



May 6, 2019

KGTC President's Letter

Hello fellow friends, supporters, and families of gifted education. We have completed three fantastic Region mini conferences so far – one left to go in June! I hope as your year winds down that you are looking forward to summer and a time of recharging.

I have always said that family comes first in all that we do and I consider myself to be a part of this large family of KGTC members. As a family we laugh together, cry together and grieve together. Unfortunately we have had to grieve recently with the loss of one of our own gifted students. She was killed by a car walking home from school in April and I would ask that you keep this young girl's family in your thoughts and prayers. In addition, one of our own gifted facilitators, who was her teacher for 3 years, was there at the hospital to meet the parents as the ambulance arrived.

We also get to celebrate together as a large family and one of our very own has just completed and defended her dissertation for her Doctorate Degree. Congratulations to KGTC secretary Jessica LaFollette on her accomplishment. We celebrate with you Dr. LaFollette!

The three Region conferences that are completed were very successful and I am truly honored to be such a part of a great organization:

- **Region 6** was held first in Nevada, Missouri as a joint conference with the Gifted Association of Missouri on Friday, April 12, 2019. We heard from the President of GAM, Dr. Connie Phelps, and our guest presenter was Dr. Brandi Klepper. You can't go wrong with Brandi who has dedicated herself to being apart of KGTC whenever needed! Thank you Brad Johnson (Region 6 director) for a great conference.
- Monday, April 22nd 2019 found us at Maize High School for **Region 5's** mini conference and again the guest presenter was Dr. Brandi Klepper. Our Parent Committee chair held a breakout for all attending parents. Breakouts were also held for elementary and high school facilitators. I want to thank Stephanie Rogerson (Region 5 director) for a great conference, which was also her first as chair.
- Last Saturday, April 27th, 2019 we found ourselves in Overland Park, Kansas at KU Edwards Campus for **Region 3's** mini conference hosted by Laura

- Linstra (Region 3 director). We had Dr. Kristina Henry Collins as our presenter and Dr. Brandi Klepper hosted a breakout session.
- Upcoming conference this summer, June 11, for **Region 2** hosted by director Kim Curtis. We are so excited to have Melissa Valenza (KSDE representative) as the presenter - SDE Education Program Consultant and Special Education and Title Services Team.

Thank you to all these Region directors and those who organized and thank you to all who attended. I personally want to thank you for your support of our organization and hoped you found your smaller gatherings in your geography to be valuable and worthwhile.

You won't want to miss this year's 2019 Annual Convention: "**Repowering Gifted Education in Kansas: Identify, Engage & Retain**" Plans are well under way for amazing speakers, new breakout sessions, and NEW 15 minute Creativity Sessions! October 13 & 14 will find us at K-State in Manhattan. Convention chair Kim Curtis has Sunday planned as Family Day planned and it includes a Storytelling Academy for students. Please go to our website (www.kgtc.org) for more information and fliers that can be handed out to parents.

Our organization cannot flourish and grow without you! If you are interested in more information or serving on the board of KGTC please go to the website and fill out an application. Connie Staley conniestaley7@gmail.com, our President-Elect, can answer any questions that you have. We will be electing a new Secretary, Treasurer, and President Elect in October and we need you! There is always room on our committees to serve and we also need a Region 1 and 4 Director. Please consider serving alongside us as we work together for our students.

I again want to thank you for your dedication and commitment to Gifted and I am truly blessed to be a part of this great organization. Please know if you have any questions, concerns, praises or comments to just email me as I will either answer you or find the right individual who knows the answer.

Have a great rest of the school year. Enjoy your summer and I hope you get to spend quality time with family and friends as we gear up for a great end to the year 2019.

Thanks again,

Nancy Thomas