

# Arizona English Teachers Association

## 2023 Annual Conference



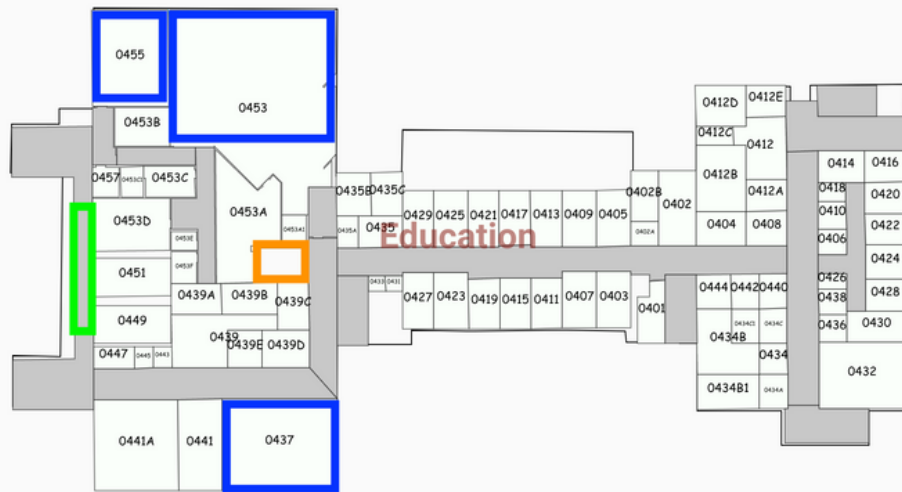
Fostering Spaces of Healing and Joy  
through English Language Arts

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23**

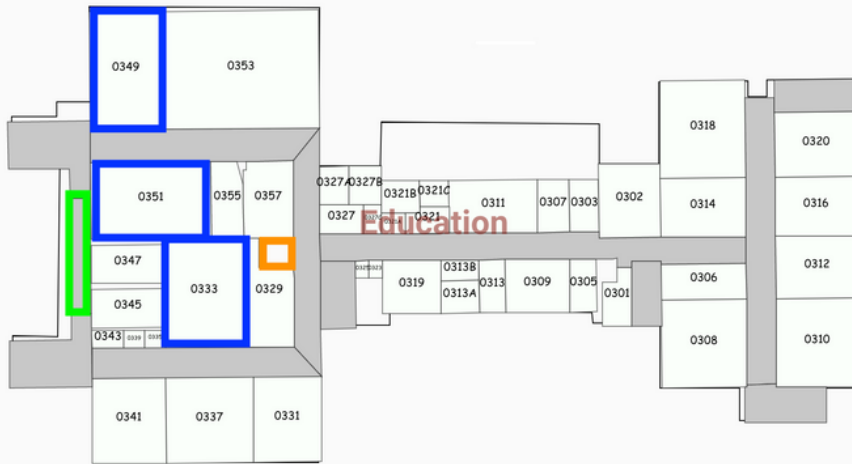
College of Education  
The University of Arizona  
Tucson, AZ  
8:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.

