

The Massachusetts Teachers Association believes that the diversity of our society enhances the lives of all individuals. The similarities and differences among people in regard to race, color, ethnicity, national origin, religion, language, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, immigration status, age, physical and mental ability, size, occupation, marital or parental status, or social class form the fabric of our society.

—Excerpt from MTA RESOLUTION ON DIVERSITY



A Message to Ethnic Minority Members

FROM MTA PRESIDENT MERRIE NAJIMY AND MTA VICE PRESIDENT MAX PAGE

The MTA's Ethnic Minority Affairs Committee is here to help and support all association members, including educators who are new to the profession. EMAC's purpose is to advise the MTA Board of Directors and to advocate for ethnic minority constituents within the association. Self-identification is key, and it is important that you indicate your ethnicity on your MTA membership form.

How does self-identifying help you and the MTA?

- It gives us information that allows us to provide high-quality leadership and professional development programs.
 - It helps us ensure that our democratic organization is diverse at every level and in every possible way.
 - It helps us reach out to ethnic minority members who may be willing to serve on committees or seek election as delegates to the MTA Annual Meeting or the NEA Representative Assembly.
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Being active in your local association, the MTA and the NEA is important in many ways. It helps you. It helps your students. It helps the MTA, and it helps the NEA. The Ethnic Minority Affairs Committee urges you to become involved in your union. Do you have skills or expertise that the MTA could use? There are many ways to get involved with unionism — locally, statewide and nationally.

Each year, the committee sponsors the EMAC conference, traditionally held during the first week of December, along with other events. Information about the program for this year's conference will be publicized on the MTA website, www.massteacher.org, and in *MTA Today*, our association's magazine. Notice will also be sent to members.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Ethnic Minority Affairs Committee Staff Consultant Kweku Nyinaku by emailing knyinaku@massteacher.org or Staff Assistant Kay Coady by emailing kcoady@massteacher.org.

We welcome you to the education profession and the Massachusetts Teachers Association!

massteacher.org/emac