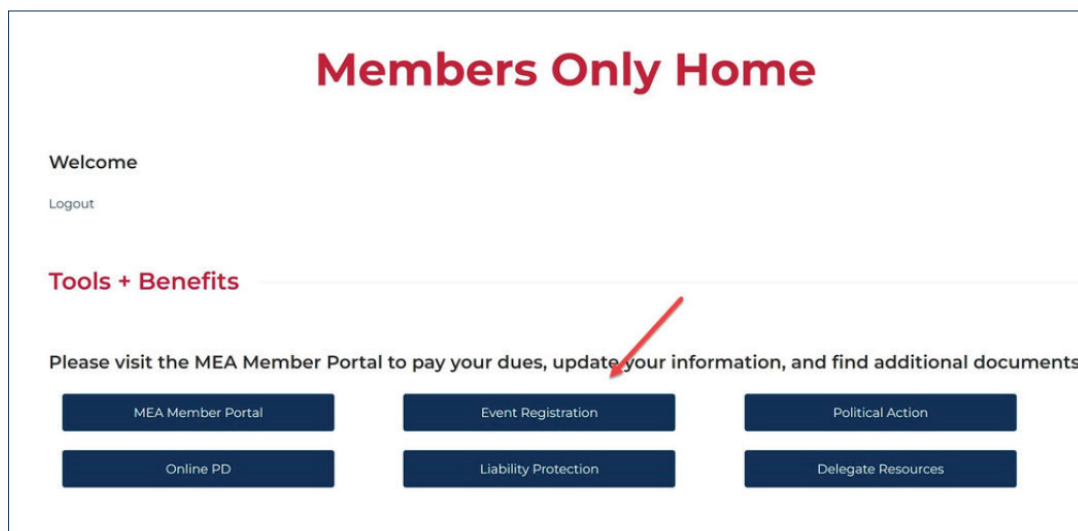
Click the button to register. If that direct link doesn't work on your device, you can:

1. Go to **mea.org/login** and log in (you can create your login credentials there or reset a lost password).
2. Click Event Registration.



PLEASE NOTE: To use online registration, each member must sign into their MEA account so that the information is on their record. One MEA member cannot register another MEA member.

Please verify that your email address is correct in the system before registering. This is how you will receive a confirmation email to let you know that the registration was processed correctly.



CONFIRMATION EMAIL

A confirmation message will be sent to the email on file for the member. If you do not receive a confirmation email, please email **conferences@mea.org**.

REGISTRATION FEES

Registration is free for MEA and AEM members.

KEYNOTE

DARRIN CAMILLERI

State Senator Darrin Quiroz Camilleri is currently in his first term serving Senate District 4 following three successful terms in the State House of Representatives. He is also the Assistant Majority Leader, Chairman of the PreK-12 School Aid Budget, and serves on committees that encompass Elections, Energy, Transportation, Labor and more. His district spans seventeen communities across Downriver and Western Wayne County, including his hometown of Brownstown Township as well as the City of Trenton, where he currently lives.

Since he was first elected in 2016, Camilleri has consistently introduced legislation to keep Michigan's promises to working people and help everyday Michiganders get ahead. As a proud former teacher, he has also worked extensively on improving outcomes for Michigan students and finding solutions to combat the state's literacy crisis and teacher shortage.



SERIES 1

MASTERING THE MTTC SESSION 101

Presenters: Bridgett McDowell, MDE
Sean Kottke, MDE

Location: Erie

One of the final responsibilities aspiring educators have on their journey to certification is passing the Michigan Test for Teacher Certification (MTTC). If you haven't yet passed your required MTTCs, this is an important session for you. Bridgett and Sean, both from the Michigan Department of Education, are here to demystify the tests, help you gain the understanding and confidence you'll need to meet this challenge, and suggest ways you can help finance the cost of test-prep and the test.

POWER, PRIVILEGE, AND IDENTITY SESSION 102

Presenters: Dorian Prier-Piloto, MEA UniServ Director

Location: Ontario

In this session, participants will explore how power, privilege, and identity impact our lives, our societies, and our schools. In this interactive session, participants will learn about strategies that we can all implement that will help to improve our interactions with others in an increasingly diverse society.

