

SPRING 2024

# THE ECHO

Official Newsletter of SDCTE



## From the President

NICOLE FINNESAND

There is something inherently optimistic about the coming of spring. The warmer temps bring a renewed sense of energy and creativity. I hope this spring you find ways to keep moving forward, to continue exploring new ideas, and to articulate a clear vision for your classroom goals and expectations in the remaining time this year.

As we look forward to warmer weather, I'm excited to plan for summer trips, begin planning my garden, and enjoy more daylight hours.

As SDCTE makes plans for the spring semester and upcoming summer conference, I hope the thoughts of warmer weather bring you hope and excitement. In this Echo, you'll find information about our June SDCTE Annual Conference. I hope you'll join us!



Nicole Finnesand and author Jon Schu

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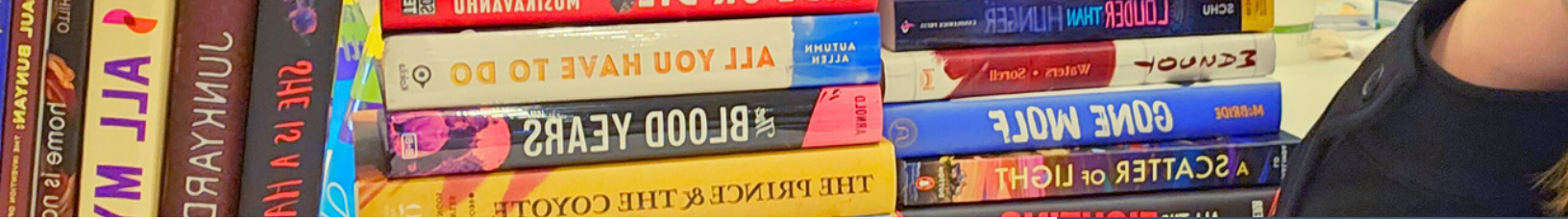
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# NCTE 2023 Recap

## AUTHORS, BOOKS, AND IDEAS GALORE!

A cadre of SD gals found ourselves traveling to Columbus, Ohio, for NCTE in November 2023. SDCTE members Janelle Bakke, Laura O'Connor, Susan Farrell-Poncelet, and Nicole Finnesand made the trip. Here are some of the highlights:



Janelle Bakke, Susan Farrell-Poncelet, Laura O'Connor, and Nicole Finnesand

### What was your favorite memory or highlight from NCTE?

The general sessions with Tom Hanks, Angie Thomas, Jacqueline Woodson, (and the others). It was incredible to see and meet authors such as Gareth Hinds, Ruta Sepetys, Neal Shusterman, Penny Kittle, Kylene Beers, and Bob Probst. The greats were among us in sessions and in the exhibit hall, and it was absolutely amazing! - Laura O'Connor

Collaborating and listening to ideas from around the country. It was so incredible to find myself in line for something and have just really great conversations with total strangers who could relate to each other and bond together. - Nicole Finnesand

### What is something you learned or experienced at NCTE you're going to implement in your classroom (or have already)?

I was apparently hungry the entire time I was there as I was drawn to food-related sessions. Currently my high schoolers are working on food memoirs, finding soul through recipes, and conducting "mise en scene" analysis. They are loving it. - Susan Farrell-Poncelet

Something I saw at NCTE that I am implementing in my classroom is verbalizing grammar structure without text. When we orally talk to one another and add punctuation, it stays in the student's mind. I also want to implement hip-hop poetry.

- Janelle Bakke

### Book recommendation from NCTE or ALAN:

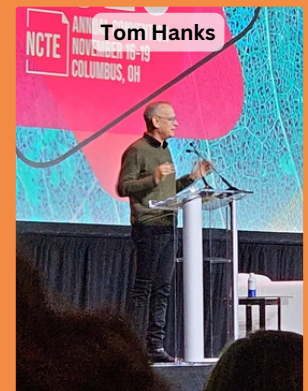
- Enter the Body by Joy McCullough
- All My Rage by Sabaa Tahir
- This Book Won't Burn by Samira Ahmed
- What About Will by Ellen Hopkins
- Those Pink Mountain Nights by Jen Ferguson
- All the Fighting Parts by Hannah V. Sawyerr



