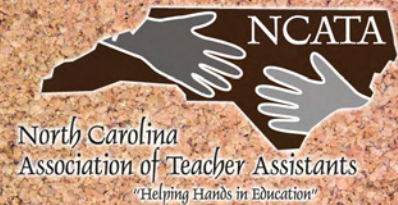




Bulletin Board

THE NCATA NEWSLETTER



We Are Still Here!

Why I am still a member of NCATA... and YOU should be too!

Rise' Hatton, member since 2002



Eleven years ago I became an EC Teacher Assistant at a middle school. After working there 3 years, I was asked to go on to high school, where I worked for 7 years. This past year I was once again moved, back to middle school, so I am currently at Trexler Middle School in Richlands (Onslow

County).

When I was first approached by a school rep to become a member of NCATA, I asked, "why?" The answer was, "So you can go to Conference!" Well, I found out there is a whole lot more I got than just being able to go to Conference. I have a legislative rep that gets me the latest information even before it hits the news. I learned I could earn a PDP certificate. I learned we have a scholarship program for our children. I learned we have a State TAOY program. Above all else, I have found fellow TA's in my County, District and State that I would miss terribly if they decided not to be members anymore. I have been able to serve locally as our Secretary, Treasurer, Vice-President, and now President. For the past 4 years, I have represented District 2 on the State EHR Committee, helping to select Scholarship recipients and TAOY's. In 2007-2008 I had the privilege of serving as our State TAOY.



Carolyn Barringer, member since 2002

My name is Carolyn Barringer and I am a Teacher Assistant at the "Greatest School" in Cleveland County which is Washington Elementary School, in Shelby, North Carolina. I have been an active member of NCATA for the last nine years and counting. As a Cleveland County Representative

**PLEASE
JOIN US
TODAY!**

[CLICK HERE](#)

of NCATA I have served as the County's treasure for six years and as my school's representative for the last two years. Since 2008, I held the office as the Cleveland County President and currently, I am the district six treasure of NCATA.

There are several reasons why I am still a member of NCATA but, the most obvious reason is the honor of being supported as a teacher's assistant and having my voice heard. As president of Cleveland County, it is my job to inform our state representatives of local issue within my county. This makes me feel like I am contributing a voice and it is being heard and making a difference. As, an active member of this prestigious organization, teacher's assistant also receive training and classes to assist our schools, churches and communities. The special bond of giving that TA's share is a very special bond that empowers the lives around us like our students, teachers and one another.

I am blessed to be a part of an amazing organization as NCATA and to have a wonderful Executive Board in Cleveland County. So, thank you Ginger, Christy, Donna, Rhonda, Gloria, Juanita and Robin for a job well done!! I also want to thank I need to thank all our terrific Zone Presidents, School Reps, and Laura Jamerson, our advisor. Without their help, we could not have had 100% of our jobs maintained in Cleveland County.



Lisa Fisher, member since 1999

I became a teacher assistant in 1995, and learned about NCATA a year or so after that. I joined while attending a Professional Association Meeting Day that our school system had at the beginning of each year. I was impressed with

how knowledgeable the local NCATA officers were about issues that related specifically to teacher assistants. Because NCATA provided a network of teacher assistants across the state, often times the NCATA officers had more accurate information and had it sooner than the LEAs. They were also very professional and had earned the respect of administra-

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NCATA Bulletin Board

2011-2013 Executive Council & State Leadership

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Judy Brant, EPC Chair

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We Are Still Here!... continued from page 1

tors and senior staff of our school system.

My involvement in NCATA came in baby steps--first as a member, then as a local president, then as a district committee representative, then as the state Newsletter Editor, then as a state committee chair. Yes, it took time, and yes, it was a volunteer job, but the benefits I received are invaluable. I developed leadership skills, learned how to share and delegate responsibilities, and improved my writing and speaking skills. I gained confidence in my abilities and conquered many fears along the way. I also had wonderful mentors who offered advice and encouragement. I cannot say enough about the positive influences I have received from my colleagues both in leadership positions and on the front lines in the classrooms. There's just something special about knowing you are part of a larger group working toward a common goal of improving our children's lives by helping them learn and grow.

This fall, I will be completing my undergraduate degree in elementary education--a journey that I know would not have been possible without my experiences in NCATA.

