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**Register for NDCTE Summer Conference, July 19-20, 2022: <http://www.ndcte.org/>**

**Cost: \$155 prior to July 1; \$185 after July 1**

**\$65 for teachers who have just completed their first year and pre-service teachers and students**

**New this year: The first 12 pre-service teachers to register receive a free conference!**

**Keynote Speakers:**

- Lindsay Illich & Melissa Alter Smith, authors of *Teach Living Poets* - <https://teachlivingpoets.com/> NCTE Co-Sponsored Speakers
- Poet Tanaya Winder - *Why Storms are Named After People and Bullets Remain Nameless and Words Like Love*
- <https://tanayawinder.com/>
- Dave Stuart Jr., author of *These 6 Things: How to Focus Your Teaching on What Matters Most* – [www.davestuartjr.com](http://www.davestuartjr.com)

From the President's Pen  
**FLOURISHING**  
and Friendship  
(Alternatively Titled: Giving Future Selves Gifts)



Greetings colleagues,

Some gifts find us. Some gifts we seek out. Some gifts we give ourselves. As the 2021-2022 school year quickly winds down, I invite you to reflect on

the gifts that have found you this school year. Then, I invite you to give future selves gifts: yourself, your colleagues, and your students.

**First, a look back.**

*Gift #1: The Phrase “Long-Term Flourishing”*

The right words at the right time is a gift. I first met the phrase “long-term flourishing” on page five of Dave Stuart Jr.’s book *These 6 Things: How to Focus Your Teaching on What Matters Most*. Dave writes that the *long-term flourishing* of our students is the “ultimate objective” of education. I didn’t know it was the phrase I needed for this school year; we all sometimes need to be reminded of the long-term goal in the midst of short-term deadlines and details. What a gift that phrase has been to have as a guiding reminder. Those words have helped me grow.

*Gift #2: Deep Teacher Friendships*

The right people at the right time is a gift. I first met my friend Elizabeth working at a summer camp in 2006. Little did I know then that in 2008 we would carpool to our job interviews that were nine miles apart. We both accepted those jobs, and then we were roommates for our first three years of teaching. We talked so many things out; we joked we had our own personal PLC. We helped each other grow into our roles as new classroom teachers. What a gift that friendship has been; that friendship has helped me grow. And the longer I teach, the more teacher friends I have. I firmly believe teacher friends are inherently tied to long-term flourishing, for friends are people who want the best for each other, who both give and take in turn. Friends help us grow.

**Second, a look forward.**

*Future Gift #1: Write Letters to Your Future Self*

Take a day to have your students and you write a letter to your future self. Send the gift of the right words at the right time to your future self. One memorable assignment is to have students write letters to their future

selves on graduation; delivering those letters on graduation can produce much joy!

*Future Gift #2: Sign up for the NDCTE 2022 Summer Conference!*

You will find words and teacher friends—gifts in the moment and gifts that keep on giving into the future. The teachers who gather at the NDCTE conference want to grow and want to help others grow as well. Your future self will be richer for it.

As you remember the gifts you’ve been given and gifts you want to give to your future self, may you prioritize long-term flourishing and friendship.

You’ve got this last stretch of the year!

Your friend,

Erika Dyk

NDCTE President

P.S. Only one person has taken me up on the oatmeal chocolate chip cookie recipe. It is a gift I would love to give to you! Email me at [erika.dyk@gmail.com](mailto:erika.dyk@gmail.com) and I will send you the recipe.

## Growth vs. Fixed Mindset: Blossoming out of a Turbulent Winter

By: Nathan Kurtti, Southeast Director

We have all heard of the growth vs. fixed mindset talk. As teachers, we encourage our students to have a positive outlook, and we try to learn and grow from positive and negative experiences around us. We cannot let the difficult times define us, but we can choose how we respond to them.

