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THE NEWSLETTER OF THE
OREGON COUNCIL OF
TEACHERS OF ENGLISH



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Spring 2022



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Chalkboard is the newsletter of the Oregon Council of Teachers of English, an organization that has existed for over 100 years to support teachers of English and the language arts in Oregon elementary and secondary schools, community colleges and universities.

Chalkboard is our way of keeping our many members and friends informed about OC TE activities, programs of the National Council of Teachers of English, conferences and learning opportunities for students, research tidbits, book recommendations, and more.

OC TE
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Spring Conference Presenters
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Linda Christensen:
April 6th
Teaching for Joy and Justice During Hard Times



Marie LeJeune, Anne Foltz, and Amy Bowden:
April 13th
Raising a Reading Community: Ways to Grow and Support Readers in the Secondary Classroom Every Day



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Resource-full Teachers Share What Works



A Message from the OC TE President

Winter 2022

As you read this newsletter, spring is around the corner. Have the crocus and daffodils popped their heads up in your garden or planter box? As I write this, the sky is turning a clear blue tinged with the first mauves and pinks of sunrise, and I feel hopeful and encouraged. I'm not only encouraged by the signs of spring and a new sunrise, but by you.

This has been a tough couple of years! Yet, you have persevered. Your patience, effort, and care make a difference in students' lives every day. You are AMAZING! When we gather for conferences and book clubs, or in the Chalkboard and Oregon English Journal, I see the creative ways that you are reaching students in challenging times and I applaud you. I'm not sure you hear that enough. Thank you.

Just as you have had to pivot and adapt to constantly changing responses to the pandemic and its effect on you and your students, we have had to be flexible with the ways we try to connect and support each other through OC TE. Moving conferences and book clubs online is not ideal, but it has enabled many educators to attend who might otherwise be too far away.



We've also been able to welcome six new board members this year. Tony Salm, first grade Spanish teacher at Heritage Elementary in Woodburn and Marie LeJeune, professor at Western Oregon State University have joined us along with Darrow Brunkenhoefer, student board member from Lewis and Clark College. They've jumped in with both feet, helping with the Oregon Writing Festival, OC TE Reads and presenting at our spring conference. Our newest board members Chris Smith from Cleveland High School and TOSAs Kim Bertelsen and Bob Bizjak from Portland Public Schools just joined us in January. From pre-service teachers to retirees, elementary teachers to college faculty, these new board members bring us new ideas and fresh perspectives.

Thank you again for your support of OC TE. Thank you for keeping your membership current. Thank you for attending and presenting at our events. Thank you for reading, and learning, and innovating. Thank you.

Laurie Dougherty, President
Oregon Council of Teachers of English

Please Post

Bookmarks:

Calling all 8th and 10th grade Language Arts teachers:

Have you taught one of the Tribal History/Shared History lessons in your class? If so, would you be willing to share your implementation experience with your colleagues? Please consider submitting a brief description of your experience to Chalkboard. Ideas for sharing:

- Which lesson you chose
- How you integrated it into your coursework
- Your students' responses

Want to learn more about SB13 and the wonderful lessons created by the nine federally recognized tribes of Oregon? Travel to the ODE website!

Oregon Excellence Awards in Teaching the English Language Arts

To recognize excellence in teaching, the Oregon Council of Teachers of English (OC TE) invites any Oregon school to nominate one outstanding English language arts educator for one of these prestigious annual awards. A strong equal opportunity organization, we welcome nominations from anyone at any level of education—elementary, middle, secondary, two-year college, four-year college or university—but nominations must be limited to one per school.

To be nominated, the educator must have taught at least five years in any Oregon school at any level. In the opinion of the nominator, the educator must have created a particularly noteworthy record in teaching the English language arts. The nominator—with or without the assistance of the candidate—should nominate via online form on the OC TE website.

OC TE invites all Oregon teachers to submit completed Nomination Forms and Paragraphs to the OC TE Board of Directors for review and selection of annual Finalists. **The nomination deadline is April 6.**

After receiving nominations, the Council will call on experts to select finalists. Those teachers selected as finalists will be required to submit additional supporting evidence. Finalists and award winners will be recognized at the fall OC TE conference.

Spring OCTE Conference: In the Pursuit of Happiness, aka Life Long-Learning



Spring Conference
Co-Chair
Lloyd Dollar



Spring Conference
Co-Chair
Cameron Scott

Don't miss the OCTE's exceptional professional learning event— "Windows, Mirrors, and Sliding Glass Doors."

OCTE's Spring Conference offers a wide variety of learning opportunities in virtual sessions, beginning Wednesday April 6, and continuing each Wednesday afternoon from 4-5 pm. See you there!

Welcome friends and members of OCTE. Last fall marked OCTE's third virtual conference series: "Equity, Justice and Anti-Racist Teaching." Throughout this past year and a half of OCTE virtual sessions, amazing speakers and presenters have offered us perspectives on equity, justice and anti-racist teaching, courage, hope and humanity. We have explored the importance of opening our minds to the wealth of Oregon's voices and re-visited how we can further dedicate ourselves to the ongoing pursuit of knowledge of both ourselves and the communities where we live.

