



Iowa Council of Teachers of English

ICTE Insights

November | 2024

Letter from the President

For some reason, November ends up being my most favorite and least favorite month. We have always had a love hate relationship. Academically, everything comes to a head. The grading intensifies, the letters of recommendation requests flow in, the to-do list never ends. Personally, the same. Throw time change, conference night, election, and a music program in the same week and who needs sanity or sleep.

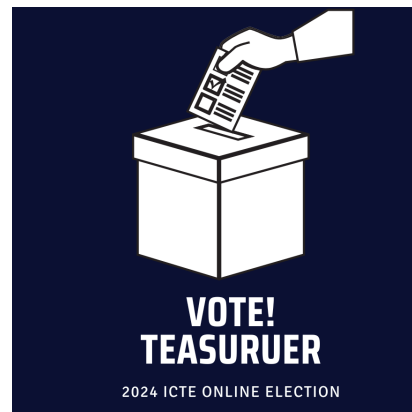
And then the sun decides it has had enough and disappears. Who can blame him?

But one thing I know for sure: if I make it to Thanksgiving break, there will be space. A breath. And time. For that, I am truly thankful.

This last week, I have been reflecting a lot on Cornelius Minor's keynote at our ICTE Conference in 2022. And he told us that in hard times, we, as a group, can find lots of paths forward. That's what artists do. And that is the purpose of our work together. To advocate. To lead. To write. The Toni Morrison quote he shared popped up in my memories to remind me that our ancestors have done the work to get here. And now, it is our turn.

As you work through this never ending stretch that might seem extra dark this month, know that we are still here. Planning. Supporting. Preparing. And we will need you to along side us for the most important task: teaching the future.

VOTE!



Click the image above to vote and fill our treasure vacancy.

September Board Meeting

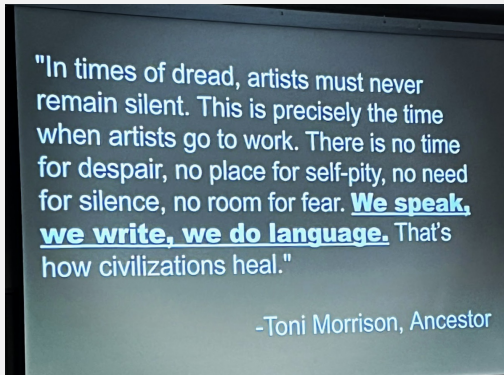
In our monthly meetings since September, we have been working diligently on our "Playbook" to ensure our ICTE affiliate has a one-stop-shop to give clarity to the roles and responsibilities each member of leadership plays, including processes and procedures and to give clarity to how each role supports our mission and vision. The Playbook includes bigger picture sections on partnerships, events, financial management, and bylaws to smaller picture sections like contact information and links to forms/surveys.

Another piece in our monthly meetings is ensuring our ICTE affiliate is prepared for the NCTE Conference. Attending NCTE provide sessions that focus on our needs to grow our membership and support all with advocacy, contributing to the overall growth of our organization. The NCTE Conference is November 21-24 in Boston —our team is prepared to represent us

For now, be gentle on your souls. There will be time to work soon.

Nikki Smith
ICTE President

well. We can't wait to reap the benefits of all they learn and implement them into our organization and strategic plan.



Stacy Haynes-Moore recognized Kara Heick for her innovative ideas and engagement with students.

Barb Schubert Award Winner

The ICTE hands out several awards every year to outstanding members of our profession. One of the awards handed out is the Barb Schubert Award. This award is given annually to one of the newer members of our profession. We are looking to encourage and honor teachers who show innovative pedagogy, including a carefully planned, rich curriculum that reflects the current state of our profession.

The 2024 winner was Kara Heick. Kara has already made a name for herself after just 3 years in the classroom. We look forward to seeing how far she goes in her career. Congrats Kara!

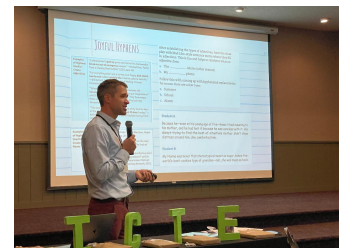
ICTE Conference Highlights



Jim Burke helped us understand all of the demands on not only our energy and attention, but also our students.



Brenna Griffin, Claire Mueller, Danae Dieken and Deneen Nelson are our amazing conference helpers to make this event run smoothly for our community.



Matthew Johnson's Keynote shared ideas about feedback and writing. He focused on how to be more efficient and effective.



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