

START THINKING ABOUT THE 2016 PCTELA CONFERENCE... HERE'S THE EXCITING NEWS...



October 14 & 15, 2016
The Penn Stater – State College, PA



Featured Speakers
Friday, October 14, 2016

Sarah W. Bartlett

SARAH W. BARTLETT, AM, MPH, ScD is an experienced writing coach and facilitator who serves as a voice midwife for women at the margins. In 2010 she created [writing inside VT](#), a weekly writing opportunity in Vermont's sole women's prison; and in 2013, co-edited [HEAR ME, SEE ME: Incarcerated Women Write](#) (Orbis Books), a widely acclaimed anthology of these women's poetry and prose. Her program is based on the principles of *Women Writing VT, LLC*, a conscious community of women writing for self-discovery and social change, which she also facilitates.



Sarah's current work as change agent, mediator and poet/essayist draws on the full range of her experience and prior training. Her professional and personal publications comprise contributions to respected academic and literary journals, as well as highly-acclaimed anthologies. Language remains the medium for her dual passions: creating communities to support individual transformation and healing through writing; and her own creative writing. She lives pen in hand, eye and heart open to nature, seeking to awaken the soul to presence. These are her humble offerings of beauty, balance, and peace in a world badly skewed by their lack.

Marcia Nelson

A lifelong educator, Minnesotan Marcia Nelson has been devoted to "breaking the cycle" with at-risk youth since 2001. Marcia's Leadership program for at-risk urban learners focuses on empowering students by teaching them to connect to each other, to her, and to their own lives. They learn to honor their own life experiences through reading, writing, mentoring and using their pain to empower themselves and inspire others, recognizing their own leadership abilities amongst their peers, families, and communities. Marcia has become a successful fundraiser in order to provide field trips (including the all expenses paid, cross-country experiential education, life-changing leadership excursions!) as well as speakers, materials, and college scholarships for her kids. Marcia is a two-time finalist for Minnesota Teacher of the Year, and one of the original Freedom Writer Teachers who worked with Erin Gruwell to develop the Freedom Writer Teacher Institute in Long Beach, CA, training teachers world wide. She is currently working toward her doctorate degree in Leadership, Policy and Administration from the University of St. Thomas in Minneapolis, MN, and her superintendent's license and concentration in Curriculum Development and Instruction. Marcia's doctoral research focuses on motivation and engagement in at-risk youth, and instilling HOPE in those who feel hopeless as a foundation for life-changing success.



SATURDAY, October 15, 2016

Christopher Bolin

www.uiowapress.org/people/christopher-bolin

CHRISTOPHER BOLIN teaches at the College of St. Benedict / St. John's University, in Minnesota, and the Center for Narrative Practice, in Boston, MA. His collection of poems, *Ascension Theory*, was published by the University of Iowa Press (2013) and named a finalist for the Foreword Reviews Book of the Year Award. He is a recipient of fellowships from the James A. Michener Foundation, the Corporation at Yaddo, and the MacDowell Colony. Christopher is the founder of the literary and arts magazine, *Resistance Journal*, and holds an MFA from the University of Iowa Writers' Workshop.



Sharon M. Draper

<http://sharondraper.com/>

SHARON M. DRAPER is a professional educator, as well as an accomplished writer of over thirty award-winning books for adolescents and teachers, including *Copper Sun*, winner the Coretta Scott King Award, the highly acclaimed Jericho and Hazelwood trilogies, and *Out of my Mind*, which remains on the *New York Times* bestseller list. She served as the National Teacher of the Year, has been honored at the White House six times, and was selected by the US State Department to be a literary ambassador to the children of Africa as well as China. In 2015 she was honored by the American Library Association as the recipient of the Margaret A. Edwards Award for lifetime literary achievement. Her newest novel is *Stella by Starlight*.





***The Pennsylvania Council Teachers of
Teachers of English and Language Arts***

*in cooperation with the
Pennsylvania Writing Project Network*



=====

***“CONGRUENT WORLDS, CONVERGENT PRACTICE:
RE-STORYING SELF, SCHOOL, AND SOCIETY”***

FEATURING

Nationally known featured speakers including

★ NY Times bestselling author **Sharon M. Draper**
(Stella by Starlight)

★ author and educator **Christopher Bolin**
(Ascension Theory)

★ author and editor **Sarah W. Bartlett**
(Hear Me, See Me: Incarcerated Women Write)

★ one of the original Freedom Writer teachers **Marcia Nelson**

*PLUS dozens of educators and authors from throughout the Commonwealth of
Pennsylvania*

=====

October 14 & 15, 2016

The Penn Stater – State College, PA

For more information and to submit a proposal go to

www.pctela.org

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter @pctelanews, #pctela16.

And don't forget to visit our blog at

[pctelanews.wordpress.com!](http://pctelanews.wordpress.com)

CONFERENCE 2016