# MAPS

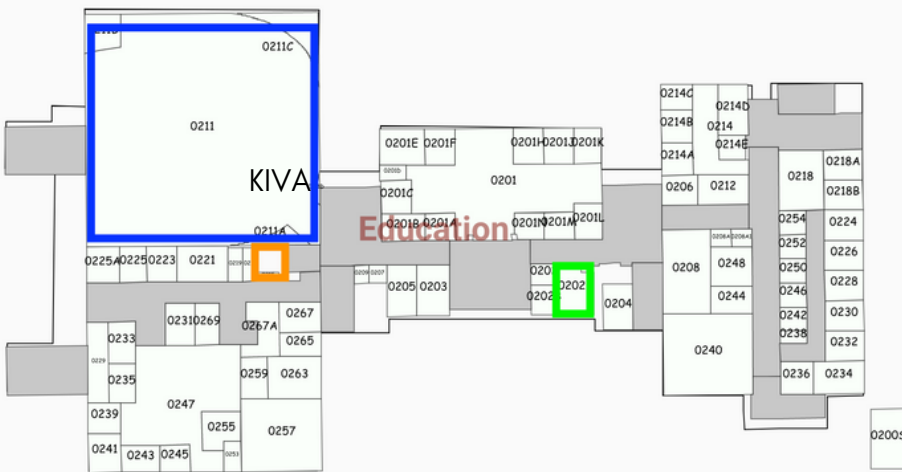
Level 4



Level 3



Level 2  
ground floor



- Presentation Rooms
- Elevator
- Restrooms

**College of Education Building** – Registration and lunch pick up will take place in the hall near the KIVA auditorium on the ground floor. All presentations will take place on the 3rd and 4th levels.

**211 Kiva Auditorium** – Keynote addresses, Awards, and Closing.

# SCHEDULE

9/23/2023

- 8:00 to 9:00 Registration, Coffee & Socializing
- 9:00 to 9:50 Opening Session & Keynote
- 10:00 to 10:50 Session A
- 11:00 to 11:50 Session B
- 11:50 to 12:40 Lunch
- 12:40 to 1:00 Awards
- 1:00 to 1:50 Featured Scholar
- 2:00 to 2:50 Session C
- 3:00 to 3:50 Featured Author
- 4:00 to 4:10 Closing & Raffle

## VISIT OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS!

### Ground Floor Hallway



College of Education



COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES  
Center for East Asian  
Studies

# REGISTRATION

8:00 - 9:00 AM

## REGISTRATION

**Ground floor hallway**

## COFFEE & SOCIALIZING

**Ground floor hallway**

# KEYNOTE SPEAKER

9:00 - 9:50 AM

**211 Kiva Auditorium**



## JAMILA LYISCOTT, PHD

Associate Professor, University of Massachusetts Amherst  
Co-founder, Center of Racial Justice and Youth-Engaged Research

Dr. Jamila Lyiscott, aka Dr. J., is an award-winning community-engaged scholar, nationally renowned speaker, and the author of ***Black Appetite. White Food: Issues of Race, Voice, and Justice Within and Beyond the Classroom.*** Dr. J's research and activism work together to explore, assert, and defend the value of Black life globally. Her research examines the liberatory capacity of language and culture in the lives of youth of color, racial healing, youth-led activism, and the power of the African Diaspora to transgress coloniality.

A special thank you to Dean Robert Berry Dean of the College of Education at The University of Arizona and AZ Humanities for their support of the AETA keynote speaker.



College of Education



**HUMANITIES**  
EXPLORE. SHARE. EXPERIENCE.

10 MINUTE BREAK

## CONFERENCE SESSIONS A & B

**3rd & 4th floors**

# SESSION A

# 10:00 - 10:50 AM

## A1 - LITERATURE/SECONDARY

## ROOM 453

### **Young Adult Literature Bookshelf:**

### **A Selection of Current YA Titles that Deserve to Be in Your Students' Hands**

**Maria Zafonte, Haley Bell, & Amber Serna, Grand Canyon University**

This panel of pre-service teachers will provide participants with an overview of a handful of recently released young adult titles that may not have yet made it onto the busy teacher's bookshelf. With brief presentations on a selection of titles that will include award winners and a variety of voices, genres and topics, the presenters will discuss why these books might belong in your classroom and in your students' hands. If time permits, we will ask participants to share some of the texts that their students are currently engaged with.

