

2023

Letter from MCTE's President-Elect: Where We Go From Here

Carrie Mattern

Michigan Council of Teachers of English

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.gvsu.edu/lajm>

Recommended Citation

Mattern, Carrie (2023) "Letter from MCTE's President-Elect: Where We Go From Here," *Language Arts Journal of Michigan*: Vol. 38: Iss. 1, Article 4.

Available at: <https://doi.org/10.9707/2168-149X.2379>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by ScholarWorks@GVSU. It has been accepted for inclusion in Language Arts Journal of Michigan by an authorized editor of ScholarWorks@GVSU. For more information, please contact scholarworks@gvsu.edu.

LETTER FROM MCTE'S PRESIDENT-ELECT

Where We Go From Here

Our 100th Anniversary Conference, Where Do We Go From Here?, had clear answers from the very start.

We go into the arms of one another for three years (seemingly a lifetime) worth of hugs.

We go to our aunties and women ancestors through rematriation as Melissa Isaac taught us.

We go to our stories through memories, thoughts, words, and prayers feeding the fires our fathers stoked as Angeline Bouley shared with us.

We go beyond interdisciplinary to integration in our communal classrooms where Semaj Brown reminded us what Lauryn Hill sang about so long ago; “everything is everything,” stemming from poetry that is a second shared language.

We go to timeless connections with our neighbors in Windsor and our collegiate roommates as Christopher Paul Curtis shared so graciously with us.

Michigan educators: I am deeply humbled and grateful for the work you continue to do in and out of your classrooms for Michigan students and colleagues. Thank you so much for attending the Centennial Celebration of the Michigan Council of Teachers of English conference, *Where Do We Go From Here? Chaos to Community*. I hope you took away powerful strategies, wonderings, and observations that could directly impact you, your students, colleagues, and communities. As we continue to build community and return back to spaces where voices are both uplifted and erased, I ask us again to lean into the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. whose work inspired this conference: “...we must walk on in the days ahead with an audacious faith in the future.”

We have been through years of chaos and multitudinous layers of challenges, and those won't end, but consider how the MCTE community that surrounds you, how people seated with you at your Big 10 table, folx you met in the hallway trying to find Michigamme, names you wrote down in your notebook to start President Zellner's annual meeting, or perhaps those in your afternoon affinity spaces, will sustain you moving forward.

We are grateful and humbled by learning from Michigan educators who are exhausted- yet sick of the status quo, educators who have stories to tell and seek justice, and educators who have been unheard, sometimes even in their own districts. Let us take their messages, strategies, and stories with us moving forward.

This is the complete answer to Dr. King's call; where we go from here. We continue to move forward together building a stronger MCTE community that sustains one another.

And the marathon will continue next fall with Vice President Jessyca Mathew's theme inspired by Nipsey Hussle.

In solidarity and gratitude,

Carrie Mattern, MCTE President-Elect

