

S P R I N G 2 0 1 4

# NEATE NEWS

New England Association of Teachers of English

## NEATE to Balance “Passion” and “Practice” at Fall Conference

After taking a year off because the 2013 National Council of Teachers of English Annual Convention was in Boston, NEATE’s Annual Conference will return to the Holiday Inn in Mansfield, Mass., October 24-25, 2014. The conference theme is Passion and Practice: Building a Balanced Culture of Literacy in Our Schools.



**Erik Palmer**

Headlining the conference will be two speakers known for bringing passion to their practice. Erik Palmer, author of *Well Spoken: Teaching Speaking to All Students* (Stenhouse, 2011), *Digitally Speaking: How to Improve Student Presentations with Technology* (Stenhouse, 2012), *Teaching the Core Skills of Listening & Speaking* (ASCD, 2014), will speak at the Friday luncheon courtesy of Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. Palmer, who served as a consultant for HMH’s new English Language Arts program, *Collections*, will also present a workshop on Friday.

Saturday’s speaker will be Barry Lane, author and co-author of numerous books on writing, including *But How Do You Teach Writing? A Simple Guide for All Teachers* (Scholastic, 2008), *The Reviser’s Toolbox* (Discover Writing Press, 1999), and *After “The End”: Teaching and Learning Creative Revision* (Heinemann, 1992). Lane’s talk, “Rigor without the Mortis: Writing and Laughing Across the Curriculum,” will be followed by a workshop on teaching writing.

Books by both authors will be available, and they will sign copies after their keynotes. Other books recommended by conference presenters will be on sale throughout the conference by Books on the Square.

The conference will include 25 interactive workshops, including strands on teaching writing, reading, speaking, and technology with passion and creative practices that support implementation of the Common Core State Standards. Two sessions—a book club meeting and a writing workshop—will nourish teachers’ own passion for the written word in the belief that teachers who read and write are the best teachers of reading and writing. Other sessions will provide support structures for teacher leaders and new teachers.

Popular elements of past NEATE conferences will return this year, some with new features. These include a session of readings by the finalists for New England Poet of the Year, a raffle to support classroom mini-grants that will be awarded at the conference, a free wine-and-cheese reception on Friday afternoon, and, of course, the exhibit hall with representatives from publishers and other education vendors. The Friday luncheon will also include presentation of the Ann Garland West and Marian Gleason teaching awards, for new and experienced

teachers respectively. A new event this year will be an optional Friday night dinner to honor the recipient of the Charles Swain Thomas Award, which is given annually for distinguished service to NEATE.

Look for an e-postcard in mid-June with a complete listing of conference workshops. Registration is available online now with a \$15 early bird discount at <http://neate.org/page/conference-registration>



Barry Lane

## Widen Your Practice!

### From the Nominating Committee

As your school year is winding down, take a few minutes to think about taking on a more active role in the profession. The New England Association of Teachers of English (NEATE) is looking for people to join our board.

Are you interested in

- Becoming an educational leader?
- Building your professional learning network?
- Shaping the conversation around local and national educational issues (assessment, Common Core, best practices)?

If so, consider running for a position on the board of the oldest professional teacher organization in America. Please e-mail your resume and a brief statement about why you want to join the board to

Michelle Eaton at [michelle.a.eaton@gmail.com](mailto:michelle.a.eaton@gmail.com). Please respond no later than June 15, 2014. If you have questions, please visit [neate.org](http://neate.org), like us on Facebook or email Michelle at [michelle.a.eaton@gmail.com](mailto:michelle.a.eaton@gmail.com).

### Improve MA’s Environment with the Text of a Poem

MassPoetry has launched an [IndieGoGo](http://IndieGoGo) campaign to raise money to replace ads on the MBTA with poetry.

Donors can choose from an assortment of thank-you’s, ranging from key chains to mugs to t-shirts and more. Those who donate \$50 or more can nominate a poem.

Find more information at [masspoetry.org](http://masspoetry.org).

## NEATE 2014 Poetry Competition

Visit the NEATE website and click on the poetry tab for information about this year's edition of the annual poetry competition—general information, entry form, deadline: [Link](#) (CTRL + LINK)

## Turnaround Teacher Teams

Teach Plus and the T3 Initiative are partnering with three Massachusetts school districts (Boston, Holyoke, and Fall River) to recruit and support teacher leaders to work in our partner turnaround schools. It's a unique leadership opportunity for teachers, and the program has already helped to drive school-wide student improvement in our first partner schools.

For more information about the T3 Initiative, please visit our website: [www.t3teachers.org](http://www.t3teachers.org)

This message comes from Jamie Kallestad of the Initiative.

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## Around New England

The Vermont Council of Teachers of English Language Arts held its annual Teachers Who Write Conference at the Common Ground facility in Starksboro on May 2. In a departure from previous years, the conference offered three day-long workshops centering on teachers' own writing: poetry, with Kerrin McCadden; nonfiction, with David Schein; and fiction, with Tom Paine (UNH; check out his publications). On Oct. 31, 2014, VCTELA will co-sponsor, with the Green Mountain Writing Project, the annual Joy of Writing Conference on the UVM campus. May 1, 2015, is the date for the next TWW conference.

Matt Schlein, President,  
[willowellfoundation@earthlink.com](mailto:willowellfoundation@earthlink.com)

## Harvard Offers Opportunities for MS and HS Journalism

The National Journalism Awards is a new initiative that seeks to collect and recognize superb examples of high school journalism from across the nation. Offering a variety of categories from Best Newspaper Overall to Best Sports Story, the Awards offer a unique opportunity for high school newspapers to receive both comments and critique on their best material. The Harvard Crimson also has other journalism initiatives for both middle and high school students in the New England area.

Contact Patrick Liu, Awards Director and Publishing Manager, The Harvard Crimson, the daily newspaper of Harvard and the Cambridge area.



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## Changing the Ways We Respond to Students

Google "[The Power of Belief](#)," a 10.5-minute TED Talk, for intriguing findings about mindsets and how they relate to the crucial ways we respond to students.



The May 17 NEATE Executive Board meeting was held on the U Mass campus in Amherst. A joyful reunion took place during an afternoon tour of the Emily Dickinson House, led by former NEATE President and Amherst HS teacher Jane Price, a member of the guide cohort at the museum. Pictured in the back row are Eric Walker, Plymouth South HS; Liz Gonsalves, Abbington HS; Lynn Leshke, Watchsett HS; and in the front on the left Ann West, Pinkerton Academy; and Jane.