

Western Regional Leadership Conference

January 14th – 16th 2011 – I had the opportunity to attend the Western Regional Leadership Conference. It was a wonderful experience to meet and talk to other educators from other states. We shared ideas and concerns facing our profession. At the conference I had the opportunity to attend the Commission on Effective Teachers and Teaching announced in President Van Roekel's keynote address at the 2010 NEA Representative Assembly. The commission is composed of "*accomplished educators selected by the NEA President to address a set of challenges related to the roles of teachers and the union in defining the future of the profession.*" The commission's role is to educate those that make policies that impact teaching and learning in the classroom. In the session we studied and analyzed the following five questions with other educators from different states:

Question 1: *What evidences indicate and should be considered when determining if someone is an effective teacher?*

Question 2: *What role should teachers have in ensuring an effective teacher in every classroom?*

Question 3: *What should be the role of the NEA in ensuring an effective teacher in every classroom?*

Question 4: *What would the ideal school community look like and what role would teachers play in this environment?*

Question 5: *As you think about your role as an education employee (ESP, HE, Counselor, Student, Administrator, other), what do you want the Commissioners to consider as they address their charges?*

Educators were asked to submit their responses via the commission site <https://yovici.com/wsb.dll/s/c2dg47b77> . Take a moment to visit the site and view the answers from other educators. As I reflect back I feel more prepared for the challenges that our profession faces and my role as an educator. I am grateful for the opportunity to have attended the conference. If you have the opportunity to attend any NEA conference do so. The opportunity to talk and share with other educators is and enlightening experience.

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