Why? Because Oregon is a magnificently diverse state: from our various seemingly opposite ecologies and cultures we are composed of both rainforests and deserts, arterial highways and vast rural one-laners, and dirt roads. We may find ourselves teaching ELA in a one room schoolhouse covering a wide range of grade levels or a single ELA class six times a day to hundreds of students. From grade school to college-level courses, there is no single experience or student population; we serve as teachers, retired teachers, graduate students and librarians in Oregon.

This Spring marks OCTE's fourth virtual conference, without cost to participants. From honoring the daily quest to teach each and every one of our students for a more just and joyful world to "Poster" presentations, this spring's theme is "Windows, Mirrors, and Sliding Glass Doors." Please join us as we continue to pursue our life-long learning.

Conference Speakers:



Linda Christensen

Wednesday, April 6th: Keynote Speaker Linda Christensen "Teaching for Joy and Justice During Hard Times"

How do we teach in a way that our literacy work does not reproduce inequities, injustices, and racism? In this workshop/talk, Christensen will share strategies to nurture students' capacity to intervene when they confront injustice at the same time they practice literacy skills. In order for students to inhabit the lives of literary characters through "windows, mirrors, and sliding glass doors", they need to understand the parallels of hurt, struggle, and joy across intersecting lines and figure out how to make the world right again.

Linda Christensen, director of the Oregon Writing Project, is an author and editor of several books: Reading, Writing and Rising Up, 2nd Edition, Teaching for Joy and Justice, Rhythm and Resistance: Teaching Poetry for Social Justice, and most recently The New Teacher Book: Finding purpose, balance, and hope during your first years in the classroom, 3rd Edition. She was awarded the 2020 Distinguished Service Award from the National Council of Teachers of English.

Wednesday, April 13: Marie LeJeune, Anne Foltz, and Amy Bowden

"Raising a Reading Community: Ways to Grow and Support Readers in the Secondary Classroom Every Day"



Marie LeJeune



Anne Foltz



Amy Bowden

This session includes 50-ish quick ways teachers can build routines, strategies, resources, and community building activities that promote a culture of reading and encourage reading identity in the middle and high school classroom.

Wednesday, April 13: Continued

Marie LeJeune, Anne Foltz, and Amy Bowden

"Raising a Reading Community: Ways to Grow and Support Readers in the Secondary Classroom Every Day"

Marie LeJeune is a professor of literacy education at Western Oregon University where she coordinates undergraduate pathways to teacher licensure. She is a former high school language arts teacher and literacy specialist; her research interest areas include children's and young adult literature, writing instruction, and teacher induction. Anne Foltz puts these strategies into practice as a teacher for the Corvallis School District. Amy Bowden develops outstanding practice with Marie at WOU. Their presentation wowed attendees at NCTE's annual convention in Baltimore!



Delana Heidrich

Wednesday, April 20th: Delana Heidrich "Make Space for Creativity in the Classroom"

Creativity encourages deep thought, individual expression, constructive problem solving, and effective cooperation in students of all backgrounds and ability levels. Learn 13 creative routines to integrate into your lessons. Discover the power of doodling, metaphorical thinking, gesturing, and more to engage the rich and unique thinking of the learners in your classroom.

Delana Heidrich has thirty-two years experience in education. She has worked with students from age eight to eighteen in both private and public settings. For the past 18 years, Delana has taught at Bonanza Junior/Senior High School where she presents dual credit courses in speech, writing, and psychology and general education classes in language arts and career education. She holds a bachelor's degree in psychology and a master's degree in curriculum and instruction from Dominican University in San Rafael, California. Delana writes poetry and instructional materials and presents educational workshops and writing camps. Delana is the 2021 recipient of a Klamath County Crystal Apple Award.

Wednesday, April 27th: Poster Sessions "Resource-full Teachers Share What Works"

OCTE celebrates the creativity and resilience of Oregon educators with its poster session offerings at this year's Spring Conference. Attendees will have the opportunity to choose from an array of short, engaging presentations that showcase what fellow teachers have used successfully with their students.

The sessions will be geared towards different age groups: elementary, middle, and secondary. In addition, they will feature various topics and strategies including: student-led conferences; integration of tribal history in ELA; generative writing; poetry graffiti; developing student voice for change; the power of story, immigration, and the "American Dream." In this interactive format, attendees will be encouraged to ask questions, make comments, and engage in topic-related conversation with presenters and colleagues.



Join us on Saturday, May 7, 2022, for our Virtual Oregon Writing Festival!

The Oregon Writing Festival will take place virtually this year, co-sponsored by Portland State University College of Education and OCTE. Writers in grades 4-12 from across the state of Oregon gather in small groups, listen to published authors talk about their craft, share their work with peers from other schools, and compose new pieces in workshops run by local authors and teachers. Parents can also attend a workshop aimed at supporting budding writers at home.

The goals of the Writing Festival are

- Cultivating a love of writing in students and teachers
- Honoring the work of outstanding student writers
- Connecting student writers with Oregon authors and other student writers
- Helping to hone students' writing skills

For additional information please contact:

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2022 Author Participants



Elizabeth Rusch,
grades 4-5



Roseanne Parry,
grades 6-8



Fonda Lee,
grades 9-12