



Illinois Association of Teachers of English



# Fall Conference 2016

## Close to Home: Creating Authentic Contexts for Reading & Writing

### Featured Speakers

Each speaker will also lead a follow-up workshop to help teachers develop their own PBL-based unit plans.

**Steve Zemelman**, author of *From Inquiry to Action: Civic Engagement with Project-Based Learning in All Content Areas*, and **Katy Smith** will discuss how improving their community can make reading, writing, and researching highly meaningful for students. Realizing their voices can be heard, they develop a sense of efficacy and a strong commitment to learning.

**National Board certified educator Bill Curtin** will discuss his junior English class civic improvement project, for which he was awarded Kankakee County's Daily Journal Progress Award for Innovation in Education and was featured by the *Chicago Tribune*, AP Wire, CBS news, the *Late Show with David Letterman*, and NPR's "This American Life."

**Naomi Davis**, founder and president of **BIG: Blacks in Green™**, will discuss the transformation of neighborhoods into green, self-sustaining, mixed-income villages. Davis's work is informed and inspired by America's great Underground Railroad story – which teaches the need for self-help alongside the need for allies across the bounds of race and class. Sponsored by ComEd.

### A Few of Our Sessions for Middle School Teachers

- How to Succeed with a Co-Teacher
- Dissecting Dystopias: A Critical Analysis of Values
- Picture Books in the Middle School DO Make a Difference
- Writing Portfolios in ELA
- Addressing Literacy Standards in Science
- Ways to Make Grammar Meaningful
- This is Your Brain on Adolescence
- Shakespeare to Social Media and Beyond
- Integrating TableTop Gaming in the ELA Classroom
- Teach Reading and Writing through Syntax
- Deliberate Dialogues: Converting Classroom Conversation to Composition
- Technology Tool Kit

**October 21st & 22nd**

Bloomington-Normal Marriott  
Hotel & Conference Center  
309/862.9000

### SPECIAL WORKSHOP

A representative from  
**DonorsChoose.org** will help  
attendees design and post projects,  
one of which will be fully funded!

**Conference chair:** Barb Chidley

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