

Standing Committee on Diversity and Inclusivity

Major activities: What major actions, projects, initiatives, or studies in your charge have been completed by your group since July 1, 2019? In each activity describe the more important features of the work, and connect your work to the [NCTE Vision Statement](#), if applicable.

1. List names, affiliations, and geographic region for all committee members.

CHAIR, Kelly Sassi (2021)
(North Dakota State University, Fargo, ND)

Alexa Clausen (2022)
(Eanes ISD/Westlake High school, Austin, TX)

Jung Kim (2022)
(Lewis University, Romeoville, IL)

Susi Long (2022)
(University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC)

Tiffany Karalis Noel (2022)
(University at Buffalo, NY)

Kenlea Pebbles (2021)
(Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI)

Robert Rivera-Amezola (2021)
(F.S. Key Elementary, PA)

Kamania Wynter-Hoyte (2023)
(University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC)

Executive Committee Liaison, Alfredo Celedón Luján
(Monte del Sol Charter School, Santa Fe, NM)

NCTE Staff Liaison, Lisa Avetisian

NCTE Staff Liaison, Emily Kirkpatrick

2. What actions, projects, initiatives, or studies are “in progress” at this time?

Continuing from last year’s work to encourage more Native American teachers to attend NCTE, we have been working with Alfredo Celedón Luján to encourage the use of a land acknowledgment at NCTE by sharing resources (one of the charges of our committee) and connecting him with the elders’ council of Malea Powell, Joyce Rain Anderson and Resa Crane Bizarro, who provide support and a process for incorporating land acknowledgments into NCTE events. This process includes involving the elders of the community where the conference is held, a process that takes time. We have developed an interactive session for convention in which we will invite members to engage with land acknowledgments and surface other issues of diversity & inclusivity that they want the organization to engage with.

3. What have you accomplished so far, and what is your timeline for future work?

We had a very well attended session at last year’s convention in which one of our members, Kenlea Pebbles, presented with two teachers from the Turtle Mountain reservation, Maggie Laducer and Torrie DeCoteau at a session titled “Decolonizing Stories of the Classroom.” Our goal was to make sure Indigenous teachers are seen and heard at the Annual Convention. We are continuing to encourage everyone to reach out and encourage more membership from tribal colleges and

reservation schools. In meeting with Emily Kirkpatrick, we recommended that Debbie Reese be contacted and that she be placed in a highly visible place in the program for Denver, when the location will lend itself to more attendance from Native American teachers. With the convention going virtual, there is the potential for even greater accessibility in some ways. The committee affirmed the choice to lower the registration fee to build on this opportunity.

4. How has the work of your group contributed to NCTE's role in shaping the profession of teaching and/or the understanding of literacy in educational contexts?
-

Suggestions from your group: Your good ideas help direct future NCTE actions.

1. What significant changes or trends in our field point to action from the Council?

The Summer 2020 protests sparked by the killing of George Floyd at the hands of the police, point to the need to engage by creating a statement on anti-blackness. We would also like to see processes in place for teachers to work deeply with land acknowledgments.

2. What trends need to factor into medium- to long-term NCTE planning?

Funding for rural teachers, especially those who work on Native American/American Indian reservations, is an issue in joining the membership at Convention. Often long drives are involved in getting to an airport and fees for storing a vehicle compound the travel costs of getting to conference. Once at convention, we need more spaces in addition to the first-time attendee breakfast to make sure folks feel welcomed and comfortable.

Kelly Sassi, Chair