And while my job title may eventually change, I will always be an advocate for teacher assistants and NCATA. Margaret Mead said, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." Teacher assistants are that small group of people. When we join together, we can accomplish amazing things!

Keith Jacobs, member since 1991



Hello to all, I am Keith Jacobs. I am writing this to let you that I have been a member of NCATA for twenty (20) years and it has been a wonderful experience to be a part of a wonderful organization. For those of you that do not know, I was one of 235 Teacher Assistants that was let go by the school system where I worked for the past 21 years. The letter that I received said it was due to the budget constrictions. I have applied for another job within the school system. I hope to hear something from this job soon.

The school that I worked at is Southside-Ashpole Elementary School. I worked at that school for 19 years. I enjoyed working with the children and the parents of the community. I hope that if any other assistants that have lost your job that you find a job very soon. As a member of NCATA, I have held the office of District 4 Parliamentarian, Recording Secretary, and President. In my local association: Robeson Association of Teacher Assistants, I have held the office of President for two (2) terms and various other positions that each President appointed me to.

I hope that everyone of the Teacher Assistants that have been "RIFFED" will continue their membership with the North Carolina Association of Teacher Assistants, because it will not only benefit those that are still employed, everyone will still be able to attend the annual conference and see their many FRIENDS that they have met over the many years as a member of a very successful and professional organization.

EDITOR'S NOTE: We are pleased to report that Keith has obtained another job with the school system. Elections for a new District 4 president will be held soon.

2012 Membership Forms are now available on www.teacherassistants.org

NCATA Bulletin Board



President's Message

by Judy Brant

Welcome back! It has been a fast summer but I hope you have had time to relax and get a few minutes of me time. Now it is time to get back to work with our children. I have missed them as I know you have.

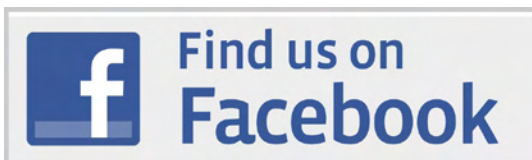
Our goals for the next two years are:

- **Provide our members with the best professional training opportunities.** The better trained a professional is the more in demand they will be in the job market.
- **To strengthen NCATA's role in educational decisions made throughout the state.** Teacher Assistants must let their voices be heard on the local and state levels. I feel we have accomplished this to a certain point on the state level, but now we need for you to shout the message on the local level. It is our job to teach you how to be successful in your county.

In order for our goals to become reality we must have you! Every doctor, lawyer, engineer and career professional belongs to at least one professional association in order to improve their status. YOU are a career professional. This is my 25th year as an assistant and I still need to improve my educational skills and maintain a professional standing. This is not just a job, but my career— I change the lives of children. I am a Teacher Assistant and I am a professional. Where does this put you as a Teacher Assistant? Is it a job or a profession for you? You may say, "I have been cut to fewer hours or I have to take several days this year without pay." I know this hurts; I have lost a week's salary each month. But what I hope you will say is, "I will continue to help change the lives of children, and I will still feel good about myself and I will continue to improve myself." Because NO One can take that from us!

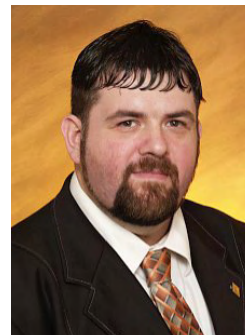
Here is the bottom line— is \$40 dollars worth keeping my self esteem? You bet! Will you scrape up that 11 cents per day it costs to improve yourself personally, professionally, and to make friends that will last a lifetime? I know I will do without for several months to pay that \$40 to keep my association "keeping on," as my pastor puts it. How about YOU?

Please make the commitment and join us today!



Please visit our page and "like" us too!!

It's a great way to stay informed and get support from your NCATA friends all year long!



From your newly-elected 2nd VP

by William K. Johnston, Jr.

Greetings Fellow Teacher Assistants and NCATA Members!

I pray that each of you have been able to get some much-needed rest after the whirlwind of events that we have all been through since the end of school.

