

**TO:** Roger D. Breed, Ed.D.  
Commissioner of Education

**FROM:** Gary M. Sherman/Ann Bird  
Office of Special Education

**SUBJECT:** Appointments to Special Education Advisory Council

**DATE:** August 17, 2012

---

### **PROPOSED BOARD ACTION**

Appoint the following individuals to fill vacancies on the Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC):

<u>Name</u>	<u>Representation</u>
Fr. Lawrence Stoley	Private Schools
Debbie Healey	Parent
Mary Jorgensen	Parent
Andy Simon	Parent; Private Schools
Margaret Bitz	State Welfare Agency (Reappointment)
John Bright	Homeless Ed Programs (Reappointment)
Dr. Cindy Ellis	Parent, Higher Ed (Reappointment)
Judy Hall	Higher Ed (Reappointment)
Jamie Krien	NE Youth Leadership Council (Reappointment)
Steve Larsen	Juvenile/Adult Corrections (Reappointment)

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The State Board approves all SEAC members. SEAC vacancies were created by the normal expiration of terms of three individuals and the resignation of one individual at the conclusion of the 2011-12 term. Additionally, there are six reappointments of SEAC members who were originally appointed to fill the unexpired terms of other individuals. In order to meet the requirements of the federal special education law, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), it is necessary to fill the vacancies. Notice of SEAC vacancies was previously provided to the State Board. The State Board approved 2011-12 SEAC membership at the September 2011 meeting. The completed applications for the recommended members are on file in the Special Education Office, available upon request; not included due to IDEA confidentiality requirements.

### **Estimated Cost**

**Supporting Documentation Included:** Nebraska Special Education Advisory Council Membership Requirements, Nebraska Special Education Advisory Council Roster for 2012-13

**For additional information on this item:** Call Gary Sherman (402) 471-2471 or e-mail [gary.sherman@nebraska.gov](mailto:gary.sherman@nebraska.gov) or Ann Bird (402) 399-0289 or e-mail [abird10@cox.net](mailto:abird10@cox.net).

## NEBRASKA SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

- I. **Regulatory Authority for Committee** (Excerpts from the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act – IDEA)  
*Sec. 1412(21)(A) State Advisory Panel*  
(A) *The State has established and maintains an advisory panel for the purpose of providing policy guidance with respect to special education and related services for children with disabilities in the State.*
- II. **Committee Duties** (Excerpts from the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act – IDEA)  
*Sec. 1412(21)(D)*  
(D) *The state advisory panel shall –*
- (i) *Advise the state education agency of unmet needs within the state in the education of children with disabilities;*
  - (ii) *comment publicly on the state plan and rules or regulations proposed by the state regarding the education of children with disabilities;*
  - (iii) *advise the State educational agency in developing evaluations and reporting on data to the Secretary under section 618;*
  - (iv) *advise the State educational agency in developing corrective action plans to address findings identified in Federal monitoring reports under this part; and*
  - (v) *advise the State educational agency in developing and implementing policies relating to the coordination of services for children with disabilities.*
- III. **Categories of Required Representation** (Excerpts from the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act – IDEA)  
*Sec. 1412(21)(B)*  
(B) *Membership – Such advisory panel shall consist of members appointed by the Governor, or any other official authorized under State law to make such appointments, be representative of the State population, and be composed of individuals involved in, or concerned with, the education of children with disabilities, including--*
- (i) *parents of children with disabilities (ages birth through 26); or individuals with disabilities;*
  - (ii) *teachers;*
  - (iii) *representatives of institutions of higher education that prepare special education and related services personnel;*
  - (iv) *State and local educational officials, including officials who carry out activities under Homeless Assistance Act;;*
  - (v) *administrators of programs for children with disabilities;*
  - (vi) *representatives of other State agencies involved in the financing or delivery of related services to children with disabilities;*
  - (vii) *representatives of private schools and public charter schools;*
  - (viii) *not less than one representative of a vocational, community, or business organization concerned with the provision of transition services to children with disabilities;*
  - (ix) *a representative from the State child welfare agency responsible for foster care; and*
  - (x) *representatives from the State juvenile and adult corrections agencies.*

*Special Rule – a majority of the members of the panel shall be individuals with disabilities or parents of children with disabilities (ages birth through 26).*

