

# IATE NEWSLETTER

Monthly Newsletter of the Illinois Association of Teachers of English

## NEWS & FEATURES

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## A Message From President Jennifer Gouin

Happy spring! I don't know about you, but I am always thrilled when we are past winter's cold winds and gray skies. With spring's warmer weather comes the rush of end-of-the-year academic and extracurricular activities in both our professional and personal lives. While this time of year is undoubtedly hectic, it is also good to take time and reflect on what we've done with our school year and consider what we'd like to do (or discard) next year.

In our efforts to reflect and move our organization forward, we recently held a virtual professional development session for our district leaders to discuss hosting local events for IATE. We brainstormed the types of events we could host in our districts, as well as other ways to meet and connect with you, our IATE members across the state. Our current district leaders are excited to find avenues of connection and collaboration, and we invite you to participate when these events are held. If you are unsure of your district, you can find it [here](#).

We have several open districts who would benefit from district leadership. Our current

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# A Message From Pres. Jennifer Gouin, cont.

district leader openings are as follows:

- Metro North & West: Boundaries - I-55 on the south, Hwy 10 on the north, Chicago on the east, and Kane County line on the west;
- Northeastern: Kane, Kendall, McHenry, Will;
- Northwestern: Boone, Carroll, JoDaviess, Stephenson, Winnebago;
- Rock River: DeKalb, Lee, Ogle, Whiteside;
- Western: Fulton, Henderson, Knox, McDonough, Stark, Warren;
- Mississippi Valley: Adams, Brown, Hancock, Pike, Schuyler;
- Kaskaskia Valley: Clinton, Monroe, St. Claire, Washington;
- Wabash Valley: Clay, Crawford, Edwards, Lawrence, Richland, Wabash, Wayne, White.

If you are interested in becoming a district leader, please contact **Delores Robinson**, our district leader coordinator. Delores would be happy to make a school visit to provide in-person advice and support if you're considering this role. I encourage you to get involved in our association's leadership; we need you to move forward and continue to improve for you, our members.

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## Eastern Illinois Writing Project (EIWP)

Through mid-May, Eastern Illinois Writing Project (EIWP) is accepting applications for our 2023 Summer Institute, to be held online from June 11-July 7. Teacher participants in the Summer Institute will share ideas for teaching writing, explore research questions that directly impact their classrooms, and get in touch with themselves as writers.

The Institute is open to K-16 teachers from any discipline who are interested in improving writing instruction in their classes. Teachers who complete the Summer Institute will earn 6 graduate credits from Eastern Illinois University, which can be put toward Eastern's 18-credit Certificate in the Teaching of Writing and/or the MA in English. Tuition is assessed for the Summer Institute.

Questions about the program can be directed to the program coordinator, Terri Fredrick, at [eiwp@eiu.edu](mailto:eiwp@eiu.edu). Teachers interested in applying to the Summer Institute may do so at [tinyurl.com/EIWPsummerinstitute](https://tinyurl.com/EIWPsummerinstitute).

"THE BEST TEACHERS  
**OF WRITING**  
ARE WRITERS THEMSELVES."

# Get to Know Your District Leaders

In the next several newsletters, we will be introducing some of the district leaders across the state. If you are part of these areas, take a minute to reachout and introduce yourself.

## **Kristin Runyon, Eastern IATE District 8**

Kristin Runyon, co-District Leader for IATE District 8, the Eastern District, is the current librarian at Charleston High School and has been an English teacher and a special education teacher during her 33 years teaching in Illinois, Missouri, and Kansas. Kristin earned a Bachelor of Science in Education degree from Truman State University in Kirksville, Missouri; a Master of Arts in English from the University of Illinois in Springfield; and numerous graduate credit hours from Eastern Illinois University.



While teaching at Charleston High School, Kristin has been a frequent participant and a coach for Teaching with Primary Sources at EIU with Dr. Cindy Rich. Kristin was also a coach and co-director for the Eastern Illinois Writing Project with Dr. Robin Murray and continues to be a consultant and presenter for EIWP with Dr. Terri Frederick. Kristin has also presented at a number of EIWP and ROE 11 Institute Days, at three IATE conferences, and four NCTE conferences. She has also contributed to the #TeachLivingPoets blog, created a set of contemporary poetry hyperdocs, and facilitated poetry pairings created by teachers across the country for National Poetry Month.