## A2 - READING/ELEMENTARY/SECONDARY

## ROOM 437

### **Spaces of Joy for All Readers: Building Students' Comprehension through the Reading Rope, Questioning, and Gist Statements**

**Lauren Spenceley & Michele Rutin, Arizona Department of Education**

Do you want to strengthen reading comprehension in your classroom? Looking for evidence-based strategies to guide a variety of readers in your class? In this session, educators will explore 3 evidence-based strategies that support the readings skills of students at all levels. First, we will explore Scarborough's reading rope to more deeply understand adolescent reading development. Second, we will analyze strategies for comprehension-building skills like questioning and summarizing to help striving readers make sense of the text, as well as a routine for building students' world and word knowledge. From the Institute of Education Science and What Works Clearinghouse, these evidence-based recommendations align with ELA and Social Studies Standards and will help students achieve greater success in reading comprehension.

## A3 - WRITING/SECONDARY

## ROOM 351

### **Finding Healing and Joy Through Identity and Personal Interest Explorations**

**Lori Jordan & Andrea Box, Westwood High School**

Participants will learn how to use narrative writing and multi-genre research projects to help their students learn reading, writing, and research skills while using their voice and choice to explore their identity and find their joy.

## A4 - LITERATURE/SECONDARY

ROOM 349

**The Transformative Potential of Magical Realism in the High School Classroom****Katrina Dillon, Center for Latin American Studies at The University of Arizona**

Providing students the opportunity to engage with magical realist literature, encourages both creative and critical thinking that challenges established social norms. Embracing the space created by the juxtaposition of the magical and real, provides the opportunity to imagine a more just and joyful reality. Classroom resources will be shared.

**Teaching Writing for Civic Engagement****LaCher Pacheco, The University of Arizona**

English Language Arts (ELA) teachers will learn how to enact Culturally Responsive Instruction by incorporating young adult texts in their lessons for English Language Learners. Young adult literature can help students develop a positive self-image and expose them to diverse points of view that are relevant to their identities and cultures. Creating connections from home to school to community through a reading goal provides a transformative reading lens to each classroom.

## A5 - GENERAL/SECONDARY

ROOM 333

**Real Research in the Real World: ASU Graduate Students Present Findings to Inform Instruction****James Blasingame, Samantha Alvarado, Rachel Kabat, Paige Maroney-Scott, Jennifer Presley Price & Shelley Weight, Arizona State University**

Curious about the latest research in English Language Arts in Arizona? In this session, graduates of the Arizona State University Masters Degree in English Education program will present posters on the research projects they conducted. Participants will have the opportunity to view each poster and hear a short presentation from each graduate/researcher followed by Q&A,

10 MINUTE BREAK

# SESSION B

# 11:00 - 11:50 AM

## B1 - GENERAL

## ROOM 437

### **Freedom to Teach Truth in AZ**

**Gretchen Clifton, North High School & Carrie Wolfe, Arizona Education Association**

Join AEA Learn & Lead Specialist Carrie Wolfe & Gretchen Clifton in an overview about changes to Arizona law impacting educators' freedom to teach. Learn more about your rights and protections regarding censorship and teaching about racism, sexism, and historical prejudice. Then spend some time reflecting on your curriculum and materials through a lens of equity.

### **GLSEN Arizona Working to Create Safe and Inclusive Schools and How You Can Too**

**Devynn Thurston, GLSEN Arizona**

Learn more about how GLSEN Arizona goes about empowering our community members to rise up for LGBTQ+ K-12 students, and how you can get involved in this important work. Our research shows that when LGBTQ+ students feel safer in schools, all students feel safer in schools; when the most marginalized are supported, we are all supported. Our presentation will give attendees a brief snapshot of the research GLSEN has conducted that demonstrates the 4 supports that help LGBTQ+ students feel safer in schools: student-led LGBTQ+ clubs, supportive educators, comprehensive policies, and inclusive curriculum. From there we'll break down the ways GLSEN Arizona is working to make our vision of safer schools for all a reality, and in that, attendees will begin to see how they can make an impact on our spectrum of engagement. The fight for our LGBTQ+ students, especially our trans, BIPOC, and disabled LGBTQ+ students, is more important now than ever.

