**IEA Awesome Podcast**

**Episode 27 – New Educator Resources**

00:00 KELSEY: Welcome to the Awesome IEA Podcast brought to you by the Illinois Education Association.

00:05 DIANA: The podcast for curious well-informed Association members.

00:09 KELSEY: I’m one of your hosts, Kelsey Harms, a Computer Specialist from the IEA Program Development Department.

00:14 DIANA: And I’m Diana Zaleski, one of your Instructional Resource and Professional Development Directors from IEA Teaching and Learning.

00:21 KELSEY: The goal of this podcast is to educate our members about important new educational policy initiatives in a brief and hopefully entertaining format.

00:30 DIANA: Today we are going to discuss new educator resources with our special guest Tom Tully, IEA Secretary and Treasurer. Tom, thank you so much for coming on the podcast.

00:40 TOM: Thank you for asking me to be a guest today.

00:42 KELSEY: First, can you start off by telling a little bit about the IEA’s focus on new educators?

00:47 TOM: New educators are potential members of the IEA. As a member of IEA’s Stronger United Recruitment, Retention, and Engagement work team, we help our larger organization ensure new educators get the support they need. We design resources members and staff can use to talk about the union with these potential members.

01:06 In order to maintain and improve our profession in public education, IEA seeks to attract and retain high quality educators, connect them with their local association through mentoring programs and that helps build positive relationships in the workplace.

01:23 DIANA: Thank you for sharing. It sounds like we have a ton of resources for we’re able to connect our new members with. Can you share more about those resources?

01:31 TOM: Yes, new educators are interested to learn more about IEA providing professional development. The courses on the IEA Online Learning Portal are now categorized with the interest issue areas from the membership forms, connecting to IEA resources, digital journey, and invites to events targeting on what you said you were interested in on the membership enrollment forms.

01:56 KELSEY: Let’s say some of our more seasoned members like to provide us with the issues they’re interested in. Can they do that?

02:02 TOM: Yes, we have a goal that all members will complete the interest issues survey online at IEA Members Only. This information helps us connect them to resources and opportunities they care about. Knowing more about members’ interests is valuable in knowing how best to engage them in the work of the Association at the local, state, and national levels.

02:25 DIANA: Is there anything else you’d like to share with us today?

02:28 TOM: Yeah, new this year is IEA has dollars available for microgrants to our locals. If you have an idea for an innovative, creative way to gather potential members and members together in your local, we would love to hear about it and help you turn your idea into a reality.

02:43 Back to school events and ideas to welcome new members are ideal for this microgrant. Learn more and apply at strongerunitedmicrogrant.org. Limited funds are available from NEA that we want to pass along to you. Any local leader or member can apply between now and June 15.

03:03 KELSEY: Thank you so much for coming on the podcast, Tom. If you have any questions, comments, or feedback, please check out the contact section on the podcast page of the IEA website.

03:13 DIANA: Special thanks to Mark for the audio help, Amanda for the transcription, and Dan for the website. As always, thank you so much for being a member, and thanks for joining us!

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