Nicole Finnesand, Robert Probst, Kylene Beers, and Laura O'Connor



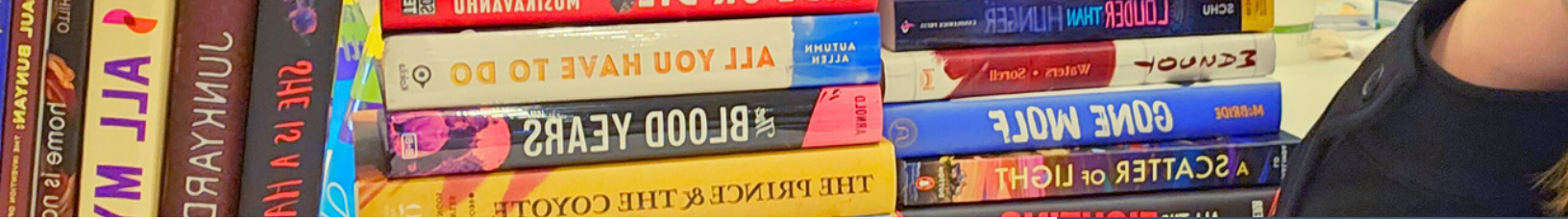
Jacqueline Woodson



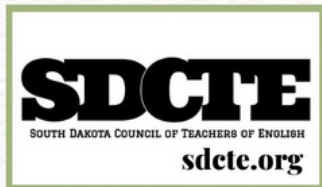
Angie Thomas







# SDCTE 2024 Conference



June 3-4, 2024 - Oacoma, SD

**Renew.**  
**Reimagine.**  
**Rejoice.**

*Growing and thriving in the ELA classroom*

**Early bird rates available until April 5!**

Register to attend conference at:

<https://sdcteecho.eventsmart.com/events/2024-sdcte-annual-conference/>

Or scan the QR code to the right

A block of hotel rooms is available at Arrowwood Cedar Shores until May 3! Don't miss out on \$99/night price!

**Keynote speakers, author of the year, and full schedule will be announced soon!**

**Register  
here**





# Call for Proposals

Contact: Samantha Hettinger, SDCTE VP  
[samantha.hettinger@k12.sd.us](mailto:samantha.hettinger@k12.sd.us)



SDCTE is seeking proposals for conference sessions in a variety of formats:

- Round table session
- Panel presentation
- Individual session (or a session led by 2-3 people)

Our conference theme is “Renew. Reimagine. Rejoice: Growing and Thriving in the ELA Classroom.” Consider presenting a new take on a text, unit, project, or teaching method. Reimagine a way to teach a topic, routine, book, text, etc. What helps students in your class grow and thrive? We are seeking proposals on a variety of topics and for a variety of student levels.

To propose a session, fill out the Google form:

<https://forms.gle/tmXb5gm2mDEGxvMP7>

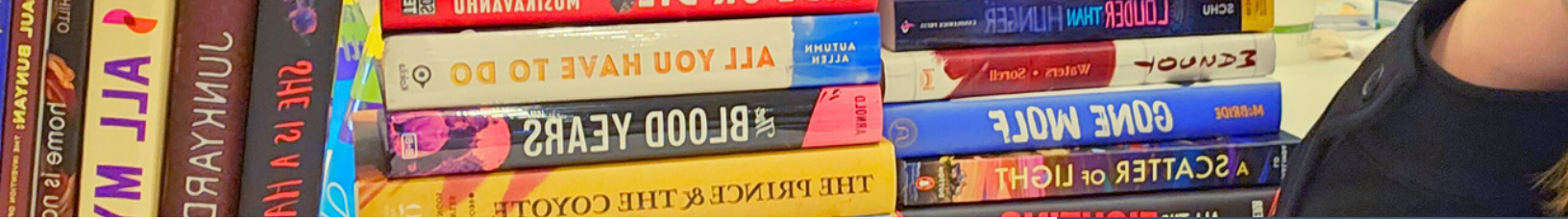
**Proposals due March 22**



## Renew. Reimagine. Rejoice.

*Growing and thriving in the ELA classroom*





# Seeking Nominations

Nominate the leaders in your life! We are seeking nominations for awards for 2024 and beyond.

## Teacher of the Year

SDCTE is committed to honoring outstanding teachers in our state. Those receiving this award should have demonstrated leadership in the classroom and among their peers. Nominees should also be active members of SDCTE.

Nominate a teacher here: <https://sdcte.org/teacher-of-the-year-award/>

## Young Leader Award

The Young Leader Award recognizes teachers in their first 5 years in the classroom. Nominees should be members of SDCTE (they may be in their first year of membership). Young leaders are provided support to attend a NCTE conference.

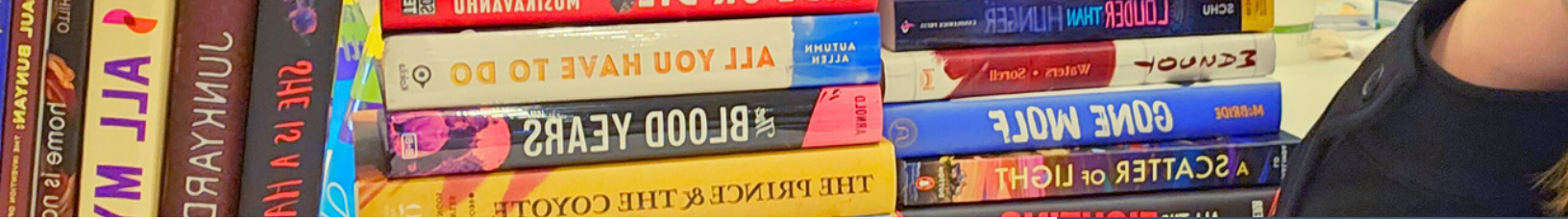
Nominate a teacher here: <https://sdcte.org/young-leader-award/>

## Author of the Year

Each year SDCTE honors an author who has South Dakota ties. Nominees should have one or more pieces of commercially published work that has an impact on the state of South Dakota or is relevant to education.

