



CT-CTE Chronicle

Connecticut Council of Teachers of English

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Spring Conference is in the Books

Dr. Carla España and Chris Lehman opened our second annual conference on March 30th, pushing educators to embrace discomfort in order to empower others. Two breakout sessions followed, led by educators from throughout the state and also New Jersey and Massachusetts. Social justice was the theme, but topics and techniques covered were diverse: coaching and mentoring, EdTech, multimodal learning, writing instruction, Socratic seminars, text selection, student engagement, and so much more.



Here are just a few highlights shared during the day. Search the hashtag #ctcte19 for more.

Rebecca Marsick @RebeccaMarsick
Following
Need to start thinking more deeply about w the way our identities shape us and how we interact w world @ProfesoraEspana @iChrisLehman @TheEdCollab #CTCTE19



Lisa Feinstein @FeinsteinMrs
Follow
"Moving Toward Collective Liberation: Getting to Know Students' Journeys and Modifying Curriculum." Thank you @iChrisLehman and @ProfesoraEspana for the book recommendations and the inspiration. #ctcte19 #socialjusticemix



Christine Glass @MrsGlassBHS
Follow
"How does my instruction validate the humanity of all children?" An inspiring morning of reflecting & growing #ctcte19



Melanie Meehan @MelanieMeehan1 · Mar 30
"Working toward a critical consciousness." Love that term. @iChrisLehman #ctcte19

“Dinner & Discussion” Skype Author Series

We hosted our first “Dinner and Discussion” event on May 7th with author Hena Khan. During the 45-minute conversation, we explored the themes of her stories and ways to integrate them in all grade levels. Topics ranged from her writing process, writing in school, inspiration for her writing, to cultural representation in texts. She was personable, funny, and insightful. One of our favorite quotes of the night was: “Just because you don’t find [writing] easy, doesn’t mean you’re not a writer.” We are looking to continue these Skype sessions quarterly next year. Keep an eye out for the next date!



To learn more about Hena Khan and her books, visit her [website](#) or her [Simon & Schuster site](#).

Election Results



Congratulations to Cathy Sosnowski and Martha Curran on their election to the roles of president and secretary. Cathy (left) will be serving a second, two-year term as president. Martha (right), from Madison Public Schools, will fill the shoes of Maggie Stevens Lopez. Thank you, Maggie, for your service to the organization and welcome Martha to this new role.



**Got some news to share with our membership?
Send an email to ctctechronicle@gmail.com to let us know.**





Mentoring Program Subcommittee from left to right: Julie Sochacki (co-chair), Nicole Martone (co-chair), Anastasia Difedele-Dutton (member), and Joanne Mumley (member)

Mentoring Program

The CT-CTE Mentoring Program, introduced at this year’s spring conference, is off to a great start! Several council members signed up as either a mentor or mentee. The program is a great opportunity for new, mid-career, or veteran teachers interested in being a mentee or for teachers with seven or more years of experience interested in being a mentor. Applications will be accepted through July. Matches will be notified in September. If interested, more information about the program can be found [here](#). The Google Form application to sign-up, as either as a mentor or mentee, can be found [here](#).

Summertime, and the Readin’s Easy

Summer reading philosophies run the gamut. Whole-class or whole-grade or whole-school or whole region. Independent, individualized, and personalized choices. Curated and specially-selected lists. Whatever your or your school’s approach, here are a few places, among many, to invigorate your reading life this summer.

- [Penny Kittle’s Summer Book Club](#)
- [Project Lit Community Selections](#)
- [International Literacy Association Selections](#)
- [Connecticut College’s One Book, One Region](#)

Some Upcoming Events

- June 1st-2nd: [BookCon](#)
- June 30th-July 2nd: [NCTE Summer Institute in Providence](#)
- July 18th: [Scholastic Reading Summit in Greenwich](#)
- October 18th-19th: [NEATE’s Annual Conference](#)
- November 21st-24th: [NCTE in Baltimore](#)
- November 24th-26th: [CEL Conference in Baltimore](#)

↓ And, Don’t Miss! ↓



Claudia Rankine, Terrance Hayes, Elizabeth Acevedo!

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