Oregon Excellence Awards in Teaching the English Language Arts

Congratulations to Jay Schroder, winner of this year’s Oregon Excellence Award in Teaching English Language Arts. The OCTE-sponsored award recognizes an educator who has created a particularly noteworthy record in teaching the English language arts. Schroder has been supporting young writers in the Medford area for 22 years. He is a former Fishtrap Fellow and past director of Young Artist’s Institute at Southern Oregon University. He coordinated an annual poetry slam at Eagle Point High School for fourteen years, and is dedicated to bringing guest writers and poets into his classroom at Central Medford High School.

Schroder recently developed the Teach from Your Best Self Institute at Southern Oregon University. He coordinated an artist’s institute at Southern Oregon University. He is dedicated to bringing guest writers and poets into his classroom at Central Medford High School.

Call for Ideas:
Chalkboard would like to publish you! If you have lessons, strategies, or inspirations for the ELA classroom, please share them with us at publications.octeorg@gmail.com.

OCTE Awards:
For information on upcoming teacher grants and awards, please check the OCTE website.

2021 NCTE Annual Convention:
This year’s convention will be held virtually November 18-21 and will feature such speakers as Michelle Obama, Colson Whitehead, and Amanda Gorman. Explore the program and register at ncte.org

2021 Fall Conference:
The fall speaker series returns in October, and you won’t want to miss it! OCTE will offer interactive presentations with the theme, “Equity, Justice, and Antiracist Teaching.” These workshops will explore a wealth of relevant resources led by knowledgeable and engaging speakers. Participants will leave with strategies and materials to guide and enlighten their students.

Once again, the conference is free, and registration is open to all members at OCTE’s website. All registrants will receive a Zoom meeting link and have access to the recordings and resources for 30 days.

Live sessions will be held each Wednesday from 4:00-5:00 pm, beginning October 6 and continuing throughout the month. The recording link will be sent the following Friday. PDUs will be available following live sessions. Participants who wish to obtain PDUs for asynchronous sessions will complete a session follow-up question after viewing the recording.

- Patricia Emerson
Conference Chair
Oregon Reads

This summer, we selected Caste: The Origins of Our Discontent by Isabel Wilkerson for our book study. In her Pulitzer Prize-winning book, Wilkerson examines the unspoken caste system and its role in shaping America. In a special Facebook group, we shared insights, links and quotes from our reading. In addition, we met weekly for an optional Zoom meeting where we were able to discuss the book in more depth. At our last meeting we discussed future directions for the book club.

We’d like to shake things up a bit with our next book club. We will be trying out several new ideas. This winter, we’ll hold another book club focusing on diverse books for students and look at teaching through literature. We hope to gather around new texts to share with our students. We are also looking forward to introducing some new formats. Rather than a Facebook group, we will be using a new platform each week: Jamboard, Google Slides, Flipgrid, and Padlet. Each week we’ll have an open Zoom session for technical support and discussion of the texts. If you have suggestions for texts, please be sure to let us know at our Facebook page or by email to OCTE@gmail.com.

2021 Fall Conference Presenters

Linda Tamura: October 6th

Linda Tamura has been the co-editor-in-chief of The Oregon Encyclopedia since its inception more than 12 years ago. In her presentation “Using The Oregon Encyclopedia in Inclusive Classrooms,” she will guide participants through this invaluable resource. She will introduce the OE, inviting teachers to engage students in the more than 1,800 fact-checked and reviewed entries and essays toward a richer understanding of Oregon’s complex history. Her presentation will focus on entry clusters that relate to Blacks, Native Peoples, Japanese Americans, Latinx and Women. The interactive format will ensure that teachers leave with resources to use with their students as writers and readers of non-fiction texts.

At OCTE’s conference last spring, Linda shared her personal experiences growing up in Hood River as an Asian American. Rather than emphasize the negative, she continues to spread the word about “Heroes Unchallenged,” those who have stood up against the negative voices. She wants to provide teachers with lessons for “now and for the future to empower our students.”