My name is William K. Johnston Jr. and I am looking for to serving you as your State Second Vice-President. I would like to thank each of you for electing me to this position, and please know that I stand ready to assist you in any way that I can. Do not hesitate to contact me at any time with your concerns, ideas, and needs. I encourage each once you to get out there and recruit, recruit, recruit new members! Wouldn't it be great to have the largest membership ever this year? I know we can do it after all, "WE ARE NCATA!" With that said, we have a lot of work to do this year -- let's get behind our President, catch the vision, and achieve great things! As we go back to work, get our classrooms ready, and prepare for our new students let's not forget our fellow Teacher Assistants around the state who were laid off due to budget cuts. Take a moment and say a little prayer for them because I am a firm believer that "PRAYER CHANGES THINGS." I look forward to getting to know each of you, and working along with everyone this year. I wish you much success this school year because there is a "STAR" in each of you!

NCATA Bulletin Board

Kamal Watkins North Carolina Teacher Assistant of the Year

According to Luke 12:48, "To whom much is given, much is required." I am humbly grateful to be selected as Teacher Assistant of the Year for one of the leading states in the field of education. This honor and privilege has been a rewarding experience that I do not take lightly. We, the members of NCATA and all teacher assistants across our great state, collectively impact the future one child at a time.

Never before has our role in educating our future, our students, been so crucial. We have to take very seriously the responsibility of meeting each child's academic, physical, social and emotional needs. An investment in human capital will be the only guarantee for a brighter tomorrow, which leads to a brighter future for our children.

No significant learning occurs unless there is a significant relationship. As teacher assistants, our role is very unique in that we have the opportunity to impact lives. We will never realize the full reality of our role in the lives of the children we nurture and teach.

As we return to school this fall, let us be reminded of the following poem:

*One Hundred Years from now
It will not matter
what kind of car I drove,
What kind of house I lived in,
how much money was in my bank account
nor what my clothes looked like.
But the world may be a better place because
I was important in the life of a child.*

Have a wonderful school year, always do your best, and remember that we truly make a difference. We change the world!



NCATA Bulletin Board

FALL Announcements

Student Scholarships

If you are an NCATA member in good standing with a son or daughter heading to college, consider applying for one of our scholarships. [Scholarship packets are available online](#) and in the districts beginning mid-September. Please read and follow all directions carefully. Applications must be complete to be considered by the E.H.R. Committee. Applications are due NO LATER THAN February 10, 2012.

2011 Scholarship Winners

Congratulations to the following students (and children of NCATA members) who received scholarships from NCATA: Tireka Brooks, District 5 - Lindsay Hankins, District 2 - Ericka S. Merriweather, District 6 - Sarah Brown, District 7 - Shakierah Clark, District 3 - Ronald A. Hammitt, III, District 7 - Kenneth Meroney, District 4

Teacher Assistant Of The Year

NCATA's Teacher Assistant of the Year is selected from the winners of the eight district TAOY competition, who come from individual schools or local associations. If you have questions about your local TAOY selection process, ask your local teacher assistant association president for details. District presidents and officers should have information regarding the schedule for the District TAOY process. For consideration as state TAOY, nominees must:

- Be a member of NCATA for two consecutive years PRIOR to nomination.
- Be employed as Assistant for minimum of two years.
- Be active in NCATA (shows interest and attends meetings of the Association - Local, District, and State).
- Submit a portfolio following NCATA's guidelines.

For additional information, visit the [TAOY page](#) on [www.teacherassistants.org](#) or contact Judy Barnes, E.H.R. Chairperson, at jbarnes@teacherassistants.org.

2011 Teacher Assistant of the Year

2011-12 NCATA TAOY
District 4 – Kamal Watkins

2011-12 District TAOYs
District 1 – Felicia Williams
District 2 – Connie Kennedy
District 3 – Bessie Richardson
District 5 – Judy Barnes, TAOY Runner-Up
District 6 – Leigh Berry
District 7 – Anita Wilkinson

Mark Your Calendar!

- ❑ **December 31**
Deadlines for Membership Dues & PDP Applications
- ❑ **Mid-January, 2012**
Conference Early Bird Registration opens
- ❑ **February 10, 2012**
E.H.R. Scholarship Packets due; District TAOY names to E.H.R.
- ❑ **February 24-25, 2012**
E.H.R. TAOY Interviews
- ❑ **May 3-6, 2012**
NCATA 30th Annual Conference

Membership – Please Pay Your Dues on Time

NCATA asks that members pay in advance of the upcoming membership year. Our deadline for dues collection has always been December 31st, but hundreds of members wait until after the membership year begins to pay their dues. Paying dues prior to the end of the year really helps NCATA as we work to pay our bills and provide the important programs and services upon which our members rely. Remember, there is a \$5 late fee added to dues paid after December 31, 2011. Please do your part and make every effort to [pay your dues](#) in a timely manner!

