

MEET AET VOLUNTEER

Pat Kimathi



Level of AET membership:

ET/P

Type and location of practice: (City, State)

A private practice in Inglewood, CA

Leadership roles held in AET:

Executive Committee Secretary, Social Justice Sub-Committee Administrator, and member of Public Policy, Development, Finance, and VSG committees

How long have you been an educational therapist?

I started working with students 40 years ago. I joined AET in 2016.

What brought you to educational therapy?

In my private practice, I had combined my training as an educator and psychologist to inform my work with children struggling in school. After years of working, I discovered that the work I was doing was called educational therapy. I was thrilled to find that AET existed and offered such wonderful support.

Areas of expertise:

Intervention and enrichment in reading/writing and math working with historically underrepresented families
Executive Functioning Support
Gifted/talented and 2E students
Advising classroom teacher candidate how to work with diverse students

What is the best career advice you can give to new ETs?

The best advice I can give a new ET is to take advantage of all of AET's services. I especially think that joining a study group is important. A study group will help you as you begin your professional journey and will support you throughout your practice. My advice is to find a study group that meets your needs and attend the meetings.

Describe a challenge you have faced as an educational therapist:

A challenge I face is balancing providing low-cost educational therapy to underserved communities while maintaining financial stability. I chose to work in underserved communities. I am proud that for more than 40 years, I have provided quality service to families who would not have been able to afford educational therapy.

Describe a highlight of your educational therapy career:

A highlight was when a former student returned to the center to share his latest accomplishment. He earned an MA degree from a university in England. He said, "Without the two of you (my husband and I who operate the center), I would not have been able to earn this. I want you to have it to share with other students like me so they can realize they can succeed." I was speechless.

What do you think the future of the educational therapy profession will look like?

I hope that educational therapy will become an integral part of the educational process and that our services will be viewed as an obvious part of the intervention process for all students who need additional help.

How have you benefited from your membership in AET?

Being part of AET has provided me with camaraderie, friendship, advice, and encouragement. I have also benefited from having a support network of trained professionals and an opportunity to participate in high quality professional development.

Hobbies/Leisure Activities:

Genealogy, traveling, and reading both mystery novels and educational research materials.