THE TEA ABOUT TEACHING SESSION 103

Presenters: Brittany Perreault
Lake Orion Community Schools & Farmington Public Schools

Location: Huron

In this session, participants will learn about the process of transitioning from an aspiring educator into the role of early career educator. The presentation will provide insight into landing your dream job, tips to learning a new curriculum and making learning innovative, classroom management resources, how to navigate professional relationships, and more! We aim to prepare all aspiring educators for their future careers by spilling the real tea about teaching.

SUCCESSFUL TEACHING IN THE URBAN CLASSROOM SESSION 104

Presenters: Skye Kapinus
Lansing Public Schools

Location: Michigan

Urban schools are characterized as those that are large, in densely populated areas with diverse student populations. While teaching in any setting comes with challenges, teaching in urban schools presents both unique obstacles and opportunity for success. In this session, participants will learn about strategies and tips that will help you meet the needs of students in an urban setting. Skye is an experienced Montessori teacher in Lansing Public Schools who will share tips about utilizing Montessori methods to reach students.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE: YOUR NEW TEACHER'S ASSISTANT SESSION 105

Presenters: Kecia Waddell, Ph.D.

Location: Superior

In this highly interactive session, we'll explore how AI can support and enhance the work of teachers, helping to create engaging and effective learning experiences for students. You'll leave with practical ideas and resources to put into action in your own classroom.

SERIES 2

MASTERING THE MTTC SESSION 201

Presenters: Bridgett McDowell, MDE
Sean Kottke, MDE

Location: Erie

One of the final responsibilities aspiring educators have on their journey to certification is passing the Michigan Test for Teacher Certification (MTTC). If you haven't yet passed your required MTTCs, this is an important session for you. Bridgett and Sean, both from the Michigan Department of Education, are here to demystify the tests, help you gain the understanding and confidence you'll need to meet this challenge, and suggest ways you can help finance the cost of test-prep and the test.

TRAUMA-ENGAGED PRACTICE AND FOSTERING RESILIENT LEARNERS SESSION 202

Presenters: Brooke Aernouts, M.Ed.

Location: Ontario

Understanding trauma is critical, but how do we use our knowledge to engage with trauma in a practical way? This session will reframe the historical context and developmental impact of trauma and adversity in childhood specifically for educators and provide an in-depth look at brain adaptations to different environments. Specific interventions and applications for trauma-engaged practice in the classroom will be provided, along with evidence-based strategies for fostering resilience and self-compassion for teachers and students.

THE TEA ABOUT TEACHING SESSION 203

Presenters: Brittany Perreault
Lake Orion Community Schools & Farmington Public Schools

Location: Huron

In this session, participants will learn about the process of transitioning from an aspiring educator into the role of early career educator. The presentation will provide insight into landing your dream job, tips to learning a new curriculum and making learning innovative, classroom management resources, how to navigate professional relationships, and more! We aim to prepare all aspiring educators for their future careers by spilling the real tea about teaching.

WHAT'S SO SPECIAL ABOUT SPECIAL EDUCATION SESSION 204

Presenters: Anthony Barnes
Special Education Secondary Coordinator, Kalamazoo Public Schools

Location: Michigan

Working in the world of Special Education is an art and a science. Often general education teachers feel unprepared to work with students with IEPs. Teachers are sometimes intimidated by the legal requirements associated with special education. In this session, Anthony Barnes aims to give participants an understanding of how to support the needs of all students and ensure compliance with special education rules.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE: YOUR NEW TEACHER'S ASSISTANT SESSION 205

Presenters: Kecia Waddell, Ph.D.

Location: Superior

In this highly interactive session, we'll explore how AI can support and enhance the work of teachers, helping to create engaging and effective learning experiences for students. You'll leave with practical ideas and resources to put into action in your own classroom.

SERIES 3

MASTERING THE MTTC SESSION 301

Presenters: Bridgett McDowell, MDE
Sean Kottke, MDE

Location: Erie

One of the final responsibilities aspiring educators have on their journey to certification is passing the Michigan Test for Teacher Certification (MTTC). If you haven't yet passed your required MTTCs, this is an important session for you. Bridgett and Sean, both from the Michigan Department of Education, are here to demystify the tests, help you gain the understanding and confidence you'll need to meet this challenge, and suggest ways you can help finance the cost of test-prep and the test.

TRAUMA-ENGAGED PRACTICE AND FOSTERING RESILIENT LEARNERS SESSION 302

Presenters: Brooke Aernouts, M.Ed.

