



President's Message

At our final 2015-2016 TALE Board of Directors' meeting in June, we reflected on the accomplishments of our organization over the past year. It was a record setting year in many ways thanks to the hard work and time invested from our committees, our members, and our officers! A few of our many accomplishments included:

- January 2016: TALE's rapid growth necessitated a fully online membership process, which also enables us to monitor membership trends.
- February 2016: TALE co-hosted the 2016 Literacy Summit with Specialized Literacy Professionals and University of the Incarnate Word. Our two-day annual conference was a huge success with over 300 attendees engaged in professional learning and networking.
- Spring/Summer 2016: Several TALE members have continued to participate actively in the ELAR TEKS review process.

TALE's Community Involvement Committee has also spearheaded several efforts to advance literacy in Texas, including donating several boxes of books and establishing the first Little Free Library in San Antonio. Finally, TALE's Advocacy Development Committee applied for and received the International Literacy Association's Advocacy Award. This award recognized TALE's ongoing efforts to educate about, advocate for, and support the importance of lifelong literacy learning.

TALE members continue to work diligently and already have big plans for the upcoming months! Each TALE committee developed their annual goals, which were all merged into TALE's 2015-2016 Strategic Plan SMART Goals. Also, planning for TALE's annual conference is currently underway! This event will be held at Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi on February 10-11, 2017. Our conference will provide literacy stakeholders with many wonderful opportunities to engage in professional learning and networking. Please mark your calendars and make plans to join us as we support effective literacy instruction for all learners.

As we embark on a new school year, I am keeping this quote by Jack Canfield, originator of the *Chicken Soup for the Soul* series, in mind:

When your dreams include service to others - accomplishing something that contributes to others - it also accelerates the accomplishment of that goal. People want to be part of something that contributes and makes a difference.

You, our TALE members, make all the difference. TALE's mission could not be accomplished without you and your willingness to serve on committees, attend our conferences, and support TALE's efforts. Thank you, thank you, thank you! Together, we will continue to promote literacy that will enhance the lives of all Texas citizens personally, socially and economically.

Robin D. Johnson, Ed.D.
2016-2017 TALE President