## B2 - LITERATURE/SECONDARY

## ROOM 453

### **What's New In Indigenous Young Adult Literature?**

**James Blasingame, Arizona State University**

This session will give book talks on newest Young Adult Literature from Native authors. Attendees will receive handouts of book lists, links to websites, and some book give-aways!

## B3 - GENERAL/SECONDARY

## ROOM 333

### **Standards Based Grading as A Restorative & Transformative Practice**

**Danielle Martinez & Natalie Cardenas, LaJoya Community High School**

Standards-based grading practices are restorative and transformative for students, as they focus on mastery of specific learning targets, provide targeted feedback, and foster a culture of continuous improvement, creating a more equitable and inclusive educational environment. This presentation will provide actionable strategies and manageable first steps for educators to implement immediately, creating a space to listen, learn, and share with intention.

# SESSION B

# 11:00 - 11:50 AM

B4 - WRITING/SECONDARY

ROOM 349

## **Curating, Celebrating and Commemorating through Student Personal Archives**

**Amethyst Hinton Sainz, Westwood High School**

Community archiving is a movement about capturing the diverse stories waiting to be told in our communities. Participants will learn about my students' personal archive project, read some of Amanda Gorman's erasure poems which inspired the project, and walk away with resources, project materials and lots of reflection and ideas!

## **Efficacy and Advocacy through the Creation of Documentaries**

**Teresa Layden, Arizona School for the Arts**

Participants will be provided a unit plan on the art of creating documentaries. By exploring one step-by-step process, educators will gain insight into how to offer this experience to their students. Research connections will underscore skill development and criticality and highlight how the infusion of joy is vital to learning.

B5 - WRITING/COLLEGE

ROOM 351

## **Cultivating Globally and Culturally Competent Individuals Through Investigating, Writing, and Sharing in a First-Year Composition Classroom**

**Kristina Bybee, Arizona State University**

Educating for global competence in ELA and FYC classrooms is a way teachers can help students make connections with people and ideas that are different from themselves. Learn how students can use the UN 17 Sustainable Development Goals for global and culturally competency.

## **Healing, Joy, Confidence, and Transfer: High-Interest, Low-Stakes Quick Writes in the Composition Class**

**Kate Hope, Chandler Gilbert Community College**

Through daily high-interest, low-stakes quick writes, this session shares model texts that invite students to explore the quiet space behind their thoughts, to lose control in their writing, to practice other writers' stylistic moves, and to identify the bridge between model texts and formal writing in the composition class.

# LUNCH

# 11:50 - 12:40 PM

PICK UP BOXES

**Ground floor hallway**



# AWARDS

12:40 - 1:00 PM

**211 Kiva Auditorium**

## 2023 ARIZONA ENGLISH TEACHERS ASSOCIATION AWARDS

**Distinguished Service Award** *announced by Dr. James Blasingame*

Sandra Saco, Immediate Past President

Michelle Glerum, Editor of the *Arizona English Journal*

**Friend of AETA Award** *announced by Sandra Saco*

Arizona Humanities, the Arizona affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities

Accepted by Julianne Cheng, Program Manager

**Community Literacy Award** *announced by Steven Arenas*

Palabras Bilingual Bookstore

**Teachers as Writers** *announced by Vanessa Sullivan*

### Poetry

Becky DoRan, FabLab Director at Grande Innovation Academy

"Never Gonna Give You Up Rick Roll Parody"

### Future Teacher Narrative/Vignette

Jessica Guerrero, Corona Del Sol High School/ASU

"Future Teacher Narrative"

### Classroom Spotlight

Shannon Kornachuk, Mica Mountain High School

"Multi-Genre Project"

