

A message from the president

by Janet Kay Regge

Welcome Fall!

In Autumn 2016, some routines have become traditional while we are also experiencing dramatic change.

This is always a special time of year for educators and students as we begin a fresh start to the school year. Many processes are the same; teachers and professors begin preparing classrooms in August and students arrive in late August or early September, meetings begin, athletic and music practices start, assessments are given, Yom Kippur, Halloween, daylight saving starts.

This Fall while those same things have occurred there are significant events that are different. It is an important and interesting election year with exaggerated focus and media attention. Racial issues that have often set in the background and lay dormant are entering into conversations and onto campuses. Protests from affluent professional athletes to city neighborhoods and our middle school students are all taking action about racial injustice. Amidst all of our routines and consistencies there are community and societal transformations happening.

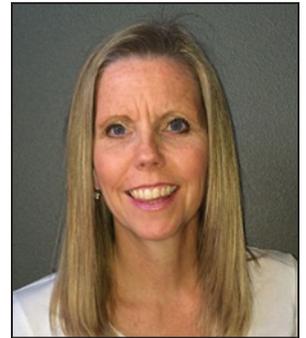
We are witnessing and experiencing this change as an international organization, ASCD has a new leader, Executive Director, Deb Delisle who is leading us in a new and different fashion. The ASCD International conference is

taking on a changed structure along with a new title, *Empower 17- The Conference for Every Educator*. Within our Washington State Affiliate we are transforming also. We have redesigned our state wide Fall conference specifically for teachers. Understanding that teachers have the closest connection to students we have put an intentional focus on supporting teacher learning through the lens of the whole child.

Our board of directors represents every region in our state. Listening to the needs of educators in order to support students is a focus for our organization. We look forward to serving you on your journey and through professional learning. Whether your learning is in person at one of our state conferences or institutes, at the international level at Empower 17 and in reading this journal we hope we are contributing to your learning expedition.

As a teacher who specializes and has a love for literacy, I am excited to share this journal with you. It takes the word literacy to a new level, which I hope challenges your thinking and provides for new insight to the definition of literacy.

ELA Literacy will continue as a constant and maybe a tradition but hopefully this *Curriculum in Context* issue will challenge and change your view of the definition of Comprehensive Literacy.



In addition to serving as WSASCD President, Janet Regge is an Instructional Facilitator with the Renton School District.



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