

**CALL FOR PROPOSALS:
2019 CEL Convention
November 24–26, 2019, Baltimore, Maryland**



CONFERENCE ON
ENGLISH LEADERSHIP

Creating Opportunities:

Leadership to Ignite Movements and Momentum

In her poem “To Be of Use,” Marge Piercy writes, “I love people who harness themselves, an ox to a heavy cart, / who pull like water buffalo, with massive patience, / who strain in the mud and the muck to move things forward, / who do what has to be done, again and again.”

This is often what working in schools feels like: being tethered to a heavy cart, straining to pull staff and students through or toward new initiatives, remaining patient in the face of institutional lethargy, and often fighting the same (administrative, curricular, interpersonal) battles year after year. And yet schools can also be sites of radical possibility. They can change and, as Piercy writes, “move things forward” in ways that are transformative for students, staff, and entire communities. Sparks become flames. Ideas gain momentum. Strong leadership *can* shift the status quo.

The work of literacy leaders is essential to school transformation. But what, in this time of cultural and political divisiveness, should our priorities be? How should we be moving things forward? What ideas, experiences, and opportunities should we support? What kind of momentum can we generate? What kind of movements can we build?

The CEL 2019 Annual Convention seeks to explore these concerns. Whether you are a department chair, lead teacher, instructional coach, curriculum supervisor, or administrator, the CEL Program Committee invites literacy educators at the elementary, middle, secondary, and higher education levels to submit a proposal that addresses the theme and considers the following questions:

- What literacy issues are most pressing and require our immediate attention?
- What ideas are holding us back, and why are they preventing us from moving forward?
- What does “moving things forward” look like in a classroom, school, or community?
- What literacy ideas have led to radical transformation? Where do/did these ideas originate?
- How can we build coalition in our schools and communities to enhance reading and writing practices?
- How can we create pockets of transformation in and among schools that might cultivate change or inspire greater action?
- What kinds of movements could we tether ourselves to in order to foster school transformation?
- How can technology assist students, teachers, and administrators in building coalition and working for change?

The CEL proposal system will be available soon with a submission deadline of April 1, 2019.

CEL encourages interactive, participatory presentations. As a nonprofit organization of educators, we are not able to provide a stipend or reimburse expenses for this experience. Any questions regarding proposals should be directed to Emily Meixner at meixner@tcnj.edu.

Looking forward to seeing you in Baltimore!
Emily S. Meixner, 2019 Program Chair

<http://www2.ncte.org/groups/cel/convention/>