### Outstanding ELA Publication: Graduate Student

Sandra, Saco, Graduate Student at ASU

"We're, Like, Not Alone": Finding Validation in Latinx YAL

**High School Teacher of Excellence** *announced by Dr. James Blasingame*

Rudy Esposito, Valley High School

**Elementary Teacher of Excellence** *announced by Dr. James Blasingame*

Randolph Cueto, Sam Hughes Elementary School

# FEATURED SCHOLAR

1:00 - 1:50 PM

211 Kiva Auditorium



## CURTIS ACOSTA

Assistant Professor, The University of Arizona

AETA's Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Committee is proud to announce Dr. Curtis Acosta as the inaugural speaker for the EDI Mentoring Program. Prior to his current role as assistant professor in language and culture in education, Curtis Acosta was a high school teacher for nearly 20 years, where he developed and taught Chicana/Latina literature classes for the renowned Mexican-American Studies program in Tucson. He is an award-winning educator who was named one of the "Top 10 Latinos to Watch in US Politics" by the Huffington Post. His work was featured in the documentaries Precious Knowledge and Dolores, as well as The Daily Show with Jon Stewart. He is the founder of the Acosta Educational Partnership, a consultation firm that helps educators create culturally sustaining and humanizing educational practices in their classrooms, schools, and communities.

10 MINUTE BREAK

## CONFERENCE SESSION C

3rd & 4th floors

# SESSION C

2:00 - 2:50 PM

C1 - LITERATURE/ELEMENTARY/MIDDLE

ROOM 453

### **Protecting Spaces of Healing and Joy: Responding to Challenges of Children's Books**

**Desiree Cueto & Kathy Short, The University of Arizona**

In this session, we provide historical and contemporary background on book banning and share our lists of challenged children's and middle grade books, why these books are being challenged, and resources that teachers and librarians can use to respond to these challenges.

## C2 - WRITING/SECONDARY

ROOM 437

**Solar Tomorrows: Future Thinking in the 6-12 ELA Classroom****Annie Holub & Erika Perea, Arizona State University**

Tired of teaching the same old science fiction texts that imagine a future that has already passed? Or science fiction that is all dystopian doom and gloom? New and hopeful sci fi created by Arizonans is out there! The Solar Tomorrows project through ASU's Center for Science and the Imagination has created a new curriculum that uses contemporary, localized science fiction to help students imagine what a solar-powered future could look like. Learn how to walk students through the curriculum so that your students can create their own short stories and essays imagining a solar-powered future.

## C3 - WRITING/SECONDARY

ROOM 333

**Incorporating students' lived experiences and cultures in ELA****Paula Johnson, Academy of Math and Science**

Based on state ELA expectations for middle school students, this interactive class will address inclusion and the required standards for improving academic outcomes. The presentation will focus on incorporating lived experiences and cultural awareness to bridge required standards with improved academic planning to meet diverse learner needs. Educators should come away with realistic tools for lesson plans, intervention strategies and curriculum development for the school year.

**Using Zines in the Classroom to Engage Student Choice in Writing****Sean Johnson, Tillman Middle School**

Using handmade magazines (zines) to engage student writers in a way that combines student choice with project based learning. Learn the benefits of this project in a Writing or ELA classroom and walk away with a framework for guiding your students through the self-publishing process.

**From the Past to the Page: Crafting 100-Word Memoirs Through Holocaust Narratives****Heather Land, Mountain View High School**

Teachers will use a memoir to engage students in how to construct their own 100 word memoirs on subjects that are personal to them. Teachers will walk away with student samples and participate in the practice of writing their own.

# SESSION C

2:00 - 2:50 PM

C4 - WRITING/GENERAL

ROOM 349

## **Teachers as Writers Workshop**

**Vanessa Sullivan, Michelle Glerum, Arizona State University**

**Kate Hope, Glendale Community College**

Do you like to write? In this session, AETA's journal and newsletter editors will share opportunities to write for the *Arizona English Journal*, *Connections Newsletter*, and the Teachers as Writers Contest. You will have a chance to receive feedback on your ideas (and actual writing--if you have it with you) to prepare you to submit a manuscript to *AEJ* or enter next year's Teachers as Writers contest. This is a session for teacher-writers to mentor fellow teacher-writers. Don't miss it!

