



Arkansas Education Association
An NEA State Affiliate

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**Christy Levings, NEA Executive Committee Member,
to Speak at AEA Professional Development Conference**

LITTLE ROCK, ARK. – Christy Levings, a member of the National Education Association's Executive Committee, will speak during the Arkansas Education Association's Professional Development Conference on Thursday, Nov. 4. The conference will be held Nov. 4-5 and is open to all education professionals at no charge.

Levings will speak on "Federal Education Policy and Arkansas Educators," from 8-10 a.m. at the DoubleTree Hotel. Her lecture will provide the latest information on what federal policies mean and how they affect strategies for effective teaching and learning. The presentation will decipher some of the federal policy issues at stake and help bring the importance of these issues to the school and classroom level.

Levings, an elementary school teacher for 34 years, was elected to the National Education Association's (NEA) Executive Committee in July 2007. She provides instructional resource support and works with the formalized collegial mentoring program in the Olathe School District. Before being elected to the NEA Executive Committee, she served as president of the Kansas National Education Association (KNEA) for five years and vice president for four years. In addition to serving as KNEA's president and vice president, Levings served as president of the Olathe National Education Association.

Among her professional achievements, Levings served as an education and family issues columnist for the *Kansas City Star* and received the newspaper's Excellence in Teaching award. She was also featured as an "Outstanding Teacher" in the *Johnson County Gazette* and was recognized for her education editorials. In November of 2009 Levings was elected as Vice Chair of the Board of the National Board of Professional Teaching Standards.

Levings is past chair of the Kansas Learning First Alliance, whose work was focused on three education priorities: improving student achievement, strengthening the professional development of educators, and engaging the public in school improvement and student achievement efforts. She is also a leader in advocating for teacher preparation and professionalism—she served as a member of the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) review team and was appointed by the Kansas Board of Education to the Licensure Review Committee.

Levings graduated from Washburn University with a bachelor's degree in education and received a master's degree in educational policy and administration from the University of Kansas. She also completed a graduate studies program in behavioral psychology at the University of Missouri at Kansas City.

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