## NEBRASKA SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL 2012-2013

Name	Phone Number	Address	Representation (see key on back)	Term Expires	St. Bd. Dist.
<b>Priscilla Beckmann</b> <a href="mailto:Beckmann1@cox.net">Beckmann1@cox.net</a>	402-727-3050 (W) 402-291-4220 (H) 402-727-3075 (F)	11611 S. 39 <sup>th</sup> St. Bellevue, NE 68123	<i>(ii)</i>	2013	3
<b>Margaret Bitz</b> <a href="mailto:margaret.bitz@nebraska.gov">margaret.bitz@nebraska.gov</a>	402-471-9457 (W)	NSOB – DHHS 301 Centennial Mall South Lincoln, NE 68509-4987	<i>(ix)</i>	2016	1
<b>John Bright</b> <a href="mailto:john.bright@ops.org">john.bright@ops.org</a>	402-557-2476 (W) 402-680-3486 (H) 402-557-2479 (F)	Omaha Public Schools 3215 Cuming St. Omaha, NE 68131-2024	<i>(iv)</i>	2016	4
<b>Diane Bruha</b> <a href="mailto:diane@creteschools.org">diane@creteschools.org</a>	402-826-5822 (W) 402-826-4417 (H) 402-826-2135 (F)	920 Linden Ave. Crete, NE 68333	<i>(v)</i>	2013	5
<b>Bethany Brunsmann</b> <a href="mailto:bbrunsm@lps.org">bbrunsm@lps.org</a>	402-436-1820 (W) 402-327-0805 (H) 402-458-3284 (F)	LPS Teaching & Lrng. Ctr. 949 West Bond St. Lincoln, NE 68521-3528	<i>(i), (ii)</i>	2013	1
<b>Jane Byers</b> <a href="mailto:jbyers@paplv.org">jbyers@paplv.org</a>	402-537-6233 (W) 402-289-1135 (H) 402-537-6216 (F)	22630 Southshore Dr. Waterloo, NE 68069	<i>(iv), (v)</i>	2014	2
<b>Bridget Cannon-Hale</b> <a href="mailto:Bcannon-hale@pti-Nebraska.org">Bcannon-hale@pti-Nebraska.org</a>	402-346-0525 (W) 800-284-8520 (W) 402-934-1479 (F)	6805 Grover St. Omaha, NE 68106	<i>(i), (vi)</i>	2013	8
<b>Millie Demuth</b> <a href="mailto:millie@nsecu.org">millie@nsecu.org</a>	402-471-2561 (W) 402-489-4497 (H) 402-471-2869 (F)	8310 Vine St. Lincoln, NE 68505	<i>(i)</i>	2014	1
<b>Cindy Ellis</b> <a href="mailto:cellis@unmc.edu">cellis@unmc.edu</a>	402-559-4985 (W) 402-334-3221 (H) 402-559-2791 (F)	UNMC 985380 N.M.C. Omaha, NE 68198-5380	<i>(i), (iii), (vi)</i>	2016	4
<b>♦Mary Gordon</b> <a href="mailto:mary.gordon@nebraska.gov">mary.gordon@nebraska.gov</a>	402-471-0143 (W) 402-471-0183 (F)	DHHS PO Box 95026 Lincoln, NE 68509-5026	<i>(vi)</i>	2015	1
<b>Judy Hall</b> <a href="mailto:jhall@hastings.edu">jhall@hastings.edu</a>	402-461-7472 (W) 402-462-9388 (H) 402-461-7792 (F)	727 North California Ave. Hastings, NE 68901	<i>(iii)</i>	2016	5
<b>Debbie Healey</b> d7healey@cox.net	402-8804879 (H)	8123 S. 104 <sup>th</sup> St. LaVista, NE 68128	<i>(i)</i>	2016	2
<b>Mary Jorgensen</b> <a href="mailto:maryjorgensen@fnni.com">maryjorgensen@fnni.com</a>	402-602-8369 (W) 402-332-2815 (H) 402-871-9774 (C)	188334 Hwy. 370 Omaha, NE 68136	<i>(i)</i>	2014	2
<b>Sue Kemp</b> <a href="mailto:skemp2@unl.edu">skemp2@unl.edu</a>	402-472-0084 (W) 402-420-5868 (H) 402-472-7697 (F)	1721 Saint Andrews Place Lincoln, NE 68512	<i>(iii)</i>	2014	1
<b>Jamie Krien</b> <a href="mailto:jamie95614@cccneb.edu">jamie95614@cccneb.edu</a>	402-786-2317 (H) 402-309-4904 (C)	10451 North 150 St. Waverly, NE 68462	<i>(i)</i>	2013	1
<b>Steve Larsen</b> <a href="mailto:slarsen@scottsbuffcounty.org">slarsen@scottsbuffcounty.org</a>	308-631-7789 (W) 308-633-1847 (H) 308-633-1850 (F)	140042 Pieper Lane Mitchell, NE 69357	<i>(x)</i>	2016	7