### How to practice growth mindset self-talk

Growth Mindset What to say:	Fixed Mindset What <i>not</i> to say:
<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="background-color: #e0e0e0; border-radius: 50%; width: 20px; height: 20px; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center; margin-right: 5px;">✓</div> <div style="background-color: #ffe0b2; border-radius: 15px; padding: 10px; width: 90%;"> <p style="text-align: center;">“This task is really hard, because I’m still developing my problem-solving skills in this area!”</p> </div> </div>	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="background-color: #e0e0e0; border-radius: 50%; width: 20px; height: 20px; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center; margin-right: 5px;">✗</div> <div style="background-color: #ffe0b2; border-radius: 15px; padding: 10px; width: 90%;"> <p style="text-align: center;">“I’m finding this task hard because I’m stupid/I’m not naturally good at this sort of thing.”</p> </div> </div>
<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="background-color: #e0e0e0; border-radius: 50%; width: 20px; height: 20px; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center; margin-right: 5px;">✓</div> <div style="background-color: #ffe0b2; border-radius: 15px; padding: 10px; width: 90%;"> <p style="text-align: center;">“I’m not a ‘math person’ — yet! I just need to keep working at it!”</p> </div> </div>	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="background-color: #e0e0e0; border-radius: 50%; width: 20px; height: 20px; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center; margin-right: 5px;">✗</div> <div style="background-color: #ffe0b2; border-radius: 15px; padding: 10px; width: 90%;"> <p style="text-align: center;">“I’m not a ‘math person’. I’d like to be, but it’s just not one of my strengths.”</p> </div> </div>
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<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="background-color: #e0e0e0; border-radius: 50%; width: 20px; height: 20px; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center; margin-right: 5px;">✓</div> <div style="background-color: #ffe0b2; border-radius: 15px; padding: 10px; width: 90%;"> <p style="text-align: center;">“I didn’t do great, but I don’t have to get it perfect this time. I just need to grow my understanding step by step.”</p> </div> </div>	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="background-color: #e0e0e0; border-radius: 50%; width: 20px; height: 20px; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center; margin-right: 5px;">✗</div> <div style="background-color: #ffe0b2; border-radius: 15px; padding: 10px; width: 90%;"> <p style="text-align: center;">“I didn’t do great, but I tried my best. What’s the point in trying again if I didn’t get it perfect this time?”</p> </div> </div>

Based on research and graphics developed by Dr. Carol Dweck. Dweck C. Carol Dweck Revisits the ‘Growth Mindset: Education Week. <https://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2015/09/23/carol-dweck-revisits-the-growth-mindset.html>. Published 2015. Accessed September 25, 2020.


www.mindsethealth.com

After working through COVID-19 and a turbulent winter, teachers are looking forward to a blossoming spring and a bright, sunny summer. During this time of year, teachers and students want the school year to be done and long for summer vacation.

This is not just about having a growth mindset but having a self-care mindset. Just as a plant needs sunshine, water, and other nutrients, we need to care for ourselves. With the amount of work on teachers' plates, this is a reminder to take care of yourself. Till a garden of what makes you happy. Channel what makes you a better teacher and individual.

With NDCTE's 2022 Conference's theme of "Growing Together," I hope you all know how much NDCTE's Board is looking forward to English teachers from around the state of North Dakota not only gathering at our summer conference but garnering the fruits of our labor.

Teachers work so hard throughout the school year, a lot of times with much of our work going unnoticed, but let's "spring" into the new year with a mindset of growing, learning, and becoming our better selves. It is important to center ourselves and become *grounded* in the mindset that makes us most happy and fulfilled.

There's no better mindset to have than a growth mindset of embracing our flaws, mistakes, and imperfections that make us unique.

Just like every snowflake is unique in its own way, so are flowers that blossom out of the ground. Let's tap into the groundwork of what makes us our best selves to become blossoming flowers in the Garden State.

I wish you all the best, and I cannot wait to see you at our summer conference.



## Nominate Colleagues and Students by June 1, 2022!

### NDCTE Teacher of the Year

**Requirement:** Member in good standing

**Submit:** At least one letter of recommendation

<https://forms.gle/KcJLiUtqF4TBx2kc9>

### Linda S. Christenson Literary Scholarship

A \$500 scholarship awarded to an ELA Teacher in 1st or 2nd year

**Requirement:** Must be employed in a North Dakota school

**Submit:** One letter of recommendation from teacher or administrator

<https://forms.gle/jgSX4B6yMNL5iLiv6>

### NDCTE Service to the Profession

**Requirement:** An individual, newspaper, business, or organization that has contributed to NDCTE and/or its membership

**Submit:** One letter of recommendation

<https://forms.gle/6o2JATtQQy8Y1cXu8>

### John Wall Promising Artist \$500 Award

The recipient must have been a junior, senior, or college freshmen during the school year of 2021-2022 while at a North Dakota high school or a ND college/university.

<https://forms.gle/y6FajwduaNGg7LvT8>

Must have interest or plans to pursue a degree in the creative and literary arts

An explication or exposition of the work regardless of the medium

A letter of recommendation from one teacher or administrator

## Writing Opportunities

### Minnesota Northwoods Writers Conference

**Location:** Bemidji, MN, United States

**Event Date:** June 20 – June 26, 2022

**Application Deadline:** *Rolling Admissions*

**Financial Aid Application Deadline:** May 10

**Website:** <http://northwoodswriters.org>  
[writersconference@bemidjistate.edu](mailto:writersconference@bemidjistate.edu)

### Little Mo Incubator Project

The Little Mo Incubator Project is an intensive writing workshop for writers, scholars, and historians to hone and improve their writing while bringing to fruition a 1) research nonfiction project, defined as biography or profile writing, reportage or immersion journalism, cultural history or archival research writing; 2) historical fiction; or 3) memoir. Preference given to projects involving a person, place, or event in North Dakota or region. Other

project subjects and genres considered as space and cohort composition/affinity allow. Two cohorts of 8 writers will be selected via a formal application process. Cohorts will participate in scheduled online workshops, including an orientation day the last Saturday of September, writing workshops every other week from October to March, with a break for December and early January, and a final public reading and individual meeting with an assigned mentor.