Nominate an author here: <https://sdcte.org/author-of-the-year-award/>





# Book Grant Opportunities

- **Book Love Foundation grants**

- Classroom Library grants, Book Clubs grants in honor of *Dr. Teri Lesesne*, and (new) Preservice Teachers grants
- “The Book Love Foundation seeks teachers who demonstrate a passion for promoting a hunger for books. These teachers recognize the diversity of every class of readers and they challenge each student to build an independent reading life of increasing depth and joy.”
- Applications due April 1, 2024
- <https://www.booklovefoundation.org/apply>

- **Educators Making a Difference Grants**

- Sponsored by We Need Diverse Books
- Grants of up to \$2000 toward buying diverse titles, hosting diversity-focused student or community events, diversity audits of existing collections, or any other project that supports diverse literature
- Applications opened March 1
- <https://diversebooks.org/programs/educators-making-a-difference-grants/>

- **Hope in a Box book grant**

- Book grants of 25 curated books, curriculum guides, and community support
- Prioritizes rural school recipients
- Features LGBTQ characters and themes
- Educators can choose an elementary, middle, or high school box that includes a range of literary formats, time periods, themes, identities, and genres.
- Applications reviewed each semester (Aug. 15 is next date)
- <https://www.hopeinabox.org/take-action>

## **Other grant opportunities:**

- Sigma Tau Delta Classroom Grants  
(<https://www.english.org/schol-award-grant/grants/classroom.shtml>)
- Dollar General Literacy Initiative  
<https://www.dgliteracy.org/grant-programs/>

## **Low Cost Book Resource:**

- First Book Marketplace (Title I schools/teachers have access to free and low cost materials)  
<https://www.fbmarketplace.org/>





## Upcoming Events

JOIN US FRIDAY, MARCH 15  
**THERE'S ALWAYS  
THIS YEAR**  
ON BASKETBALL AND ASCENSION  
4:00 – 5:00 P.M. ET

Antero Garcia,  
HOST

Hanif Abdurraqib,  
AUTHOR

PHOTO CREDIT: KENDRA BRYANT

NCTE



A keynote speaker from NCTE speaks about his new book.

Visit

<https://ncte.org/rsvp-hanif-abdurraqib/>

for more information or to RSVP. Attendees can get a free copy of his book!

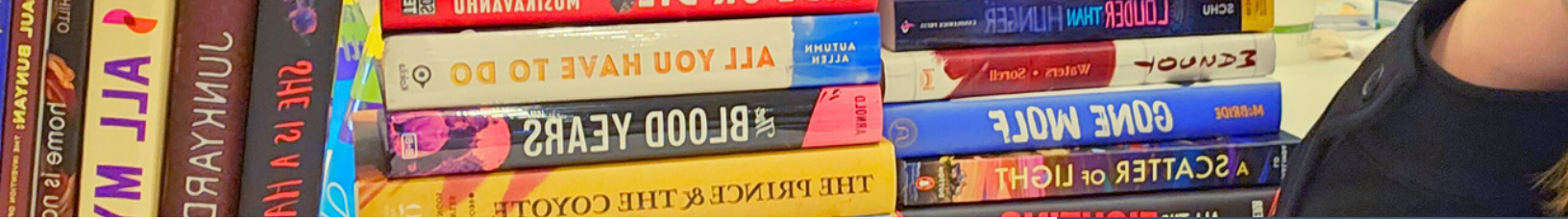
**HEART  
HOPE  
HUMANITY  
2024**

NCTE ANNUAL CONVENTION  
NOVEMBER 21-24  
BOSTON, MA



Save the date:  
NCTE 2024:  
Boston  
November 21-  
21, 2024





## Upcoming Events, cont.

**2024 Summer YOUniversity  
Info and registration**



## Executive Council Members

President: Nicole Finnesand

Past President: Corrine Kallemeyn

Vice President: Sam Hettinger

Treasurer: Susan Farrell-Poncelet

Post-Secondary Liason: Jen Weber, MMU

**Contact us at [sdcte.echo@gmail.com](mailto:sdcte.echo@gmail.com)**



Facebook: [SDCTE](#) ([page](#)) and  
our Community Group page  
SD English Teachers



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registration for events