Attention Charlotte-Mecklenburg Members!

Due to changes in the CMS payroll system, Charlotte-Mecklenburg NCATA members who participate in the dues authorization (or payroll deduction) program will NO longer send their membership enrollment forms to the CMS payroll office. Instead, they should send their completed form to the NCATA office. We'll take care of notifying CMS payroll that they would like to participate in dues authorization. In other words, CMS NCATA members should complete their membership forms and turn them in to the NCATA office without going through CMS payroll. We have created a special CMS Members Only form for their use, which can be found on the [Documents page](#) of [www.teacherassistants.org](#).

NCATA Bulletin Board

Visit the District section of our website for updates all year long!

District Updates



District 1

The most important statement I can make to you at this time is, "It's praying time!" If you have never prayed before, now's the time. We must continue to ask God to bless and keep those who have lost their jobs. Then give Him the glory and thanks for allowing others to still have a job! By now, school is in full gear and you are blazing the trail in education using those great techniques and ideas you learned at conference this year. Keep up the good work! As a District you have responded successfully when asked to help with fund raisers whether for the state or the district. Thank you! The boys at the orphanage in Haiti have a few extra t-shirts and flip flops, thanks to you! Your generosity is to be commended. While you continue to support NCATA, it is an honor and a pleasure to be representing District 1 as President for 2011-2013. Also on your BOD are Victoria Hampton-Vice President, April Stillings-Secretary, Evelyn Williams-Corresponding Secretary- Angela Freeman -Treasurer, Jeanette Collins-Parliamentarian, Dedra Clegg-Historian & Judy Moore-Chaplain. Legislative Committee Chair-Melody Sawyer, we all thank you all for your support! At the time this article was submitted chairs for PDP & EHR were vacant. Remember, there is no I in team, but there is always a TA in the District 1 Team, and Together We Can Achieve More!

Our condolences to April Stillings of Beaufort County, she lost her grandmother Mrs. Gertrude Gergely.

Lateefah White, District 1 President



District 2

Welcome back to another adventurous school year. I hope everyone had a great summer.

Thank you to all who helped in registration at conference this past year. It takes good people to make a great team. It takes team

work to get the job done.

It is time once again to take pride in yourself, your job, and NCATA. Your membership is so very important for the support of our organization. Remember, NCATA is for you! Teacher Assistants in North Carolina.

A huge thank you goes out to Susan Robinson Brigman, District 2 Secretary. She has added us to face book! Now we can go to our face book page and get the latest on what is happening in our district, due dates, and upcoming meetings.

I look forward to working another 2 year term with District 2. Our main focus will be membership. If you have any ideas for

the upcoming year on membership or activities, please call me or email me. See you soon at our first district meeting.

Theresa Rhodes, District 2 President

District 3

Hello! I like to introduce myself. I am Chris Brown, your new President for District 3. I hope everyone enjoyed a much-needed summer break. Last year was a big change for Teacher Assistants. But this year is the year for "A New Beginning!" So come aboard and join NCATA, District 3 and your local organization, and make a big impact in your town, county, and state. We will have our first District 3 meeting on Saturday, Sept 24, 2011 at 10:00 am in the Smithfield, NC library. There are some positions needed to be filled within District 3, specifically Assistant Secretary. If you are interested or you know of someone that would be interested in being nominated for this position, please contact me at: cbrown@teacherassistants.org. Stay the course and be encouraged! Because something "new" is about to happen!

Chris Brown, District 3 President "I'm here for you"



District 4

I hope that all have had a restful summer and are ready to start back to work. I know that some school systems have had to make some unpopular decisions regarding Teacher Assistants employed in their systems. There will be a meeting of District 4 Executive Board

and County Presidents on Saturday August 20, 2011 at Sammie's Restuarant in Hope Mills, N.C. The meeting will start at 11:00 a.m. I look forward to seeing all County Presidents and the Executive Board at this meeting. Plans are still be made for District 4 Mini-Conference, as soon as this information is complete, it will be distributed to your County President so they can get it to you. Once again let us have a wonderful SCHOOL YEAR and I also want to thank you for all that you do for the STUDENTS of North Carolina.