An avid reader and audiobook listener, Kristin has read more YA literature in the past three years than maybe in all of her own high school years. Her go-to recommendations for young adult fiction are Sadie by Courtney Summers, Violent Ends edited by Shaun David Hutchinson, and We Are Okay by Nina LaCour. For young adult nonfiction, she recommends Attucks! Oscar Robertson and the Basketball Team that Awakened a City, which is set in Indianapolis.

Kristin is the mother to two adult sons: one a trade compliance specialist and the other a physical therapist. Her daughter-in-law is a zookeeper, and her future daughter-in-law is in dental school, while her husband spends his weekends umpiring college baseball. A lifelong Buffalo Bills football fan and a more than forty-year St. Louis Cardinals baseball fan, Kristin spends time watching games on television and in person. With retirement in May 2024, Kristin plans to spend a lot of time traveling to baseball and football games, plus to a lot zoos.

IATE District 8 (Eastern) is comprised of Clark, Coles, Cumberland, Douglas, Edgar, Effingham, Fayette, Jasper, Moultrie, and Shelby counties.

# Get to Know Your District Leaders, Continued

## Jennifer Connolly, Marquette IATE District 18

Jennifer Connolly (IATE Marquette District 18) teaches High School English at Granite City High School (23 years now) - mostly senior-level writing including dual credit first-year comp through SWIC, and multi-cultural lit & rhetoric. Classroom obsessions are independent reading (library of over 2K books), multi-genre writing projects (changing the way students see research), workshop structure (Kittle & Gallagher style), and ungrading (see Jesse Stommel & Alfie Kohn). She has three of her own kids: Jaxon, an aerospace engineer in Phoenix, Arizona; Jacyn, a mathematics major at MIZZO; and Evan, high school freshman and member of our MVCHA Champion GCHS Warrior Varsity hockey team. When she's not busy running to sporting events, you can find Jennifer reading, binging HBO, listening to wild amounts of music from varied genres, coaching the high school dance team, and thinking up new schemes to attempt in her classroom. She is on the IATE executive board, presents at IATE, IRC, and NCTE, and is the high school coordinator for Penny Kittle's Book Love Foundation Summer Book Club.



IATE District 18 encompasses Bond, Calhoun, Greene, Jersey, and Madison counties.

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## IATE District 10 News

Illinois Valley District 10 co-district leaders Angie Heiser and Delores Robinson, joined by Ann Maller (Hall High School), met at Princeton's Flour House Bakery to brainstorm newsletter submission topics, to exchange ideas for 10th grade Honors English curriculum choices, to compare notes on AP English versus dual-enrollment, to discuss what they notice about their students and themselves post-covid, and to make plans for District 10 during the 2023-24 school year. In the tentative stages: quarterly social gatherings at spots throughout the district, an early fall PD opportunity, and "ELA Day," a day-long event to be hosted by IVCC during which teachers can attend ELA/composition workshops and students can attend creative writing, journalism, or speech workshops, culminating in an open mic and perhaps a keynote address from an Illinois author. Planning is in the exciting early stages, so anyone who would like to help can contact either [heisera@pcschools535.org](mailto:heisera@pcschools535.org) or [delores\\_robinson@ivcc.edu](mailto:delores_robinson@ivcc.edu) to share ideas or learn more.

The next District 10 gathering will be at Ziggy's in Marseilles on Friday, May 12 @ 4:00 PM (complimentary first drink and appetizers!). CPDUs available. Please RSVP to either Angie or Delores.

# Job Corner

## DANVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

Danville High School is looking for an English teacher for the 2023-2024 school year.

Terms of Employment: 180-day position with wages, hours, terms, and conditions of employment in accordance with the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Board of Education and the Danville Education Association.

## LINCOLN JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Lincoln Junior High School in Lincoln, Illinois is looking for two English teachers: one for a 7th grade language arts teacher and one for an 8th grade language arts teacher for the 2023-2024 school year.

Interested parties can send a letter of interest and resume to  
Mr. Kent D. Froebe, Superintendent  
Lincoln Elementary Schools #27  
304 Eighth Street  
Lincoln, Illinois 62656

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## Brag Corner

Submitted by Alyssa Staley, East Central District 14

I would like to recognize Michelle Ryan's hard work on behalf of all of us in IATE. Michelle is an extraordinary human being. She is a driving force within IATE and inspires me with all she does: past president (2012-13), current treasurer, co-District Leader of Central District 13, editor of the IATE Newsletter and co-editor of the Illinois English Bulletin. She has served in so many functions for our organization and does so without expecting recognition or praise. Michelle inspires me and many others! Please stand and applaud Michelle and all the work she has done to turn the wheels of this organization.

