



Dear Nevada Music Educators,

My name is Amy Symes, and I am honored to be nominated to represent Nevada Educators as President of the Nevada Music Educators Association. The Nevada Music Educators Association (NMEA) encompasses the advocacy and accessibility of music education that Nevada is known for. If elected, I bring 16 years of music education experience, the ability to collaborate with all stakeholders, and to continue to advocate for students and educators.

Music has always been a huge part of my life. My mother was an elementary music specialist for 34 years. I was the kid throughout school that was in orchestra, band, and choir, and it is because of these experiences that I know the intricacies of diverse ensembles. I believe in music education, and am a strong advocate of it. I am currently in my 14th year of teaching choir at K.O. Knudson Academy of the Arts and my 16th year of teaching within the Clark County School District. Over the course of my career, I have established myself as a creative, innovative, and effective teacher leader, with a commitment to open communication and a collaborative work ethic. I excel in forging partnerships and collaborating with the community leaders, and know the value of including the communities we serve. Additionally, my passion for music education has led me to take on many leadership roles within my school, district and state. I am currently the Fine Arts Department Chair at K.O. Knudson, served as a school district new teacher mentor, worked as a cooperating teacher for the University of Las Vegas Nevada and Brigham Young University-Idaho, a member of the Public Education Leadership Academy, Nevada Department of Education Leadership Network, and was the NMEA Middle School All-State Choir Co-Chair from 2016-2019.

Nevada has a long standing history of phenomenal music education, it is one of the main reasons my band director husband and I chose to relocate and begin our teaching careers in this state. It is my belief that all students should have equitable access to quality music education starting in elementary school and continuing through college. It is my goal to support and continue the standard of excellence that has been established within NMEA. As the educational models shift into this new era, I am determined to ensure that the arts are not impacted by changes in the State and National Departments of Education. If elected, I will continue the work that has been done and take Nevada to the next levels of advocacy, professional development, and increase opportunities for students and music educators.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Amy Symes

Choir Director

K.O. Knudson Academy of the Arts

Las Vegas, Nevada