Location: Ontario

Understanding trauma is critical, but how do we use our knowledge to engage with trauma in a practical way? This session will reframe the historical context and developmental impact of trauma and adversity in childhood specifically for educators and provide an in-depth look at brain adaptations to different environments. Specific interventions and applications for trauma-engaged practice in the classroom will be provided, along with evidence-based strategies for fostering resilience and self-compassion for teachers and students.

YOUR UNION AND YOU: GETTING INVOLVED IN YOUR LOCAL SESSION 303

Presenters: Danielle Baranowski

Location: Huron

Join me for "Your Union and You: Getting Involved in Your Local," where we'll explore the benefits of engaging with your local teachers' association. Discover how active participation in your union can enhance your teaching experience, provide essential support, and open up opportunities for professional growth. Learn practical steps to get involved, connect with experienced educators, and understand the long-term career advantages of being an active union member. Whether you're looking to build a network, advocate for your rights, or simply find camaraderie, this session is your gateway to a more empowered teaching journey.

WHAT'S SO SPECIAL ABOUT SPECIAL EDUCATION SESSION 304

Presenters: Anthony Barnes
Special Education Secondary Coordinator, Kalamazoo Public Schools

Location: Michigan

Working in the world of Special Education is an art and a science. Often general education teachers feel unprepared to work with students with IEPs. Teachers are sometimes intimidated by the legal requirements associated with special education. In this session, Anthony Barnes aims to give participants an understanding of how to support the needs of all students and ensure compliance with special education rules.

CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE TEACHING SESSION 305

Presenters: Simone Babridge and Stephanie Gizicki
Southfield Public Schools and Ferndale Public Schools

Location: Superior

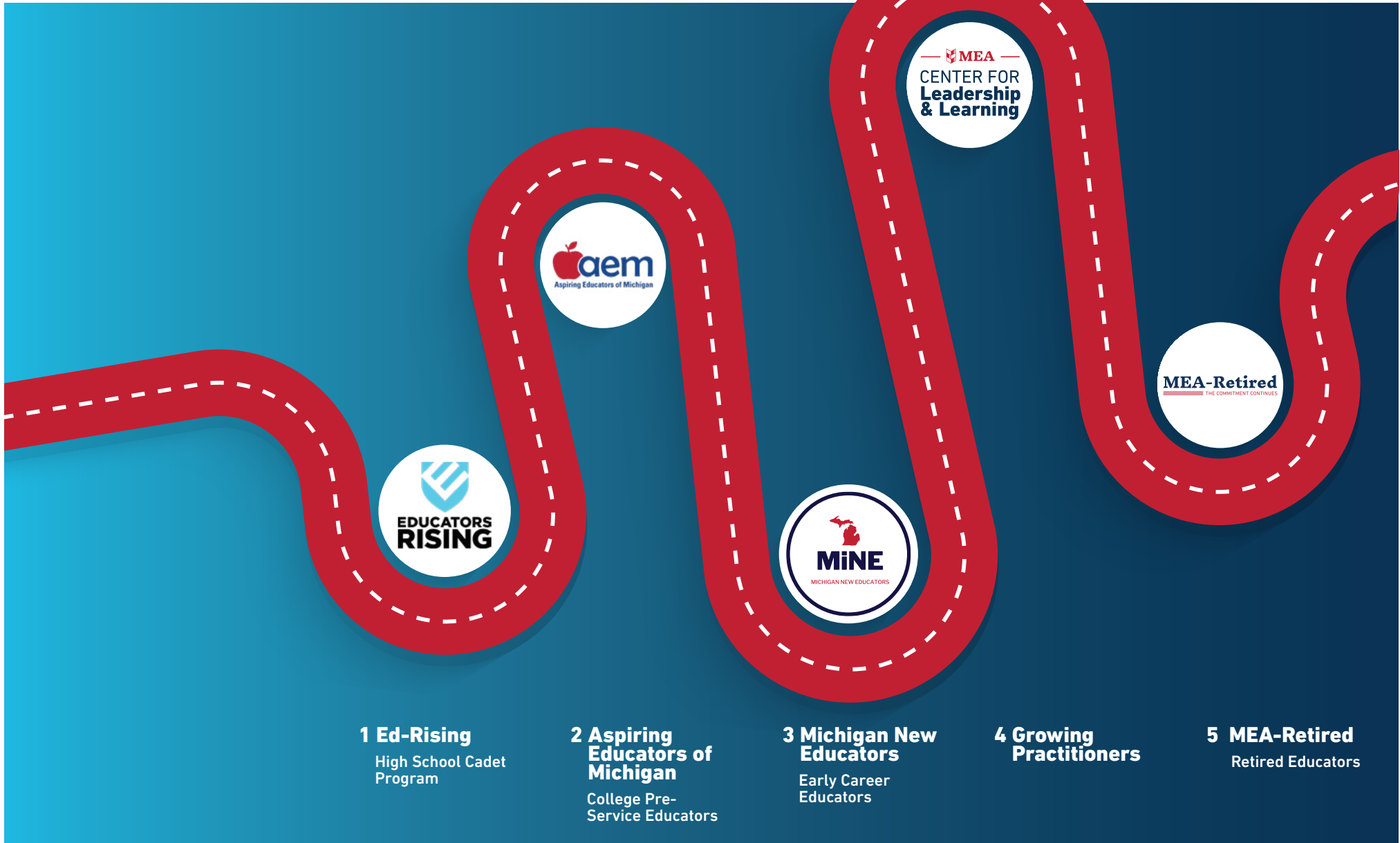
Excellent relationships with our students and their families are essential for success in the classroom for both educators and students. An important aspect of creating and cultivating relationships is being a culturally responsive teacher. In this session, we will examine our own cultural identities and the impact our implicit biases have on those who are different from us. We will discuss strategies that will help us develop our skills and understanding of culturally responsive teaching and the positive impact those skills will have on our students.



