

August, 2020

Dear Arkansas Teacher Educators,

I would like to welcome you all to a new and exciting year of teaching. This past year presented those of us in education with a new set of challenges, and as we approach the 2020 – 2021 academic year, there will be even more opportunities for us to grow as teacher educators. I am excited to watch educators across the state as they flourish and demonstrate a true love for our profession in these challenging times. Furthermore, I look forward to witnessing the new and innovative ways teacher educators engage pre-service teachers and P12 learners in wonderful and new experiences.

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 across Arkansas. I look forward to the opportunity to serve as president for the 2020 – 2021 academic year, and I am honored to have the opportunity to work alongside each of you. ArATE will play a key role in supporting our educators as we strive for new strategies to teach face-to-face, hybrid, online, and in blended learning experiences.

I look forward to the opportunity to work with all of the newly elected ArATE officers. I appreciate their dedication to the teaching profession and their willingness to serve ArATE. If you are not an elected official, but are willing to serve, please let me know. There are many opportunities to serve in various capacities. As an affiliate of the regional (SRATE) and national (ATE) organizations, many opportunities exist for seeking engagement on multiple levels.

ArATE will host our first virtual fall conference on September 25, 2020. Please visit our website at <http://www.arkansasate.org/conferences.html> to submit a proposal and renew your membership (including conference registration). The ArATE conference theme is “Our United Voices Building a Crescendo: Advocating for Inclusiveness, Equity, and Excellence in Teacher Education.” We are fortunate to welcome Ms. Missy Walley, Director of Special Project at the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, as our keynote speaker. Ms. Walley will be discussing Professional Learning Communities.

For information on the ArATE Journal and submission deadlines visit our website <http://www.arkansasate.org/journal.html>. If you would like to volunteer to be a reviewer for the journal, please contact me.

The 2021 Annual Meeting of the Association of Teacher Educators (ATE) will be held in Anaheim, CA, February 12 - 17, 2021. Please visit the website to learn more about the spring conference <https://ate1.org/annual-events>.

I am thankful for your continued hard work in educating the next generation of P-12 teachers and teacher educators. During these challenging times, we will work as a team sharing innovative strategies to train candidates in new modalities ensuring they have what they need to teach their students. Leo Buscaglia said it best when he stated, “Change is the end result of all true learning.”

Best regards,

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