

Embracing Diversity

PCTELA 2015 Conference



“History, despite its wrenching pain,
Cannot be unlived, and if faced
With courage, need not be lived again.”

Maya Angelou *On the Pulse of the Morning*

The composition of classrooms has been changing in recent decades to include a more diverse student population. Diversity takes many forms that may include language, race, sexual orientation, ethnicity, and more. Opportunities for embracing diversity are often, unfortunately, shadowed by bullying and misunderstandings. However, we know two things. First, the curriculum has largely stayed the same in recent decades. Second, we’ve adopted the Common Core, and there is a “push” for standardization. This push for standards can stifle the building of community and creativity within the classroom, or can intimidate early career teachers into not taking risks in their pedagogy. We have all heard the quote, “those who do not know their history are doomed to repeat it.” When it comes to inequality in our world, how do we AS TEACHERS make sure that our students are not stifled and limited to traditional texts, antiquated teaching methods, and test prep that perpetuate the status quo?

The PCTELA conference will seek to explore and question the following:

- How do we broaden curriculum to include ALL students, and what do students gain from this inclusion?
- How can we promote acceptance so that we can lessen the epidemic of bullying in our schools?
- How do we shape writing assignments to include diverse perspectives?
- What writing strategies lend themselves to building community?
- How do we prepare students to enter into, function within, and embrace the world in which we live?

October 16 & 17

***The Harrisburg Hilton
Harrisburg, PA***

*YOU ARE INVITED TO SUBMIT A PROPOSAL
FOR THE ANNUAL PENNSYLVANIA
COUNCIL OF TEACHERS OF ENGLISH
AND LANGUAGE ARTS (PCTELA)
STATE CONFERENCE.*

PCTELA invites educators of all types—public, private, elementary through university—to submit session proposals to collegially share:

- 1) successful and trusted approaches for the teaching of literacy that have evolved from or been improved by collaboration among colleagues;
- 2) examples of literacy instruction meant to develop students’ abilities to read, write, and think critically while still meeting the demands of Common Core standards;
- 3) ways teachers can reach out to and include leaders in our communities (public librarians, local historians, business people, etc.) in order to enrich our students’ literacy education; or
- 4) any related presentations in the teaching of reading, writing, speaking, listening, research, and literature.

BASIC CONFERENCE INFORMATION

Several hundred Pennsylvania educators gather at the annual PCTELA conference to benefit from professional programs, panels, discussions, exhibits of books and materials, idea exchanges, guest speakers, and shared classroom experiences. Many opportunities exist for educators to participate as: speakers,

- How can we use the Common Core to infuse the curriculum with diverse material and teaching methods?

chairpersons, recorders, and assistance with conference preparation.

Educators at any level and at any phase of their career, including pre-service teachers, are encouraged to attend and/or present.

The conference is an affordable professional development opportunity with a fee of \$100 for each day, Friday and Saturday, with a \$5 total discount for those attending both days.

Daily fees include continental breakfast, lunch, and a two-year PCTELA membership.

Discounts are available for school districts interested in sending groups of teachers and for early career educators.

ALL PARTICIPANTS AT THE CONFERENCE, INCLUDING PRESENTERS, MUST REGISTER FOR THE CONFERENCE AND PAY ALL APPLICABLE FEES.

PLEASE NOTE: In accordance with the policy of the National Council of Teachers of English, and as a non-profit educational organization, PCTELA is unable to reimburse participants for travel or lodging.

Find more information about PCTELA:



www.pctela.org



@pctelanews



www.facebook.com/pctelanews

Audio –Visual Resources

PCTELA can provide LED/LCD projectors with accompanying screens. ***No other media equipment will be provided.*** Special accommodations can be granted on a case-by-case basis.

PROPOSALS ARE DUE

March 27, 2015

Please submit them online at

<http://tinyurl.com/pctela15>

OR via email to

Laura Renzi lrenzi@wcupa.edu

or Pauline Schmidt pschmidt@wcupa.edu

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE CONFERENCE OR ANY OF THE DETAILS OR ARRANGEMENTS, PLEASE CONTACT:

Laura Renzi
Conference Chair
lrenzi@wcupa.edu

OR

Dr. Pauline Schmidt
Assistant Professor,
English Education
Main Hall 312
West Chester University
West Chester, PA 19383
pschmidt@wcupa.edu

Join PCTELA in
November at the



National Conference



Proposals must be submitted by 27 March 2015.

Please submit online <http://tinyurl.com/pctela15> or via email to lrenzi@wcupa.edu or pschmidt@wcupa.edu

Name	
Home Address	School Name and Address
Phone (work)	Phone (home/cell)
Email	
<u>Additional Presenter information:</u> Name Address Email School Affiliation	
Title/Topic of Presentation	
Please write a brief description of the presentation. Use reverse or an extra sheet as necessary. (Length of conference session is FIFTY minutes. Please allow time for questions at end of presentation.)	

PCTELA will provide LED/LCD projectors with accompanying screens. No other media equipment will be provided. Special accommodations can be granted on a case-by-case basis.

Please indicate your preferred day of presentation: ___Friday ___Saturday ___either

Please indicate your audience level or group.

Elementary (K-6) Middle (4-7) Secondary (7-12) College General