

June 26, 2019

Most Distinguished ALTA Board,

On behalf of ALTA-Arkansas, I would like to thank you for the opportunity given to us to represent our international organization at the 2019 ADE Summit in Hot Springs, Arkansas. The ALTA booth was very vibrant with over 20 of our members volunteering to work shifts throughout the week and over 40 ALTA members from Arkansas, Texas and Louisiana attending sessions for CEUs. Much traffic was created by having members sign-in both morning and afternoon, as well as picking up their CEU certificates at the end of the day. This flourish of activity attracted other conference attendees to the booth to learn more about ALTA. ALTA-Arkansas provided a total of six books that were raffled as door prizes. Of course, conference attendees enjoyed adding their name to a drawing for a chance to win a free book on the science of reading. Raffle winners included education professionals such as an elementary school counselor, a dyslexia specialist for a school district, a couple of elementary classroom teachers, a CALT, and a QI. Speakers for the conference included Louisa Moats, Susan L. Hall, Jan Hasbrouck, Elsa Cardenas-Hagan, Daniel Willingham, William Van Cleave, and David Kilpatrick providing quality CEUs for ALTA members. As a last-minute benefit, organizers of the conference allowed organizations with a booth to make presentations at the Summit. We were afforded the opportunity to present the relationship between dyslexia, CALTs, and ALTA. The presentation was well attended and helped drive more traffic to our booth. We had over 5 individuals stay after the presentation to ask personal questions about ALTA and becoming a CALT. We also had at least this many different individuals who stopped by the booth later in the day seeking more information. Thank you again for allowing us to represent our organization and to help increase knowledge about ALTA.

I would like to take this opportunity to invite all of you to the 2020 ADE Summit, June 15-19 in Hot Springs, AR. The 2020 Summit would be an excellent venue to promote the 2021 ALTA Annual Conference to be hosted in Arkansas. It is critical for ALTA to have a strong presence in Arkansas at this time in history as our membership is rapidly growing. The stronger our presence and continued education of members both new and old, the more likely we will be able to maintain members and grow them into strong ALTA lifelong supporters.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to represent our organization.

Patricia Elkins, M.S.Ed., LDT, CALT
ALTA-Arkansas President