<b>Kris McMullen</b> <a href="mailto:kmcmulle@gips.org">kmcmulle@gips.org</a>	308-385-5900 (W) 308-390-2606 (H)	2119 North Park Avenue Grand Island, NE 68803	(ii)	2014	6
<b>Brenda McNiff</b> <a href="mailto:bmcniffcent@yahoo.com">bmcniffcent@yahoo.com</a>	402-223-5277 (W) 402-223-3511 (H) (402-223-5279 (F)	900 West Court St. Beatrice, NE 68310	(i) (v)	2015	5
<b>Norma Mercer</b> <a href="mailto:normam1956@yahoo.com">normam1956@yahoo.com</a>	402-520-1787 (H)	611 North 5 <sup>th</sup> Street Beatrice, NE 68310	(i)	2014	5
<b>Maggie Mintken</b> <a href="mailto:mmintken@gips.org">mmintken@gips.org</a>	308-385-5950 x 2152 (W) 308-390-7569 (H)	2124 North Lafayette Grand Island, NE 68803	(viii)	2013	6
<b>Ryan O'Grady</b> <a href="mailto:rogrady@gips.org">rogrady@gips.org</a>	308-385-5900 (W) 308-384-1435 (H) 308-385-5797 (F)	2500 East 9 <sup>th</sup> Street Fremont, NE 68025	(v)	2015	6
<b>Denise Powell</b> <a href="mailto:mpowell7@windstream.net">mpowell7@windstream.net</a>	402-326-3484 (C) 402-791-0207 (H)	8556 E. Ash Road Firth, NE 68358	(i)	2015	1
<b>Kelly Randels</b> <a href="mailto:klrandels@mpsomaha.org">klrandels@mpsomaha.org</a>	402-715-6200 (W) 402-778-5802 (H) 402-715-6220 (F)	3006 Laramie Drive Grand Island, NE 68803	(i), (ii)	2014	8
<b>JoAnne Roberts</b> <a href="mailto:joroberts@npsne.org">joroberts@npsne.org</a>	402-644-2544 (W) 402-640-9238 (H) 402-644-2545 (F)	1702 East Berry Hill Norfolk, NE 68701	(i), (v)	2015	3
<b>Andy Simon</b> <a href="mailto:asimo@prep.creghton.edu">asimo@prep.creghton.edu</a>	402-548-6219 (W) 402-599-3212 (H) 402-343-1889 (F)	7415 Seward Omaha, NE 68114	(i), (vii)	2016	4
<b>Mike Steinwart</b>  <a href="mailto:spike690@yahoo.com">spike690@yahoo.com</a>	308-325-3199 (C) 308-325-0504 (C) 308-784-4519 (H)	801 East 6 <sup>th</sup> Street Cozad, NE 69130	(i)	2013	7
<b>Fr. Lawrence Stoley</b> fr.lawrence-stoleyecdolinc.ne	402-488-2040 (W) 402-450-4552 (H) 402-488-6525 (F)	7303 North 112 <sup>th</sup> St. Waverly, NE 68462	(vii)	2016	1

 SEAC Executive Committee       SEAC Speaker

## Nebraska Department of Education

<b>Ann Bird</b> <a href="mailto:abird10@cox.net">abird10@cox.net</a>	402-399-0289 (H) 402-659-1133 (C) 402-934-7437 (F)	16235 California Street Omaha, NE 68118	SEAC Facilitator
<b>Pam Kasl</b> <a href="mailto:pamkasl@aol.com">pamkasl@aol.com</a>	402-423-4138 (H) 402-471-2471 (W) 402-423-4138 (F)	NDE, SPED Office P.O. Box 94987 Lincoln, NE 68509-4987	NDE/SEAC Recorder