

MEET AET VOLUNTEER

Eric Kaufmann, M.S.Ed, ET/P®



Level of AET membership:

ET/P®

Type and location of practice:

San Clemente, CA

AET Committee(s) - including any leadership roles - in which you are/have been involved:

Orange County Study Group Leader

How long have you been an educational therapist?

5 years

What brought you to educational therapy?

I began my career as a middle school history teacher with a background in special education. A colleague mentioned educational therapy, a field I knew nothing about at the time. After meeting with the founder of a local practice, I started seeing a few students after school while teaching. I immediately fell in love with the one-on-one work with neurodivergent students. One year later, I left the classroom to become the clinical director of that practice.

Areas of expertise:

Within my educational therapy practice, my areas of expertise include ADHD, autism, and executive function. I work primarily with high school and college students. I also co-founded an adult executive function coaching practice that supports autistic adults, adults with ADHD, and AuDHD adults.

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

Learn from others. I was fortunate to work alongside an exceptional educational therapist who taught me not only what it truly means to be an ET, but also how to run a successful practice. I encourage anyone starting out to find someone they admire and aspire to learn from, and then do everything they can to work with that person.

Describe a challenge you have faced as an educational therapist:

As the founder of Elevate Learning Solutions and UpSkill Specialists, the biggest challenge I face is managing other educational therapists, executive function coaches, and learning specialists. I've had to learn how to support them while allowing them to conduct sessions in ways that feel authentic to them, even if that means making mistakes along the way. I still experience some fear when assigning a client to a coach on my team, but I'm continuing to build trust in the people I hire.

Describe a highlight of your educational therapy career:

A highlight of my career is witnessing the joy and pride on a high school senior's face when they receive their first college acceptance letter.

How have you benefited from your membership in AET?

I have benefited most from attending the annual conference and learning from fellow professionals. I'm also deeply grateful for the relationships I've built within the Orange County Study Group and appreciate our in-person and virtual meetings.

Hobbies/Leisure Activities:

I'm fortunate to surf nearly every day. In the winter months, you'll also find me snowboarding or backcountry touring. In the summer, when the waves are flat, my wife, our dog, and I are usually backpacking in the Sierra Nevada.

Anything else you want to add?

One of my goals for 2026 is to focus on sharing and teaching. I hope to expand awareness of educational therapy so that more families—particularly in South Orange County—can access and benefit from these services.