



## Last Letter from the President

As I finish my term, I think I am supposed to reflect on the lessons I have learned, the meaning and honor of this position, and give recommendations for the organization for the future. Let me take care of that.

1. I have learned far too many lessons to list in an email.
2. This position has been an incredible honor for which I am grateful daily.
3. The organization is in great hands with the incoming board and is in no need of my recommendations.

Now, let me say what I really want to say.

### **The Greatest Pleasure of My Presidency Has Been You**

The best experiences for me have been getting out to chapter meetings and of course our national conference to meet first hand you who do the work. You are the ones who love our students to success. You are the ones who take reforms and try to make sense of them. You are the ones who work long hours sometimes with little support, sometimes reading in the national media and national organizations that what you are doing is worthless. And yet still you work. You do

not give up.

You still come to conferences, striving to do better. You still take notes in sessions hoping to glean just one morsel that can improve your pedagogy. Sometimes you sleep two-to-a-bed just to afford a conference. You get up for early sessions and stay late in order to get everything you can out of the experience. You listen. You question. You care.

Your work has been minimized. Some of your jobs have been renamed or your divisions abolished to avoid the stigma that is associated with the marvel that is developmental education. Colleagues have called into question your professional qualifications and/or your abilities. Ironically, you are probably the best teachers on your campuses because you actually teach, study teaching, and care about the holistic development of students.

Plain and simple, you are the organization. This letter should not be about me. It is all about you. Everything this organization is is about you and your students. I appreciate you, I admire you, I wish you the best always, and I hope to see you again somewhere down the road.

With great love, abrazos y besitos,

Robin

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