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## Seeking Minority Scholarship Nominees

IATE understands the importance of diversity in education and that both our schools and our organization would be enhanced by the addition of more diverse voices.

This year we will be offering two \$500 scholarships for graduating college seniors (December or May) who identify with a minority group and will be entering the English Education profession. These scholarships can be used for professional clothing, moving expenses, graduation expenses, or anything the new educator will need as they start their career.

If you are someone who has direct contact with a deserving graduate, please nominate them by completing the Google Form found here: [Minority Scholarship Nomination Form](#). If you have any questions, please email [sradcliffe@lchsraiders.org](mailto:sradcliffe@lchsraiders.org).



Join your **District 10 IATE** Leaders this spring for a combination planning and social event! Interested in publishing or presenting? Want to learn more about IATE grants? Willing to help plan a District 10 conference in 2023-24?

**Collaborate and build camaraderie with other English teachers in your district, all while earning CPDUs!**

**English and ELA teachers from all grade levels are welcome!**



## **SPRING 2023 IATE EVENTS (CPDU OPPORTUNITIES)**



### **SATURDAY APRIL 22 @ 8:30 AM**

Flour House Bakery & Cafe  
950 N. Main Street  
Princeton, IL 61356

**\*Pastries & Coffee on us!**



### **FRIDAY MAY 12 @ 4:00 PM**

Ziggy's  
278 Main Street  
Marseilles, IL 61341

**\*Drink & appetizer on us!**

## **RSVP HERE:**



[Google](#)  
[Form](#)  
[RSVP](#)

## **QUESTIONS?**

[delores\\_robinson@ivcc.org](mailto:delores_robinson@ivcc.org)  
[heisera@pcschoools535.org](mailto:heisera@pcschoools535.org)

# Book Love Foundation

BY JENNIFER CONNOLLY

Book Love Foundation – Ever heard of it? It's a non-profit organization founded by Penny Kittle with the purpose of raising money to put books in the hands of kids through teachers with great classroom libraries. Penny knows how little funding seems to actually be out there to build and grow class libraries, and also how powerful having rich literacy choices right on hand can be to developing lifelong readers.

If you've ever heard Penny talk at a conference, been to one of her workshops, or read any of her PD books including [Book Love](#) and/or [180 Days](#) (co-authored with Kelly Gallagher), you know her passion for all things that promote authentic reading and writing experiences for students. As the high school coordinator for Book Love Summer Book Club, I volunteer time to help coordinate the PD provided through this opportunity. With high school, middle school, and elementary levels, there's something for everyone, and this year's book selections are AMAZING!

It's a low-key online PD through Mighty Networks where there are a multitude of guest-author and educator speakers, interviewed by Penny Kittle, Clare Landrigan, and Julia Torres, as well as discussion groups led by Book Love grant winners for the selections of the summer. Participants can watch interviews live and/or recorded and participate in message-board style discussions about the books (and teaching). All proceeds from the book club go toward the awarding of grants. The Book Love Foundation has raised over one million dollars and helped 400 classrooms in 41 states and 6 provinces.

Use the link [here](#) to check out the BLF. Registrations for this summer's club open April 19th.

Every spring the BLF accepts applications for grants to help teachers continue their work with classroom libraries. Consider applying next spring for one – the process usually starts in February.



IATEONLINE.ORG

# IATE 2023

## Conference



**CATHERINE ADEL WEST**  
special guest speaker



October 20-21, 2023 • Millikin University • Decatur, Illinois



iate fall conference 2023

Special Guest Speaker

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**BOOK NOW!**

<https://tinyurl.com/IATE-Conference-Home>

**KING BED  
STUDIO SUITE  
\$120**

# Supporting Intellectual Freedom

1

Create a robust policy that is not under Title IX ([Policy Examples](#))

2

Write Rationales for Materials

3

Update school mission statement to include Intellectual Freedom and Culturally Sustaining Teaching.

4

Ensure the library and classrooms are following diversity and equity State Standards

5

Do not allow people who live outside of the district to raise a challenge

6

Promote diverse texts to ALL students and show them the value of different ways of knowing

7

## RESOURCES:

[National Coalition Against Censorship](#)

[National Council of Teachers of English](#)

[American Library Association](#)

[Illinois Association of Teachers of English](#)

[Association of Illinois School Library](#)

[Educators](#)