

August, 2017

Dear Arkansas Teacher Educators,

Welcome to a new year in Arkansas education. As a professional organization, the Arkansas Association of Teacher Educators (ArATE) is a vital link in providing information, support, camaraderie, and encouragement for teacher educators in our state. I am excited about the opportunity to serve as president for 2017-18 and look forward to meeting and working with you. The field of education is continually evolving and, as teacher educators, we strive to stay abreast of current trends.

I would like to commend those of you who are new to elected offices within ArATE and thank everyone who was willing to be nominated. Let me encourage you to continue to look for ways to promote your goals and get involved. Please let me know if you are looking for the opportunity to serve in some capacity. As an affiliate of the regional (SRATE) and national (ATE) organizations, many opportunities exist for seeking engagement on many levels. ArATE has the following committees that function throughout the year: Program, Membership and Publicity, Nominations, Audit, and Awards. Please watch for email announcements for opportunities.

Arkansas is hosting the 64th Annual Southeastern Regional Association of Teacher Educators (SRATE) Conference in Rogers, AR, October 5-7, 2017, at Embassy Suites Northwest Arkansas Hotel, Spa and Convention Center. Susan Grogan and I serve as the conference co-chairs. If you can attend, please call for reservations at 479-254-8400 or 800-362-2779. Look at the website <http://www.srate.org/events.html> for complete details. It's not too late to come aboard and work with the Planning Committee for the SRATE Conference. The SRATE conference theme, *Educators in a Democracy: Preparing the Next Generation*, also is being used by the SRATE Journal that lists November 17, 2017, as the deadline for submission of manuscripts for Volume 27(1). Additionally, you may also contribute your expertise to the *ArATE Electronic Journal*. Submission guidelines can be found at <http://arkansasate.org/journal.html>

The 2018 Annual Meeting of the Association of Teacher Educators (ATE) will be held in Las Vegas, NV, February 16-20, 2018. Karen Embry-Jenlink, who will be the keynote speaker at the SRATE Conference in Rogers, continues in her role as president of ATE with the theme *Re-Imagining Educator Preparation in a Democracy: The Teacher Educator as Public Intellectual*. Let us advance the challenge of advocacy for the field of education.

I commend your work as teacher educators and would like to reassure you of your value in educating the next generation of P-12 teachers and teacher educators. Let's work together to make this year productive and successful. "Take risks: if you win, you will be happy; if you lose, you will be wise" ~ Anonymous.

Best regards,

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