Stacy Carleton: October 13th

“And when you’re gone, who remembers your name? Who keeps your flame? Who tells your story?” -- Hamilton, the musical

Who gets to tell the story of Oregon?

Stacy Carleton will help us delve into Oregon’s previously hidden stories and challenge our state’s traditional narrative by de-centering white supremacy and exploring a diverse array of voices through multimedia content from Oregon Humanities. Together, we’ll discover ways to utilize the materials as entry points for social critique and the exploration of past and present stories of race, identity, gender, culture, land, place, power, and justice, among other topics. You’ll engage in a sample lesson and walk away with a bounty of ideas and resources designed to invigorate your practice and enliven your students.

Stacy Carleton (M.Ed.) is a freelance writer, editor, ELA teacher, and tutor. She lives and creates in Portland with her husband and two children.

Amanda Coven: October 20th

Elie Wiesel’s Night is one of the most widely read and acclaimed Holocaust memoirs and is a staple in classrooms across the country. Amanda Coven, Director of Education at the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education (OJMCHE), will present, “Teaching and Centering White Supremacy.”

Her presentation will focus on entry clusters that relate to Blacks, Native Peoples, Japanese Americans, Latinx and Women. The interactive format will ensure that teachers leave with resources to use with their students as writers and readers of non-fiction texts.

As the Head of Youth and Educator Programs at the Portland Art Museum, Hana Layson provides professional development programs and resources for educators across disciplines and grade levels and works to make the Museum a welcoming and inclusive place for people of all ages.

Hana Layson: October 27th

Exploring Race and Social Justice through Art

How can the visual arts increase student engagement and critical thinking in the language arts classroom, including supporting a greater understanding of equity, social justice, and anti-racism? The Portland Art Museum is committed to uplifting the work and voices of diverse artists and to supporting culturally responsive learning experiences for students and educators. During this session, Hana Layson, Head of Youth and Educator Programs, will share resources and strategies to support LA teachers in using the Museum to deepen visual literacy, support textual literacy, and foster critical thinking about identity and power.

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OCTE Board Member Honored with Klamath County School District Award

Bonanza High school language arts teacher and OCTE board member Delana Heidrich is a recipient of a 2021 Klamath County School District Crystal Apple award. According to the district’s website, the award is presented annually to “nine employees who best exemplify the district’s mission of ‘inspiring today’s students to meet tomorrow’s challenges.’” In a video introducing this year’s winners, Bonanza’s principal Jordan Osborn says Heidrich’s nomination application included approximately 80 signatures of support. Heidrich teaches sophomore and senior English, Writing 121 and 122, Psychology 101, Speech 111, Creative Writing, and Senior Seminar at Bonanza’s Jr/Sr High School population 200. Heidrich loves watching her students discover and engage in their personal passions. She believes all students deserve to have someone respect exactly where they are while simultaneously supporting them as they stretch toward where they are going. Heidrich loves her current students and misses every single one of her former ones. She sends a shoot out to the classes of 1995 to 2021 and beyond!

Paul Gregorio

Oregon Reads

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Paul Gregorio is on the Oregon Spirit Book Award committee and OCTE board member Delana Heidrich is a recipient of a 2021 Klamath County School District Crystal Apple award. According to the district’s website, the award is presented annually to “nine employees who best exemplify the district’s mission of ‘inspiring today’s students to meet tomorrow’s challenges.’” In a video introducing this year’s winners, Bonanza’s principal Jordan Osborn says Heidrich’s nomination application included approximately 80 signatures of support. Heidrich teaches sophomore and senior English, Writing 121 and 122, Psychology 101, Speech 111, Creative Writing, and Senior Seminar at Bonanza’s Jr/Sr High School population 200. Heidrich loves watching her students discover and engage in their personal passions. She believes all students deserve to have someone respect exactly where they are while simultaneously supporting them as they stretch toward where they are going. Heidrich loves her current students and misses every single one of her former ones. She sends a shoot out to the classes of 1995 to 2021 and beyond!