



# WHOLE LANGUAGE UMBRELLA 2019 ELECTION

Biographical information is supplied by the candidates and is printed in alphabetical order for the membership's convenience. **NOTE:** In order to respect the international nature of WLU, candidates are grouped in a way that ensures international representation. **VOTING DEADLINE IS JUNE 15, 2019.**

## EXECUTIVE BOARD CANDIDATES

Three-year term to expire in July 2022 (vote for one)

### DOROTHY SUSKIND



**Present Position:** assistant professor of education, Longwood University, Virginia  
**Formerly:** assistant professor, University of Mary Washington, Virginia; middle school principal; classroom teacher of multiple grades and reading specialist; researcher on the Writing Across the Curriculum Project, UVA; co-guest editor for an Issue of *Language Arts*, *Writing as Creative Construction*; leadership team, Central VA Writing Project; and WLU board member (2007-2009)

**Memberships:** NCTE, WLU, ILA, ASCD, NAEYC, AERA

**Awards:** Norma Alley Teaching Excellence Award, Governor's Fellowship (UVA), Jepson Fellow (UMW), and Blackwell Scholar (Longwood)

**Publications:** *The PreK-2 Writing Classroom: Growing Confident Writers* and articles in *Language Arts*, *Talking Points*, *Reading Today*, *Kappan*, *Social Studies Research and Practice*, *Edutopia*, and *Nerdy Book Club*

**Program Contributions:** WLU, NCTE, ILA, International Boys' School Coalition (South Africa), Flat Connections Global Educator (Australia)

**Position Statement:** I believe WLU invites critical conversations inside classrooms and communities, charging students and teacher-researchers to engage in holistic inquiry across disciplines.

### NATASHA A. THORNTON



**Present Positions:** Assistant Professor of Literacy Education, Kennesaw State University; Professional Liaison for Diversity, Bagwell College of Education; Co-director, KSU Conference on Literature for Children and Adults; Co-advisor, #BlackTeachersMatter Student Organization (KSU)

**Formerly:** Elementary school teacher and literacy coach

**Memberships:** NCTE, ECEA, National Black Child Development Institute (NBCDI)

**Awards:** Professional Dyads for Culturally Relevant Teaching; Bagwell College of Education Research/Scholarship Grant (KSU, 2016); Faculty Learning Community Grant (KSU, 2016)

**Publications:** *Race Ethnicity and Education*, *Journal of Language and Literacy Education*, *Perspectives and Provocations*, and *Edutopia*

**Contributions:** Presentations at WLU, NCTE, AERA, LRA, ARF, NBCDI

**Position Statement:** WLU is a source of empowerment and inspiration for whole language educators who face various opportunities and challenges as they center the lives and language of children in classrooms. It is imperative for WLU to continue the work of connecting theory and practice in meaningful ways, and of advocating for whole language education as a means for equity and liberation in education and society.

# EXECUTIVE BOARD CANDIDATE (CLASSROOM TEACHER)

Three-year term to expire in July 2022 (vote for one)

## ELISABTH COSTA SALIANI



**Present Position:** ENL teacher, William Floyd Elementary School, New York

**Formerly:** adjunct instructor, Long Island University, Riverhead Campus, New York

**Memberships:** NCTE, WLU, TESOL International, NYSTESOL

**Publications:** article in *Linguistics and Education*; forthcoming chapter on writing evaluation

**Program Contributions:** presentations at WLU summer institutes, Hofstra University Scholar's Forum

**Position Statement:** As a classroom teacher currently working in the field, I have benefited from the professional space WLU has provided for me to connect theory, research, and practice. WLU leaders need to advocate for embattled educators in the

field who are searching for a supportive community of like-minded individuals—individuals who believe in a holistic, constructivist approach to the development of learning communities.

## SCOTT G. JOHNSON



**Present Positions:** 4th- and 5th-grade teacher at The Center for Inquiry, Columbia, South Carolina; adjunct professor, Columbia College, South Carolina

**Formerly:** elementary multi-age teacher for 10 years; adjunct professor, University of South Carolina; adjunct faculty, Fresno Pacific University, California

**Memberships:** NCTE, WLU

**Awards:** "Excellence in Teaching" Award, University of South Carolina; "Excellence in Education—Teacher of the Year Finalist," Fresno, California

**Publications:** Manuscript reviewer for *Talking Points*; *Changing Hearts, Minds, and Action through Collaborative Inquiry* (Mills, O'Keefe, Hass, and Johnson), *Language Arts*.

**Program Contributions:** Presentations at NCTE, WLU, Inquiry Matters Conference

**Position Statement:** Since I first stepped into the classroom in 1996, the WL community has played a vital part in how I view teaching and learning. Apprenticing under great whole language educators has taught me that this community plays an important role in shaping the lens from which we grow as educators. Giving back in this role would allow me to bridge the legacy of the past with the hopes of impacting a bigger audience in the future.

## ANNA G. OSBORN



**Present Positions:** reading specialist, Jefferson Middle School, Missouri (19 years in the classroom); literacy doctoral candidate, University of Missouri-Columbia, MoCTE Membership Chair, Mid-Missouri TAWL Board

**Formerly:** 2018 WLU Scholarship recipient; Heinemann Fellow (2016–18); President, MU Graduate Students of Literacy

**Memberships:** NCTE, MoCTE, ILA, NEA, NBPTS

**Award:** 2016 CMNEA Teacher of the Year

**Publications:** *Talking Points* (co-author); chapter in (Meyer & Whitmore, Eds)

*Reclaiming Manifestations of Literacies* (in press); co-lead editorial assistant for *Literacy Research: Theory, Method, & Practice*; *Literacy Today*

**Program Contributions:** Presented at WLU, NCTE, Mid-Missouri TAWL

**Position Statement:** WLU needs leaders who believe in the limitless potential of teachers and students. Like the founders of our organization, we must continue to ensure that literacy is always a tool for liberation and empowerment. WLU must remain steadfast in giving voice to previously silenced voices, inspiring co-conspirators, and empowering change-makers.