



May 6, 2016

Carol Jago

Dear Carol,

Each year CEL completes a lengthy process as we seek to identify one individual who has made truly exceptional contributions to literacy leadership across his/her career. We review many carefully crafted recommendations from colleagues who nominate highly deserving individuals. On behalf of the Conference on English Leadership, I am writing to inform you that you have been selected as the recipient of the CEL Kent Williamson Exemplary Leadership Award. It is truly my pleasure to be the first to say congratulations to you.

Your contributions at the local, regional, national, and international levels stand as a testament to your commitment to literacy leadership and its role in providing excellence in instruction to students at all levels. Among the many acknowledgements of your accomplishments were frequent recognitions of your willingness to present at professional conferences and your prolific contributions to professional materials in our field. In addition, your interest in collaboration has led CEL leaders to describe you as one who epitomizes the heart of CEL – collaborating with others and sharing your knowledge on a regular basis.

As you are probably aware, Anna Roseboro nominated you for this award. She described you as a “generous leader” who is “eager to see others do well.” She noted your tremendous contributions to the profession, serving as a classroom teacher, an education advocate, NCTE President, and co-director of the California Literature Project. Anna also celebrated your fierce commitment to reading, sharing how influential your High School Matters reading lists are and how they “inspire teachers to keep reading for pleasure.” For these reasons and many more, Anna believes you embody the spirit of this award. The Conference on English Leaders wholeheartedly agrees.

Your friend and colleague, Jim Strickland, supported Anna’s nomination as well. In his letter to our awards committee, Jim writes, “Carol is the very definition of a leader. She cares deeply about the profession and is always willing to give her time and energy to the cause.” CEL has benefited directly from your generosity. Your willingness to present and attend our annual convention over the years has ensured our attendees have an enlightening and inspiring experience.

The award will be presented to you during the CEL Annual Convention in Atlanta, Georgia, which will be held November 20 - 22, 2016. We will be in touch with the details about the awards presentation sometime this summer.

Congratulations and best wishes,

Heather D. Rocco
CEL Associate Chair

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