

Dear Members of the Nevada Music Educators Association,

I am writing to declare my intent to run for the office of President-Elect.

I have had the pleasure of serving NMEA for the past five years as Northern Chair of the All-State Band. In that time, I was able to connect with many dedicated students and directors throughout Nevada. Through developing these relationships with the NMEA Board and General Membership, I have gained perspective on the needs of our students and Music Educators across our vast state. Our board has worked tirelessly to continue to find ways to improve upon the relationships among music educators in our state as well as opportunities that are equitable and beneficial for all music students, and I personally have spent time standardizing, digitizing, and streamlining our procedures. However, I feel that this tumultuous year has provided the opportunity to re-assess priorities, procedures, and the overall vision and mission of the Nevada Music Educators Association, which is what I intend to do if elected President-Elect.

My experience teaching band and choir in small rural and large city-focused school districts has granted me a perspective of several different music education situations in our state. I have spent time over the last five years observing the challenges that NMEA has faced and feel that I have a grasp on what is needed to develop a vision of change and growth that will benefit all members. This vision consists of step-by-step action plans to tackle several issues that would lead to the improvement of what NMEA can offer Music Educators and Pre-Service Music Education Students. The following are several potential long-term goals:

- The development of a mentorship program for new and veteran Music Educators
- The creation of a multi-college participating NCMEA board to give our collegiate music educators an opportunity to network with veteran teachers as well as collaborate with northern and southern peers and be recognized for their work.
- Curriculum samples and ideas to aid in planning, especially for our new teachers.
- Emphasis on diversity awareness and inclusivity in our activities, presentations, and practices
- The potential for NMEA to partner with and support district music festivals, honor groups, and marching band circuits.
- The opportunity for regional honor festival collaboration
- NMEA partnerships with state chapters of professional organizations and methodology such as American Choral Directors Association, Southern Nevada Band Association, American String Teachers Association, Desert-Valley Chapter of the American Orff-Schulwerk Association, and the Sierra Nevada Association of Kodaly Educators to provide opportunities to meet the professional development and support needs of all educators.
- Providing leadership training to our young musicians serving in leadership roles within their programs across the state
- Connecting educators across the country to specific job opportunities in Nevada
- Continued advocacy for music education in our state
- Continued streamlining and digitization of NMEA protocols.

- Providing opportunities that help all members so that they feel being a member of NMEA is beneficial.

If elected, I will do the work necessary to realize the full potential of the Nevada Music Educators Association in serving the amazing music educators, pre-service music educators, and students in the state of Nevada.

Thank you for your consideration and support,

Christi Blahnik
Director of Bands
Damonte Ranch High School