C5 - GENERAL/SECONDARY/COLLEGE

ROOM 351

## **Limitless Words: Strengths-based Teaching Strategies for the English Language Arts Classroom**

**Kelly Maguire, Grand Canyon University**

Teachers must foster a positive learning environment by leveraging words as a strengths-based strategy. This presentation highlights the importance of language that focuses on student strengths, promoting engagement, motivation, and academic success. Participants will gain practical tools and insights to implement these strategies effectively.

## **Cultivating Spaces for Healing and Joy with Communities of Practice**

**Lynn Daniel, West Point High School**

Three years ago, the pandemic had devastating effects on health, education, and social justice, challenging students' access to literature that reflects their cultures and experiences. To restore literature's healing power, educators and students require safe spaces, and creating a Community of Practice offers a promising solution.

C6 - CLOSED SESSION

ROOM 211 KIVA

## **AETA's Early Career Teachers Mentoring Session**

**Steven Arenas, Bridget Recio, Sandra Saco, Michelle Salcido, & Ashley Yap**

The AETA Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Committee is hosting its inaugural mentoring program for early career ELA teachers from culturally diverse backgrounds (i.e. those teachers who identify as Black, Indigenous, Latinx, Asian, including teachers of color from LGBTQ, immigrant, multilingual, and dis/ability communities). Funded by NCTE's Teachers for the Dream award, our goal is to provide a space that can foster mentorship, support, and relationship building for early career ELA teachers who are committed to engaging in culturally relevant-responsive pedagogies to serve underrepresented and marginalized students.

10 MINUTE BREAK

# FEATURED AUTHOR

3:00 - 3:50 PM

211 Kiva Auditorium



## MONICA BROWN

Professor, Northern Arizona University

Dr. Monica Brown is the award-winning author of over thirty multicultural picture books for children, including ***Waiting for the Biblioburro***, and ***Marisol McDonald Doesn't Match/Marisol McDonald no combina*** and the Lola Levine chapter book series. Her picture book biographies include ***Tito Puente: Mambo King/Tito Puente: Rey del mambo***, ***Pablo Neruda: Poet of the People/Poeta del Pueblo***, and ***Frida Kahlo and Her Animalitos***. Monica's books have been featured in the NYTimes, The Washington Post, and on NPR's All Things Considered and have received multiple starred reviews. She is the recipient of two Américas Award and the Christopher Award, among others. Recent picture books by Monica include ***Sharuko: El Arqueólogo Peruano/ Peruvian Archaeologist Julio C. Tello*** and ***Small Room, Big Dreams: The Journey of Julián and Joaquin Castro*** illustrated by Mirelle Ortega. 2022 brought the publication of ***She Persisted: Diana Taurasi*** and ***The Turquoise Room/El Cuarto Turquesa***, illustrated by Adriana M. Garcia.



A special thank you to Dr. Kathy Short and Worlds of Words: Center of Global Literacies and Literatures for sponsoring Dr. Monica Brown's keynote.

10 MINUTE BREAK

# CLOSING SESSION

4:00 - 4:10 PM

211 Kiva Auditorium

## AETA RAFFLE

Book Bundles (10 books each) donated by:

- Lee & Low Books
- Little Brown and Company
- Macmillan
- Penguin Random House

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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## 2022 CONFERENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Conference Chair: Sybil Durand

Conference Planning Committee: James Blasingame, Sybil Durand, Michelle Glerum, Danielle Martinez, Sandra Saco, & Lauren Spenceley

Program: Sybil Durand, Lauren Spenceley, & Sandra Saco

SPONSOR



College of Education

A special thank you to Dr. Marcy Wood and the staff members of the Department of Teaching, Learning & Sociocultural Studies for their support of the AETA conference.