**Beginner Incubator** This incubator will start with a “boot camp” model on writing craft (establishing point of view, form, character development, tense, etc.) and will utilize various exercises and prompts for generating writing. The second half of the incubator is a workshop format where participants will submit writing for critique and feedback. The goal is a full draft of a shorter piece (e.g. essay, short story, chapter) rather than a book-length project.

**Advanced Incubator** Apply to this incubator if you have a start on or idea for a book-length project. Each participant will submit 50 pages of writing for one workshop in the fall and again in spring.

## Incubator Instructors

**Debra Marquart** (Iowa State University) is a memoirist, poet, and singer/songwriter. She is the author of six books including *The Horizontal World: Growing Up Wild in the Middle of Nowhere*. Marquart's work has received multiple awards including an NEA Fellowship, a PEN USA Award, a *New York Times* Editors' Choice commendation, and *Elle Magazine's* Elle Lettres Award. The Senior Editor of *Flyway: Journal of Writing & Environment*, Marquart teaches in ISU's interdisciplinary MFA Program in Creative Writing and Environment and in the Stonecoast Low-Residency MFA Program at the University of Southern Maine.

**Tayo Basquiat** (Bismarck State College) is a writer, teacher, adventurer, scavenger, and Wilderness First Responder. He holds an MFA in creative writing from the University of Wyoming, and his work has appeared in *Orion Magazine*, *Intangible*, *Superstition Review*, *Burningword Literary Journal*, *Nasiona*, *Proximity Magazine*, *On Second Thought*, as producer of Wyoming Public Media's "Spoken Words" podcast, and elsewhere.

**Application Fee** (due with submission of application): \$50 (this also makes you a member of HND) Application is free for members (use membership number at checkout).

**Course Fee** \$895 (due upon acceptance of offer of admission)

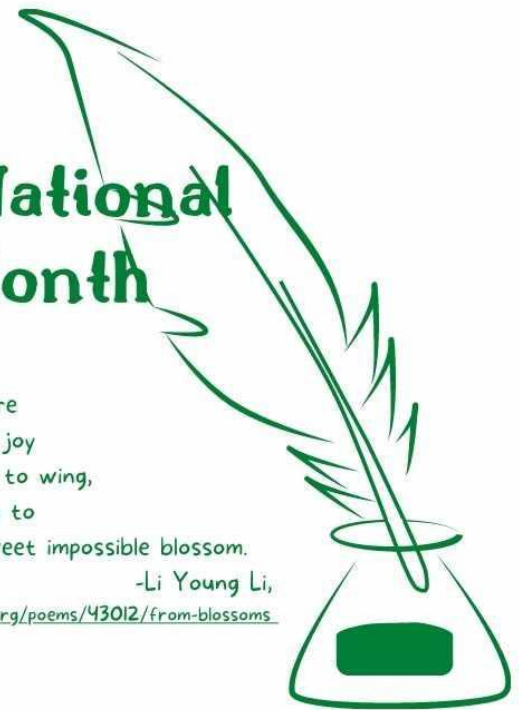
ND Humanities will accept applications in early May. Go to HumanitiesND for more information.

## April is National Poetry Month

There are days we live  
as if death were nowhere  
in the background; from joy  
to joy to joy, from wing to wing,  
from blossom to blossom to  
impossible blossom, to sweet impossible blossom.

-Li Young Li,

<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/43012/from-blossoms>



## Conference Schedule

### Tuesday, July 19<sup>th</sup>

- 12:00-1:00 Registration
- 1:00-1:15 Welcome to the Conference
- 1:15-2:45 Lindsay Illich and Melissa Alter Smith  
Authors of Teach Living Poets  
NCTE Co-Sponsored Speakers
- 3:00-4:00 Breakout Sessions #1
- 4:15-5:15 Write Around the Baymont: PoeTREE stations
- 5:30-6:45 Awards Banquet
- 7:00-8:30 Inspirational Keynote: Tanaya Winder
- 8:30-9:30 Writing Game Night

### Wednesday, July 20<sup>th</sup>

- 8:00-8:45 Discussion with credit liaison, Rebecca Johnson  
*\*Required only for those taking it for credit.*
- 9:00-10:30 Dave Stuart Jr.: "The Will to Learn: How to Cultivate Student Motivation without Driving Anyone Crazy"
- 10:45-11:45 Breakout Sessions #2
- 12:00-12:30 Lesson Gift Exchange
- 12:30-1:30 Business Meeting Lunch
- 1:45-2:45 Breakout Sessions #3
- 2:45-3:15 Conference Wrap-Up

[Register for the Conference Here](#)



## Keynote Speakers

Dave Stuart Jr. is a husband and father who teaches high school in Cedar Springs, MI. His blog, [DaveStuartJr.com](#), is read by over 50,000 educators each month, and his bestselling [These 6 Things: How to Focus Your Teaching on What Matters Most](#) has been cherished by teachers and leaders around the world. Dave is also an accomplished creator of professional development experiences, having spoken on nearly 200 different occasions, both overseas and in 40+ US states.



