

## Teachers are a lot like refried beans.

Any of your students can probably tell you that the prefix RE- means “again,” but before we borrowed it from Latin the same prefix had another meaning: “continuously.” Remnants of that alternate meaning remain today, like *frijoles refritos*. Refried beans aren’t fried once, and then fried again. They’re fried just once, for hours—continuously.

For years, politicians, business leaders, administrators, and even fellow educators have been telling us we need a REvolution in education. We need to REvise our standards, REwrite our lesson plans, REdesign our assessments and even REstructure our classrooms. They tell us we must REbuild our schools, REevaluate teachers, and REnegotiate tenure...all so we can REgain our standing and REclaim or place as the world’s best!

What if they’re all using the right prefix in the wrong way?

We all know that education is an extremely complex profession, on par with others like law, medicine, and accounting. It takes years of study and practice just to be competent, and much longer to master. No education policy is going to make our classes better overnight; no unit plan will transform our students into polite little scholars tomorrow, and no teaching strategy will put food on their plates when they go home. There isn’t a magic wand we can wave to make our students more successful, and there isn’t a microwave in the world that can transform a can of industrial refried beans into *abuelita’s frijoles refritos*.

Good teaching, like good refried beans, requires patience and persistence. We don’t need a revolution, but RE-evolution: continuous growth and improvement driven by the accumulated wisdom and dedicated efforts of highly accomplished professional educators.

The 2017 IATE conference challenges us to REimagine our teaching—not because the teaching of English is *broken*, but because we must REimagine *continuously* to keep pushing our students, and ourselves, further tomorrow than we believed was possible yesterday.

To that end, we seek to connect with educators that will strive to REdiscover strategies for the classroom, that will push us to REthink what we can accomplish with our students, and that will help us to constantly REkindle one another’s passion. Together, we can REimagine what it means to be a respected member of the most important profession in the world as we help REbuild the future—year by year, and student by student.

### **Does this sound like a mission you’d be proud to be part of?**

If so, I hope you will join us at this year’s fall conference. Our speakers, presenters, vendors and colleagues have a wide range of knowledge, resources, and experience to share, from REimagining our profession to focusing on what matters most and leaving room for balance in our lives. And if you’re new to IATE, first-year membership is free and conference registration is discounted. For more information and registration, visit our website at [iateonline.org](http://iateonline.org). See you in October!

Sincerely,

Bill Curtin  
IATE Vice President  
2017 Conference Chair

At this year's conference:

# IATE 2017

## Opening Kick-off

Illinois Teacher of the Year Brian Curtin kicks things off Friday at 9 with an energizing welcome

## Great Presenters

Amazing educators share their stories, expertise, and experiments throughout the weekend to expand your teaching repertoire

## Poster Session

Not presenting this year? You can still share a great idea! Get the discussion going during cocktail hour with a poster to share.

## Find Your Everest

Is it possible to teach AND live a balanced life? Dave Stuart Jr. reminds us to keep our eyes on the prize Saturday at lunch.

## 2017 Author of the Year

At breakfast Saturday, meet Adam Selzer and hear about his newest book - free copy included!

## Closing Thoughts

Join us for dessert as 2016 NCTE President Doug Hesse shares his thoughts on the future of English Education. The Women's Education League will also present its annual Distinguished Educator Award

# RE-IMAGINE

Our Passion, Our Practice, Our Profession



DOUG HESSE  
NCTE PRESIDENT



SARAH BROWN WESSLING  
NATIONAL TEACHER OF THE YEAR



BRIAN CURTIN  
ILLINOIS TEACHER OF THE YEAR



DAVE STUART, JR.  
TEACHER, AUTHOR, BLOGGER

OCTOBER 20-21  
BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL

MARRIOTT HOTEL AND CONFERENCE CENTER

Teaching isn't a skill you're born with, and it's not one you develop in an auditorium. It takes years of practice and learning, a strong professional network, and a commitment to excellence. Join us to expand your practice and be inspired by amazing educators, while remembering to live a balanced life. Let's RE-Imagine what teaching can be.

REGISTRATION AND INFORMATION  
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