Keith Jacobs, District 4 President

NCATA Bulletin Board



District 5

Wow, school is back in session, and we are hard at work making sure the children are getting a great education. Yes, it is me, Jennifer Tysinger, writing your District 5 newsletter article. Unfortunately, we have had a difficult time finding a President and a Vice President

for our district. I know there are many talented individuals who could take on this task, but are apprehensive. District 5 needs two ladies or gentlemen who are willing to step up and take on these jobs. I understand that we all are very busy, but we must find someone to fill these positions if our district is going to grow and succeed. I, as well as your present 2011 2013 District 5 officers, are more than willing to offer our help and support in this endeavor. Please contact me as soon as possible if you are willing to serve as District 5 President or Vice President. We need Ayou@! As you know, I am unable to serve as your president, but I refuse to let all the years of hard work that others have put forth to go down without a fight. Information concerning our next District 5 meeting will be coming your way soon.

Jennifer Tysinger, District 5 President

District 6

Welcome Back! I hope you enjoyed your summer vacation! I am very excited about this year as we prepare for a new and exciting year of serving the schools and the children. The goal this year is 100% participation, and 100% membership, both at the local and state level. We can achieve this with the support of local presidents, and state officers. District 6 had their meeting of newly elected officers on July 13, 2011 in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Below are the plans and goals for the new school year:

- Increase membership
- Our 22nd annual Motivational Rally will be held on Saturday October 15, 2011. Two workshops will be presented at this time that will also allow you to earn credits toward your P.D.P.
- Two fundraisers are scheduled to assist/add to our scholarship fund.
- There are plans for a Christmas fellowship.

I am excited to serve as the new District 6 President, and even more excited to be working with each of you! It's going to be a fantastic year!

Leah Carr, District 6 President

Condolences

D6 – Helen Collins – mother passed away – March

D4 – Keith Jacobs – grandmother passed away

D4 – Robeson County lost TA Linda Chavis



District 7

Welcome back!! I hope everyone has had a restful summer break. I am excited to say that plans for a meeting in the month of August are already in the works. We are also looking to have a meeting in October for our Mini Conference. I will have more details on

these meeting as things are finalized. I am excited and looking forward to meeting and working with each of you. I know that as always some of you may have had some concerns for your positions in the last few weeks. I am just so happy that you are with us again and ready to get to work as our TEAM gets started for the new school year of 2011 2012. And if you are like I am, you are excited to meet your new students and getting to know them.

I would like to say thank you to our TEAM officers for stepping up to the plate and being ready to help in the next two years. We have Tammie Rufty in Iredell County as our secretary, Dawn Bradley from Catawba County will continue as our treasurer, our Historian/Parl. is Sandra White who is also in Catawba County, and Andrea Cranfill is our Vice President and she is here with me in Davie County.

Please continue to watch for further e mails about the opportunity to get together in the next few weeks. I look forward to seeing each of you over the next few months.

Marjorie Moore, District 7 President



District 8

I hope you had a terrific summer break and are ready to get back into the swing of things! District 8's theme this year is TOGETHER WE CAN!

District 8 has it's first meeting on August 27, 2011. We have much to discuss at this transitional meeting, with new District 8 officers and county Presidents. We will be presenting the new bylaws to our District officers, presidents and members that attend this meeting.

District 8 will have two mini conferences this year (in October and March), where you can earn 3 CEU credits at each event.

I want to thank everyone that helped at conference. It takes team work to get the job done, and remember "There in no I in TEAM, but there is a TA in TEAM".

You will get an email to remind you of the upcoming events and meetings, also you can retrieve the information for the meetings from the District 8 link on the NCATA website. If you have questions or need to contact me, please feel free to do so.

I'm looking forward to seeing you at the District 8 meetings and mini conferences! Thank you again for being a part of the NCATA District 8 TEAM!

Amanda Grant, District 8 President

NCATA Bulletin Board

Legislative Report

by Melinda Zarate

This has been a very difficult legislative year for teacher assistants as well as many other school employees. Our association began informing members back in November that teacher assistant positions would be in the forefront of possible budget cuts. Worst cut scenarios included almost 14,000 teacher assistants losing their positions. Our members responded in force with each new alert! We successfully spread the word to our family members, our friends, the parents, and other staff members that we needed their help in our fight. Our lobbyists, Joanne Stevens and Susan Harrison, worked diligently in Raleigh explaining to the legislators how the proposed TA cuts would be detrimental to our schools and our students.