Tanaya Winder is an author, singer/songwriter, and motivational speaker who comes from an intertribal lineage of Southern Ute, Pyramid Lake Paiute, and Duckwater Shoshone Nations, where she is an enrolled citizen. She is a 2016 National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development “40 Under 40” emerging American Indian leader. Winder co-founded [As/Us: A Space for Women of the World](#), a literary magazine publishing works by BIPOC women.

She holds a BA in English from Stanford University and an MFA in creative writing from the University of New Mexico. Winder’s poetry collections include *Words Like Love* and *Why Storms are Named After People and Bullets Remain Nameless*. Her specialties include youth & women empowerment, healing trauma through art, creative writing workshops, and mental wellness advocacy. Winder’s performances and talks blend storytelling, singing, and spoken word to teach about different expressions of love and “heartwork.”



Melissa Alter Smith is the creator of the Teach Living Poets. She is a National Board Certified high school English teacher and co-author of [Teach Living Poets](#) (NCTE, 2021) and the [Norton Guide to AP Literature: Writing & Skills](#) (W.W. Norton, 2022). She was 2017 District Teacher of the Year and is an NCETA Executive Board member. Melissa is also a co-author of the *Instructor’s Manual and AP Correlation Guide* for the 13th high school edition of *The Norton Introduction to Literature*, and is a member of an advisory board to the Library of Congress’ Poet Laureate Project educational toolkit. Her work is featured on LitHub.com, *The New York Times*, Mind Shift KQED, NCTE’s Council Chronicle, ASCD’s Education Update, and elsewhere. Her work is focused on complicating the canon, supporting teachers, and empowering students through poetry.

Lindsay Illich is a co-author of *Teach Living Poets*, and a professor of writing and the director of the Writing Program at Curry College in Milton, Massachusetts. Her most recent poetry collection, *Fingerspell*, was published by Black Lawrence Press in 2020.





**DIGITAL LITERACY IN THE ELA CLASSROOM SERIES**

**FINDING VOICE AND ENHANCING  
COMPOSING AND SPEAKING  
THROUGH PODCASTING**

**MONDAY, MAY 16 | 5:00-6:30 P.M. ET**



Hosted by **Ewa McGrail**  
and **J. Patrick McGrail** in  
partnership with the  
Assembly on Computers in English



*This workshop reviews podcasting as a meaning-making tool and a way to be heard and to hear others. Participants will explore how podcasting can support developing and improving narrative composing and speaking as well as technical know-how. Participants will have the opportunity to create a podcast of their own. Register [here](#).*

# Summer 2022 Online Professional Development

## NDCTE Growing Together

Instructor: Darcy Bakkegard

A collaboration of Prairie Public and NDCTE

Grow your teaching tool kit in this collaborative yet personalized PD! Focusing on our theme of Making Media Matter, we'll talk about how to READ, USE, and CREATE media in the classroom. From reading videos to creating vlogs, blogs, and podcasts; from designing graphics to analyzing ANY kind of text, we'll explore fundamental skills and tools to enhance your classroom. You'll get ideas and inspiration from other teachers in our FOUR virtual meet-ups, then have supported time to explore resources and create your own lessons in our hands-on labs. You'll leave the course with resources, activities, and lessons ready for the school year. Come grow together.

Teachers will:

- Explore resources to support media literacy in ALL classrooms, K-12, all subjects;
- Gain practical ideas and lessons, engage in hands-on learning, and explore sample projects they can implement in their classrooms;
- Connect with other teachers across the region, fostering collaborative relationships;
- Develop, model, and share media literacy, media creation, and storytelling tools, techniques, and resources;
- APPLY and IMPLEMENT the ideas garnered from the course.

One credit available. June 15-July 20, with completion by July 27

See page 7 of the [NDSU Summer Catalog](#).



*NDCTE Connected* publishes writing from teachers around the state. Have something to say? Send us your thoughts, a best practice, lesson plan, book review, or your stance on a particular topic, and we'll consider it for a special "Reader's Write" series. We like concrete ideas, stories, and reflections. We like tender. We like brave. We like real. Email articles to [ndcteboardmember@gmail.com](mailto:ndcteboardmember@gmail.com).