

# CALL FOR PROPOSALS

## AETA Annual Conference 2022

Proposals Due: June 1, 2022

ARIZONA ENGLISH TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

**Conference Theme:** “I Change Myself, I Change the World”: Stories of Hope, Change, & Light

**Keynote Speaker:** Dr. Tracey Flores, University of Texas, Austin

**Featured Speaker:** Saraciea J. Fennell, Editor of *Wild Tongues Can't be Tamed: 15 Voices from the Latinx Diaspora*

The Arizona English Teachers Association, your state affiliate of the National Council of Teachers of English, invites you to submit a proposal for AETA Conference 2022: “I Change Myself, I Change the World”: Stories of Hope, Change, & Light.

We are honored to have *Dr. Tracey Flores*, a veteran English educator and researcher, as our keynote speaker for the 2022 AETA Conference. Tracey is a former English Language Development (ELD) and English Language Arts (ELA) teacher, who worked for eight years alongside culturally and linguistically diverse students, families, and communities in K-8 schools throughout Glendale and Phoenix. Tracey is the founder of *Somos Escritoras*, which supports Latinx girls in developing their literacy skills while learning new tools to speak their truths, define themselves, and amplify their voices within a supportive and empowering community of Latinx girls and women.

Our featured speaker, Saraciea J. Fennell is a Black Honduran writer and the founder of *The Bronx is Reading*, a literacy program which creates an interest for reading among young people, while also promoting reading and writing skills through engaging author visits, reading group guides from publishers, and new books for children. She served as editor and contributing author for the young adult nonfiction anthology *Wild Tongues Can't Be Tamed: 15 Voices from the Latinx Diaspora (2021)*. Fennell opens the anthology by critically discussing how individuals from the Latinx diaspora are often stereotyped, “But we are so much more...”. The YA authors in *Wild Tongues* share from their lived experiences growing up in diverse Latinx communities. Their stories and voices can bring hope and validation to the students within our classrooms.

Chicana feminist, Gloria Anzaldúa wrote, “I change myself, I change the world.” She discussed that through major shifts in thinking, individuals can undergo a metamorphosis of healing change. The last few years have inflicted unexpected wounds on educators. The effects of the pandemic have resulted in much uncertainty for our communities, students, and their families. Policies of silence continue to sweep the nation regarding Critical Race Theory; our LGBTQIA+ colleagues, students and communities; and the banning of books that reach our students. These policies threaten educational autonomy, expertise, and safety. While we cannot control many of the elements that affect us, we can control how we shift, reflect, and create change within ourselves, ultimately shifting and changing our teaching and our classrooms. We continue to build ourselves up and forge new paths in order to create these changes. As we embrace change for our students and ourselves, we can change the world.

Tracey and Saraciea's works, along with Anzaldúa's ideas, have inspired this year's conference theme: **"I Change Myself, I Change the World": Stories of Hope, Change, & Light.** Stories of change inspire action. As educators we can align our practices and attitudes to create classrooms that center the lives and voices of our students and communities. Let's come together to shift, reflect, and transform.

We know that **each of you does something transformative** for your students, schools, and communities. Please share what you are doing with AETA!

**\*\*We especially encourage educators from multiple-marginalized backgrounds (based on race, class, gender, sexuality, and/or disability), first-time presenters, early career and rural educators to submit a proposal!**

As you write your proposal, we invite you to reflect on the many changes you have made to address challenges in your schools and communities, and to share your stories of hope and light for forging ahead. **Consider the following questions:**

- What does it mean to create change alongside our students and in our schools and communities?
- Considering the effects of recent political discourse in our everyday lives, inside and outside the classroom, how can we help students and each other shift our behaviors and mindsets? How can we encourage action in our classrooms towards equity and cultural sustainability?
- As we reflect on our own teaching practices and experiences, how do we shine light on students' knowledge, experiences, and stories in the ELA classroom?
- What reading and/or writing strategies engage students, increase their connections to literacy, and/or challenge their views about what literacy means?
- How can ELA classrooms work towards sustainable representations of students from historically resilient communities? How can ELA classrooms invite students to recognize and reflect on their own and others' intersecting identities?
- How can teachers empower and encourage one another to reflect on and make necessary changes within our teaching practices and philosophies?
- How do we encourage flexibility around and consideration of student needs in our schools?

**Date:** Saturday, September 24, 2022

**Time:** 8:00-4:00 P.M. (Breakfast included with registration)

**Location:** Arizona School for the Arts, Phoenix

**[Click on this link to submit a proposal.](#)**

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Include this information when you submit your proposal:

**1. Presenter(s) Information:**

Include name(s), title, school affiliation, mailing address, and all contact information (home phone, work phone, cell, email). If you are part of a group presentation, all correspondence is sent to the first presenter's name. Please keep your colleagues informed as correspondence continues. In accordance with professional tradition, **all presenters must register for the conference.**

**2. Type of Session:**

**A) Panel presentation**—50 minutes shared amongst all presenters

**B) Individual presentation—** Please note that the program committee will put two to three presenters together in one session along the lines of a similar theme/approach

**3. Session Title:**

Suggested Strand:   **Writing**   **Reading/Literature**   **College & Career Readiness**   **General**  
Suggested Level: **Early Childhood**   **Elementary**   **Middle**   **Secondary**   **College**  
First-time presenter:  
Rural educator:  
Early career educator (years 1-5):

NCTE & AETA value multi-cultural voices and those who advocate for the historically marginalized in our classrooms and in our profession. Please check one of the Rainbow Themes from the established caucuses of NCTE below if you feel your presentation addresses one of the groups below.

- Black Caucus
- Latinx Caucus
- American Indian Caucus
- Asian/Asian American Caucus
- Jewish Caucus
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**4. Description:**

Concurrent sessions will be held throughout the day on Saturday. These 50-minute sessions typically present a best practice or engage teacher-participants in a focused presentation and/or discussion of a topic relevant to the theme of the conference. In a paragraph (150 words or so) explain your session, how it relates to the conference theme, materials/project/lesson teachers will walk away with, and how you are involving your teacher-participants. This description helps the proposal-reading team decide where your session will go in the program.

**5. Abstract:**

Provide a 4-5 line (50 words or so) description to appear in the conference program. Please identify your main idea/project and what teacher-participants will walk away knowing.

**6. Presentation Needs:**

Each session meeting room is a mediated classroom (equipped with a computer station, audio, video and projection).

**\*\*Arizona's English/language arts teachers have much to offer each other! Please reproduce this call for proposals and distribute among your friends and colleagues.**

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For any questions about conference proposals, please email the AETA Program Chair, Sandra Saco, at [srwsaco@gmail.com](mailto:srwsaco@gmail.com)