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A Letter from the President December 2019

*NOSS exists to assist education professionals
in making a positive difference in the lives of students.*

Dear NOSS Members,

As you may have noticed, I have not written the monthly newsletter for the past few months. The reason is that my mother was ill. She was in the hospital from the end of August until November 3rd when she passed away. It was and is a traumatic event for me. I am sure many of you have experienced something similar, and my heart goes out to each and every one of you.

I want to express my gratitude to the NOSS board for allowing me to be with my mother during this time. I cannot explain to you all how much work they took on and handled in my absence. Their support for me and this organization is truly a beautiful thing. You have chosen wisely, my friends. You have a dedicated group of people who have the best interest of the organization in their hearts.

Along with this, I have come to realize – even more than I did – how important this organization is to me. The number of you who reached out to me stunned me. The good wishes sent through email, texts, and sympathy cards have meant more to me than any of you will ever know. I will never forget the care you all showed for my well-being. Thank you.

I have been a part of this organization for over ten years, and it is filled with truly, good people. NOSS is lucky to have each of you as a member.

END OF THE SEMESTER

As I write this newsletter, students are busy taking final exams at UTEP. It got me thinking about how lucky we are to work with students who are trying to make a better life for themselves and their families. College isn't easy, nor is it for the faint of heart. It takes DETERMINATION, PERSEVERANCE, and PERSISTENCE to complete a degree or certificate.

It also takes dedication from faculty and staff, such as yourself, to provide support for students. **THE HARD WORK YOU PUT IN IS IMPORTANT. NEVER FORGET THAT.** I wish you all a Merry Christmas full of laughter, love, and rest.

~Denise

WELCOME NEW JERSEY!

It is my pleasure to announce that New Jersey has started a **new NOSS Chapter!**
The NOSS Board cannot wait to start working with all of you. The new officers are:

President: Danielle Zimecki-Fennimore
Vice-President/President-Elect: Wendiann Sethi
Secretary: Victoria Rey
Treasurer: Daniel Lopez

Welcome aboard!

NADE 2020 UPDATE

The conference is quickly upon us! It is going to be an exciting time. Registration is open, presentations are selected, and we have some exciting events happening.

I look forward to seeing all of you there. Be sure to check the NOSS website for registration information.

WHO'S YOUR +ONE?

At the conference this year, we are challenging every member to **bring one new attendee** to the conference. The **WHO'S YOUR +ONE** campaign is focused on attracting new educational professionals to come see all the wonderful things NOSS and our conference has to offer.

If you bring a +ONE, your name will be put into a drawing for one of the new NOSSt-shirts! So, **WHO'S YOUR +ONE?**

Meet our NEW Conference Attendee **Betsy K. Stoutmorrill, PhD**



She is from Florida State College at Jacksonville and is a Professor of Reading (2014-present; ABE/GED reading instructor 2012-2014)

Funding to attend NOSS was provided by FSCJ in support of a research project that examines how other Florida Colleges are offering contextualized and co-requisite developmental education courses.

She was chosen as McGraw-Hill's 2019 Kellogg Institute Scholarship recipient and said "It is my honor to represent FSCJ and all professors of reading at this important educational opportunity"

Interesting Facts about Betsy

She crossed off my bucket list "write a kids' chapter book" when she self-published *"The Cat-of-a-Lifetime Mystery"* in 2017.

She lives in a little green house near Atlantic Beach with her wonderful husband, Don, their dog, Xochil Bearfoot--and Xochil's cat, Rafiki Laini Petit'chou.

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