The North Carolina General Assembly restored teacher assistant funding in the state budget but increased the amount of the discretionary reductions for the school systems. Our school systems now have to choose what/where/who to cut from the money they receive from the state to meet that budget reduction—that is, the reductions are at the “discretion” of the local school systems.

We know there have been cuts to teacher assistant positions around the state as a result of the discretionary reduction but generally the numbers are not being clearly stated and publicized. We DO believe that your response to NCATA’s legislative alerts made a difference in the final North Carolina budget for 2011–2013 but we are still uncertain as to the total impact of the discretionary reduction on our positions.

Thank you, NCATA members, for your hard work this year! Thank you for not giving up even when our spirits were down and the situation seemed so hopeless. I wish I could assure you that we are now “out of the woods” but that is not the case. This fight will continue and we must continue to stand together for our profession and our students’ future!



PDP Report

by Billie Highland

The summer seems to have flown by. I hope it was enjoyable and relaxing. Now it’s time to start a new school year. It’s also time to start working on your PDP for the upcoming year.

A PDP is your Personal Development Plan (did you know that the State helped our Association form our PDP?). You can go to our web site www.teacherassistant.org, review the [information about the PDP program](#), print a certificate of completion form, and download a PDP booklet and application if necessary so you can have it on hand. Take a copy of your certificate of completion form to every workshop you attend, get it signed and file it. This will help you accumulate the hours needed to receive your PDP at whatever level you choose. There are several levels in your PDP booklet for which you can apply. Choose the right level for you. PLEASE follow the instructions given carefully so it can be processed right away. When sending in your paper work PLEASE DO NOT SEND IN ORIGINAL PAPERS. Make sure all certificate of completion forms are hand-signed by the presenter with beginning and ending dates. We will not accept forms that do not have this. Education History Reports from your County Office must also have dates and a hand-written signature with title (usually these are signed by your principal).

It is imperative now more than ever that we show our school officials and State officials that we are bettering ourselves in order to continue serving our students and that we are continuing to stay Highly Qualified.

Your PDP Committee is a committee of nine people. We meet twice a year and review PDP folders. Our first meeting is in November and our second meeting is in February. Please get your PDP turned in by December 31st, so you can receive your PDP certification at Conference and so that no late fee will apply.

I hope your school year is as awesome as you are. Let’s get started on those PDP’s. If you have any questions feel free to call me. I’ll be more than happy to help in any way I possibly can.



NCATA Bulletin Board

Conference Evaluation

by Dan Holloman, Executive Director for Human Resources and Operations, Person County Schools

Earlier last year, I had agreed to serve as the conference evaluator for the North Carolina Association of Teacher Assistants Conference in Greensboro. It was a busy time of the year for me in Human Resources but I had committed to serve as the conference evaluator. Given recent budget cuts, I feared the conference would become focused on negatives.

Instead, I walked into a hotel with 800 plus adults communicating, collaborating, networking, and learning in an exciting, engaging, and interactive environment. Let me say that this was one of the best conferences I have ever attended!

The theme of the Conference was Blazing New Trails in Education and I felt as if I was at a "rodeo." There were no dull moments. The presenters were incredible and topics were totally on target. In a society where most think teacher assistants take students to the restroom, cafeteria, playground, maintain discipline in the classroom, clean up after the students, check papers — I say forget this perception. The conference attendees I met and observed exemplified the title, Instructional Assistants. The sessions were all about instruction and how those attending could refine and improve on their craft. In addition, the participants were learning how to improve student learning and achievement utilizing a multitude of strategies.

Although budget cuts were potentially going to mean the loss of many teacher assistants throughout the State, there was a unifying force at this conference. This did not become the underlying conversation but the conversations remained on improving what these people do daily — working with children and how they impact students and instruction.

During the conference, I witnessed engagement in the learning process. Curriculum integration was a recurring theme in many of the sessions. No one was going to leave without resources that could be used upon returning to the classroom. Learning was not only occurring in the sessions but through the networking of colleagues from Mantero to Murphy. There was a real sense of purpose among the attendees and I felt I was in an incredibly inspirational environment.

My being at this conference gave me a greater appreciation for the work of teacher assistants. They are true trailblazers. If you have never attended the conference or if you have attended every year, don't miss out on this opportunity. It will forever change you as an educator.

I hope this school year is the best you have ever had!



Conference Memories

More photos available at
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