

## Tina M. Bennett – Equity Statement

If music is a universal language, then music education must be universal. There should be no barriers between the student and the music. The barriers will look different based upon geography, socio-economic diversity and the passion of those who are working for change. I truly believe that Music can reach everyone, and our association can be a pathway to help connect individuals and ideas with resources or inspiration to help pave the way. The learning curve has become a winding road with so many twists and turns that it is impossible to navigate with just one vehicle. I believe that our response to the question of equity will look very different for different areas, and there will be no “one size fits all” solution. We may get as far as the “One size fits MOST”. Solutions will come as conversations are spoken, and shared among those who care to facilitate change. For some it will be economic and for others there will be a need for inspiration. If you have suffered a long time, you may have seen several failed attempts and have grown weary. Finding a pathway towards change involves hope. I see our Eastern Division component of NAFME as a way to help give hope, energy, encouragement, as well as resources, and support towards those who are dealing with many complicated issues.