

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Millie Davis
800-369-6283, ext. 3624
mdavis@ncte.org

National Council of Teachers of English Announces 2009 Affiliate Excellence Award

The National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) has awarded the 2009 NCTE Affiliate Excellence Award to the Virginia Association of Teachers of English; this is its 3rd year as an award winner. Chris Woods is the Virginia Association of Teachers of English's current president. Virginia Association of Teachers of English is one of 8 recipients of this award.

This award was established in 1996 to honor NCTE affiliates that meet high standards of performance for affiliate programming and that promote improvement in teaching of the English Language Arts.

Qualifications for the award represent standards of excellence to which all NCTE affiliates should aspire. Award winners fulfilled at least eight different criteria for excellent affiliate programming during the school year of application. The required criteria include increasing membership in the affiliate or NCTE, publishing an affiliate communications instrument at least twice a year, conducting at least one professional development program for members, and completing the annual affiliate report to NCTE by the deadline. Additionally, affiliates should achieve accomplishments such as implementing and maintaining a cultural diversity plan, developing a program to encourage new teachers into the profession, participating in an NCTE Affiliate Leadership Meeting, and participating in at least three affiliate-sponsored activities at the NCTE Annual Convention.

Winners of the award include **Colorado Language Arts Society** for their seventh year, **Florida Council of Teachers of English** for their fifth year, **Georgia Council of Teachers of English** for their eighth year, **Michigan Council of Teachers of English** for their fourth year, **Oregon Council of Teachers of English** for their third year, **Texas Council of Teachers of English and Language Arts** for their second year, **Virginia Association of Teachers of English** for their third year, and **West Houston Area Council of Teachers of English** for their seventh year.

At the 2009 NCTE Annual Convention in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, the award winners will be publicly announced as recipients of the NCTE Affiliate Excellence Award during the Affiliate Roundtable Breakfast on November 21, 2009.

For more information about the NCTE Affiliate Excellence Award, see <http://www.ncte.org/affiliates/awards/excellence>.

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The National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE), with 50,000 individual and institutional members worldwide, is dedicated to improving the teaching and learning of English and the language arts at all levels of education. For more information, please visit <http://www.ncte.org>.