



# Learning to Go High: Re-Awakening Hope through Education

24th Annual Conference of the Assembly for Expanded Perspectives on Learning

June 21—24, 2018\*

Featuring: Kathleen Blake Yancey Krista Ratcliffe Vajra Watson Paula Mathieu

The 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Summer Conference of  
The Assembly of Expanded Perspectives on Learning  
of the National Council of Teachers of English

Y of the Rockies, Estes Park, Colorado

[aepl.org](http://aepl.org)

*If we really want to change things..., it's going to start at the grass-roots level,  
and with our [youth]. --Barack Obama, 1995*

We are living in times scarier than most of us have ever known. So it is vital for us to come together to think, feel, and imagine our way through them.

We *all* now need expanded perspectives on learning. So AEPL, the NCTE Assembly for Expanded Perspectives on Learning has decided to devote its 24<sup>th</sup> Summer Conference to an exploration of educational practices and ideas that can both sustain us through these times and eventually take us beyond them.

In part we will be guided in this by nationally recognized authorities at the forefront of the fields of rhetoric and literacy:

**Kathleen Blake Yancey**, with her understanding of the intricacies of cultivating reflection and voice.

**Krista Ratcliffe**, with her fine-honed techniques of rhetorical listening.

**Vajra Watson**, with her inspiring practices of the literacy of liberation.

**Paula Mathieu**, with her revelatory rhetoric of hope.

But, really, **you and the students you teach**, whatever the subject matter, will be our *main* inspiration. And we invite you to come share with others the ideas, practices, assignments, and conversations in your classrooms that have helped you and your students to find hope, and overcome the social and psychological forces that undermine it—in these new times.

Among the broad questions we seek to address are:

How do we empathically yet firmly listen to and care for those who hate, without finding them “deplorable,” so as to help take them beyond the hatred and anger they feel?

How do we comfort and strengthen those in despair and help them find hope?

How do we dispel the cynicism—the dogmatic disbelief in higher or deeper meaning, and in the moral power of hope—that discourages people from believing in and acting for meaningful change?

As important as anything, how do we simply enjoy life and one another in these times, without burying our heads in the sand? (The evening before our preconference workshop, for instance, we will show Chaplin’s *The Great Dictator* and join together in a rousing session called *Making America Dance Again!*)

### \* **Conference Dates:**

June 21 - 24, 2018, with a preconference day of Rhetorical Listening,  
June 20 - 21

## **Call for proposals**

Please propose a 75-minute interactive presentation/conversation addressing these or any related questions; or, alternatively, a 20-minute talk, conversation topic, or short teaching demonstration. Submit a 100-250 word abstract and brief bio by March 25, 2018 to [brucejnovak@gmail.com](mailto:brucejnovak@gmail.com)

**Conference and Lodging registration: <http://aepl.org>**

# Learning to Go High: Re-Awakening Hope through Education

24th Annual Conference of the Assembly for Expanded Perspectives on Learning

June 21 - 24, 2018 | YMCA of the Rockies, Estes Park, CO

with a preconference day of Rhetorical Listening, June 20 - 21

**About AEPL:** The Assembly for Expanded Perspectives on Learning (AEPL) is an official assembly of the National Council of Teachers of English. AEPL is open to all those interested in exploring the boundaries of teaching and learning beyond traditional disciplines and methodologies. Areas of interest include but are not limited to: aesthetic, emotional, and moral intelligence; archetypes; body wisdom; care in education; creativity; felt sense theory; healing; holistic learning; humanistic and transpersonal psychology; imaging; intuition; kinesthetic knowledge; meditation; narration as knowledge; reflective teaching; silence; spirituality; and visualization. More information at <http://aepl.org>.

**About the YMCA of the Rockies:** Stunningly situated, the YMCA of the Rockies is a premiere conference venue. The YMCA provides comfortable, modern lodging and access to a range of activities, including hiking, biking, and horseback rides through Rocky Mountain National Park. Attendees are responsible for reserving lodging separately from conference registration. Rooms must be reserved by April 15, 2018. Visit the YMCA website at <https://ymcarockies.org/lodging/>.

**Conference Registration Fees:** \$195 before 1/7/18; \$245 1/7 - 4/15; \$295 thereafter. Pre-Conference Fees: \$75 before 1/6/18; \$95 1/7 - 4/15; \$125 thereafter. Discount pricing for students/adjuncts/retirees/2 or more from same institution. All registrants must be AEPL members. All registration fees over \$50 are refundable before 4/15/18. Bi-weekly conversations for registrants begin in January.

**Call for Proposals | Deadline March 25, 2018**

Submit a 100-250 word abstract and brief biography to:

[brucejnovak@gmail.com](mailto:brucejnovak@gmail.com)

**REGISTER NOW**

<http://aepl.org>



Throughout her career, Keynote Speaker **Kathleen Blake Yancey**, the Kellogg Hunt Professor of English and Distinguished Research Professor at Florida State University, has focused on reflection and on ways of supporting student writers. She has also led several professional organizations, including the National Council of Teachers of English and the Conference on College Composition and Communication. She writes frequently—authoring/co-authoring over 100 articles and book chapters and editing or authoring 14 scholarly books, most recently *Writing Across Contexts: Transfer, Composition, and Sites of Writing* (2014); *A Rhetoric of Reflection* (2016); and *Assembling Composition* (2017). She has received two Best Book Awards from the CWA; a CCCC's Research Impact Award; and Florida State's Graduate Teaching Award, which she has won twice.



**Paula Mathieu** works as Associate Professor of English at Boston College where she directs the First-Year Writing Program. She teaches graduate and undergraduate courses in rhetoric, writing and pedagogy. She wrote *Tactics of Hope: The Public Turn in English Composition*, and co-edited 3 essay collections, including *Circulating Communities*, with Stephen Parks and Tiffany Rosculp. With Diana George, she has cowritten articles about the rhetorical power of the dissident press. She also has published articles on the intersections between writing and contemplative practice. : *Excavating Indoor Voices: Inner Rhetoric and the Mindful Writing Teacher* (*Journal of Advanced Composition*, 2014) and "Being There: Mindfulness as Ethical Classroom Practice" (*JAEPL* 2016).



**Vajra Watson** is the Director of Research and Policy for Equity at UC Davis. She seeks innovative ways to align people and systems that advance social justice. As a scholar-activist, Dr. Watson examines both the perils and promises of education and the potential of innovative community school partnerships. She is the founder of Sacramento Area Youth Speaks (SAYS), a literacy program that pairs poet-mentor educators and teachers together to develop grassroots pedagogies, forming a critical bridge between the classroom and the community. She authored *Learning to Liberate* (2012), *Censoring Freedom* (2013), *The Black Sonrisa* (2014), and *Literacy is a Civil Write* (2015), among others. She received her Doctorate from the School of Education at Harvard University.



**Krista Ratcliffe** is professor and chair of English at Arizona State University. She earned her PhD from The Ohio State University and has been a professor and chair of English at Marquette University and Purdue University. Her research focuses on intersections of rhetoric, feminist theory, and critical race studies. Some of her books include: *Anglo-American Challenges to the Rhetorical Traditions* (1996); the award-winning *Rhetorical Listening: Identification, Gender, Whiteness* (2006); and *Rhetorics of Whiteness* (2017) co-edited with Tammy Kennedy and Joyce Middleton. Her work has appeared in *CCC*, *JAC*, *Rhetoric Review*, *College English*, and *RSQ*. She served as president of the Coalition of Women Scholars in the History of Rhetoric and Composition (CWSHRQ) and the Rhetoric Society of America (RSA).