

March 24, 2018

Hello TALE Nominating Committee,

I nominate myself to serve as a TALE At-Large Director for the next two years. I recently became a middle school English teacher after having taught at the high school level for four years. In addition to teaching full time, I am working on my Ed.D. in Literacy at Sam Houston State University.

My vision for education and the promotion of literacy can be traced back to the words of S. I. Hayakawa: "To be able to read and write is to learn to profit by and take part in the greatest human achievements--that which makes all other human achievements possible--namely the pooling of our experiences in great cooperative stores of knowledge." When we teach our students to be literate, we are doing more than teaching them to read and write; we are equipping them with the most fundamental skills that will allow them to be active, informed, and independent adults.

When I was applying for jobs after graduation, I specifically sought out Cristo Rey Jesuit for its mission to serve families of limited economic means by providing the students with rigorous curriculum and real-life work experience through the school's Corporate Work Study Program. I wanted to work in a school where I could help students learn how to "profit by and take part in the greatest human achievements," as S. I. Hayakawa says. Cristo Rey Jesuit, as well as the Cristo Rey Network, have afforded me many formative experiences that make me a perfect fit for being a TALE At-Large Director. In my four years at Cristo Rey Jesuit, I have:

- created the curriculum for a mandatory ninth grade reading course
- created cumulative folders containing Lexile levels, GPA, standardized test scores, and anecdotal records for the Class of 2020
- assisted in the creation of the procedures for our Tier 3 RTI for reading instruction
- worked with 18 ELAR teachers across the national Cristo Rey Network to create and vertically align the English Language Arts curriculum and design our MOC and EOC assessments
- collaborated with outside organizations such as Houston Grand Opera and Writers in the Schools to bring more opportunities to our students
- developed a classroom library featuring authors of color and minority experiences to engage all levels of readers

Although I enjoyed all that I accomplished at Cristo Rey Jesuit, I knew I needed to see education and schooling from a different perspective. Last year, I sought out a school or environment that would push me outside my comfort zone and help me refine my practice as a teacher. In doing so, I ended up at Annunciation Orthodox School, a private k-8 school in Houston, teaching 7th grade English. Annunciation Orthodox School has taught me the importance of involving students' families and the local community in our curriculum.

For the past year, I have acted as TALE's Community Involvement Committee Director. This opportunity continues to be a great pleasure as it allows me to work closely with passionate literacy educators while promoting reading and writing outside the classroom. Together, my committee has added additional resources to our website, replaced our state award with ILA's nationally recognized Exemplary Reading Program award, and has promoted teacher practices through our monthly "Literacy Strategy Spotlights." In addition to working with my committee, I have collaborated with Dr. Kamshia Childs to co-facilitate TALE's first Twitter chat. #TALETalk is something we hope will connect literacy educators across Texas in between conferences.

One of the primary reasons I seek election as a TALE At-Large Director is to facilitate a much-needed conversation between public and private school educators. In our current political climate, public, charter, and private schools are pitted against each other. From my experience as a public school student and my time as a private school educator, I've learned that both systems have a place in our democracy; both systems have strengths and areas of growth; and both systems are filled with passionate educators who want the best for their students. I envision TALE as a forum where educators in all systems can come together to learn best practices and advocate for students.

Thank you for your consideration!

Matthew Panozzo

EDUCATION

Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, TX Ed.D in Literacy	intended completion 2019
University of Houston—Clear Lake, Houston, TX M.S. in Reading	2016
University of St. Thomas, Houston, TX B. A. in Education	2013
Quest for Quality 2013 – Student Teacher Candidate Award Nominee	

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Annunciation Orthodox School, Houston, TX 7th Grade English	2017-Present
Cristo Rey Jesuit, Houston, TX English I, II, IV Collaboratively developed course sequence and curriculum on our campus; Worked with the Cristo Rey Network (Chicago, IL) to develop new standards, create EOC assessments, and vertically aligning curriculum across 27 schools.	2013-2017
Reading I Implemented student portfolios using Lexile levels, essay samples, and anecdotal records Oversaw the literacy instruction of over 100 students and communicated learning objectives for skill mastery while balancing whole class, small group, and individual instruction Developed original curriculum aligned with department goals and collaborated with peers by utilizing Google Suite	2015-2017
Club Sponsor/Committee Member Student Council Class sponsor; Building the Kingdom (Day of Service) committee member; Volunteer Club sponsor; HGO – High School Night trip sponsor	2013-2017

RELATED EXPERIENCE

The Ring Project, Houston, TX Curriculum Consultant , hired by the Houston Grand Opera to formalize the lesson plans from the project for publication Grade Level Coordinator - Sophomores	2017 2014 – 2017
A four-year collaboration with Cristo Rey Jesuit, Houston Grand Opera/HGOco, Writers In The Schools (WITS), and Histrionix to bring Wagner's Ring Cycle to life through literature, creative writing, computer gaming/programming.	
Creative Writing Camp, Houston, TX Teacher/Writer	2014 – 2016
2-week summer writing program hosted by Writers in the Schools and Rice University's School Literacy and Culture. (worked with the following communities: Travis Elementary, Annunciation Orthodox, St. Francis Episcopal Day School)	

PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS

Panozzo, M. (Feb 2018) <i>Opening the Closet of Your Classroom Library: Integrating YA Novels with LGBT Themes and Characters to Create a More Inclusive Classroom.</i> A session presented at 2018 TALE conference to secondary teachers at West Texas A&M University--Canyon, TX	
Panozzo, M. (2017) Book Review: <i>Kids Deserve It!</i> <i>READ: An online journal for literacy educators</i> , 2(4)	
Panozzo, M. (Oct. 2017) <i>Line Breaks and Meaning Making.</i> Pre-service teacher training presented to Student Literacy Chapter at University of Houston—Clear Lake, Houston, TX	
Panozzo, M. (July 2017) <i>Paired Texts Reading and Note-Taking Strategies for Secondary Content Area Teachers.</i> Pre-service teacher training presented to undergraduate students at University of Houston—Clear Lake, Houston, TX.	
Panozzo, M. (Feb 2017) <i>Breaking the Template of Cornell Notes.</i> A session presented at 2017 TALE conference to middle and secondary teachers at Texas A&M University--Corpus Christi, TX	
Panozzo, M. (Feb 2017) <i>Rigorous Differentiated Instruction through Independent Reading.</i> A session presented at 2017 TALE conference to middle and secondary teachers at Texas A&M University--Corpus Christi, TX.	
Panozzo, M. (July 2016). <i>Using Cornell Note-Taking System to Help Students Organize their Learning.</i> Pre-service teacher training presented to undergraduate students at University of Houston--Clear Lake, Houston, TX.	

MEMBERSHIPS

National Council of Teachers of English (June 2017-Present)

Texas Association of Literacy Education (April 2017 - Present) | **Director of Community Involvement Committee**

Barbara Bush Houston Literacy Foundation – Young Professionals Group (May 2016 - Present) | **Service Committee Member**

International Literacy Association (March 2016 - Present)

Houston Writers Guild (July 2015- June 2016)