

2024 CEL ANNUAL CONVENTION

LEADERSHIP matters; Leadership *MATTERS*
NOVEMBER 24-26 | BOSTON, MA | #CEL24



Dear 2024 CEL Convention Attendees:

I'm so excited you are here! Our 2024 CEL Annual Convention program is full of inspiring and innovative ideas! In 2012, English leaders in Chicago came together to talk about literacy leadership, and Janice Schwarze announced that if you are an English educational leader, you must join NCTE and CEL. I found a home in CEL. It is incredible to me to be able to connect with extraordinary leaders across the country. At the 2018 CEL Annual Convention, I met and talked to the amazing Nicholas Emmanuelle, and the next year he reached out across the country to Glenda Funk, Gretchen Teague, Anthony Stirpe, and me to present at the NCTE Annual Convention about various strategies for incorporating drama into the English classroom. We had a blast. During COVID, I became an ELF (Emerging Leader Fellowship) mentor for Cohort #10. It was life affirming at such a trying time to meet on Zoom once a month with Cathline Tanis (NJ), Adam Davison (NY), and Marty Frazier (OH) to discuss the trials and triumphs of leadership. These new leaders motivated me at every turn. CEL created all of these opportunities.

Educational LEADERSHIP is the answer for our country's woes and students' futures, but the *MATTERS* of leadership constantly interrupt the logical and obvious flow of the perfect plan. LEADERSHIP comes down to people. Spending hours, days, and years building strong relationships, and trust among staff precedes lasting and essential change. When done well, educational LEADERSHIP has the power to change the world for the better.

I am grateful.

A huge, heartfelt thank you to Emily Meixner and Nicholas Emmanuele for your grace, patience, and mentorship! Your time, generously given, was crucial to lead and guide me in what was expected and needed to make this Convention program great. Thank you, Lori Bianchini, Matt Burruss, and Kristen Ritchie from NCTE for helping to guide everything behind the scenes for the Convention!

To all the CEL members who took the time to write and prepare ingenious proposals and workshops to share your knowledge and experiences to help leaders, staff, and students around the world, thank you!

To all the CEL members who volunteered their precious time to read proposals and recommend the sublime speakers and program for CEL 2024, thank you!

Thank you, Carol Jago! I've long admired you for your marvelous messages from afar and attended so many of your motivating NCTE workshops! CEL is fortunate you agreed to be a keynote speaker on Sunday!

Thank you, Dr. Sonja Cherry-Paul! Your prowess and passion for antiracist teaching are important and noble. I feel lucky you agreed to be a keynote speaker this year!

Sincerely,

Mary Luckritz
2024 CEL Annual Convention Program Chair