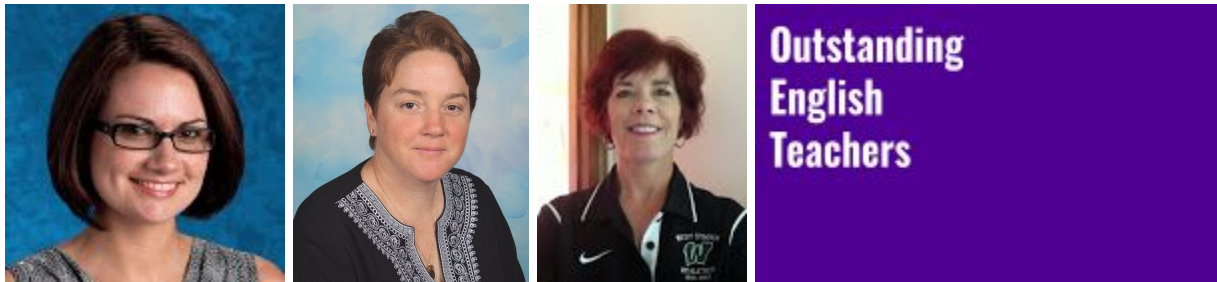




NCETA Notes

August, 2019



Teacher Awards

The [OET Award](#) is presented each year to an English teacher who has gone above and beyond to reach NC students. After serving one year representing the best in the teaching of English, the recipient will deliver an address at the next year's Conference, for which an honorarium of \$250.00 is paid. The [OLT Award](#) is presented to an exemplary teacher of content and literacy skills and can be a teacher from any grade level or subject area. After serving one year representing the best in literacy instruction, the recipient will deliver an address at the next year's Conference, for which an honorarium will be paid.

Last year's OET, Monica Williams, has this to say about her year representing the best in teaching English: "I was truly honored to be recognized as last year's OET. I have never worked for glory or recognition, but receiving this award gave me a feeling of assurance that teaching English remains my calling. Serving as the OET has opened me up to a network of fabulous educators from all across North Carolina, and I am thankful to be a part of this organization. NCETA strives to bring English teachers together and I am glad to have been a part of that process this year." *The extended deadline for nominations is August 10th.*

Teacher Feature

Nicole Rivers teaches junior English at Gray's Creek High School in Hope Mills, NC. She also serves as department chair, leads county-wide professional development, and helps develop curriculum for ELA in Cumberland County Schools. Nicole advises clubs at her school, including Girls Expecting More Success, Gray's Creek Slam Team, and the poetry club.

Nicole came to join NCETA through the persuasion of a coworker. At our recent spring symposium, she co-presented a session on the power of spoken word poetry and, in 2016, co-presented a session on using mentor texts such as the Declaration of Independence in writing instruction. Because of these experiences, she started to see the benefits of a wider range of collaboration. In her own building, Nicole realized that "just because one shares a profession doesn't mean one shares the same passion for growth and fresh ideas." Stepping outside of her immediate environment, Nicole found that NCETA was an essential avenue for professional growth and networking with like-minded teachers. To learn more about Nicole's teaching philosophy or to nominate a colleague to spotlight, [click here](#).

Conference



The banner features a purple background with white text. On the left, it reads "NCETA FALL CONFERENCE: LITERACY IN THE 21ST CENTURY" in large, bold letters. Below this is the NCETA logo, a QR code, and the URL "bit.ly/NCETA19". In the center, there is a photo of Donovan Livingston, a Black man in a suit, smiling. To the right of the photo, it says "KEYNOTE SPEAKER DONOVAN LIVINGSTON". On the far right, the dates and times are listed: "FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11 6-9:30pm Center City Uptown Charlotte" and "SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12 8am-4pm Cone Center UNC-Charlotte".

We are excited to be planning a dynamic conference this year in Charlotte. With our theme, Literacy in the 21st Century, we hope to explore best practices and practical applications for your classroom. Our keynote speaker, Donovan Livingston, is a noted author, spoken word poet, and public speaker. His commencement address, "[Lift Off](#)," at Harvard University went viral in 2016. On Friday night, we will be viewing the documentary *Truth Underground* in which, "Three spoken word poets struggle through poverty, discrimination PTSD and abandonment to prove the power of the word." A panel discussion with the documentary's producer and poet CJ Suitt will follow.

[Register for the conference by clicking here](#).

Leadership Opportunities

NCETA functions due in large part to our members who volunteer their time as board members. Board participation is an excellent opportunity to exercise leadership skills, participate in advocacy, and network with other educators. We have several board positions currently open and others that may

become open later in the year. Consider nominating yourself or a colleague for one of these positions by September 20th. [Click here to make a nomination.](#)

Ragan-Rubin Award

NCETA recognizes the work of an outstanding North Carolina author each year. The winning author attends our conference to workshop with student writing award winners and receives a plaque and honorarium. Nominations may be emailed to Melissa Bishop, melissabishop@ccs.k12.nc.us



Fringes is the NCETA Journal and a space for current and pre-service English Language Arts (ELA) teachers, as well as ELA teacher educators, to share ideas for teaching primary and secondary ELA. *Fringes* is a peer-reviewed journal published twice annually and features articles that address innovative classroom practices, important and timely educational issues, pedagogical methods, classroom activities, and curricular materials. We welcome a combination of both practice-oriented and research pieces, grounded in the various interests, assets, and contexts experienced by North Carolina teachers. In particular, we want to hear about the practices and research that educators are doing that are unconventional and peripheral, what we call fringe.

The fall issue will be out soon, but we are currently seeking article submissions and reviewers. If you would like to submit an article, volunteer as a reviewer, or just learn more, please don't hesitate to contact the *Fringes* editors at fringes.nceta.editors@gmail.com.

Twitter Chats

Look for our monthly Twitter chats to resume in September! Follow @TeachEnglishNC for updates.