FROM ASPIRING TO RETIRING

A MEMBERSHIP ROADMAP

A place for you in every milestone of your professional journey!





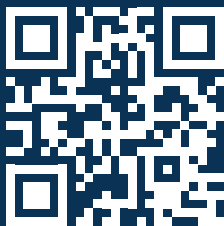
Where can we support you on your professional journey?



1

Educators Rising

Educators Rising is our high school-level program for aspiring educators. Whether part of a CTE program or a school-based club, our goal is to support these students in pursuing their interest in and developing the skills necessary for a career in education. We offer teacher resources to help students network, develop leadership skills, and showcase the expertise they have gained in their education and training programs through regional, state, and national conferences and competitions.



educatorsrising.org



2

Aspiring Educators of Michigan

Aspiring Educators of Michigan is our pre-professional organization for college students preparing for the teaching profession in any of the higher education institutions in Michigan. AEM focuses on four foundational pillars: educator excellence, social justice, community outreach, and political action. We help prepare our AEM members to be knowledgeable and experienced union members, leaders, and educators through targeted professional learning, networking opportunities, and leadership development.



mea.org/aem



3

Michigan New Educators

MiNE is a community committed to keeping new educators in the profession during some of the most difficult early years. Empowering, supporting, and engaging our members across the state with other early career educators helping them to remain passionate and energized. Professional development opportunities, in-person networking events, certification support, mentorship, podcasts and social events are just a few of the recourses for our newest members.



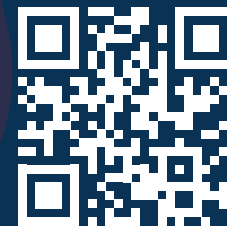
mea.org/MiNE



4

Growing Practitioner

As educators move from the first few years of employment into the next stage of their career, MEA offers professional development to help you in your work with students, leadership development and community advocacy. Recognizing that educators may move into different career paths such as principal, content area leaders or union leaders, the Center of Leadership and Learning is there to help you receive the professional development you need to achieve your goals.



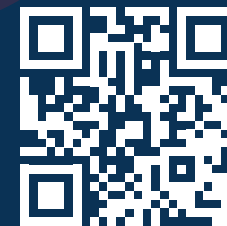
cll.mea.org



5

MEA-Retired

MEA-Retired is a community for our members to continue their activism once they have left their job in education. MEA-member retirees work for and support public schools through programs that support current practitioners and legislative lobbying. Members also mentor aspiring educators and lobby to maintain and improve retirement and health benefits for all public school employees.



mea-retired.org

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Michigan Education Association

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The mission of the MEA is to protect, advocate and advance the rights of all education professionals to promote quality public education for all students.

