

MEET AET VOLUNTEER

Ellen Opell



Level of AET membership:

BCET, FAET

Type and location of practice: (City, State)

Tarzana, CA

Leadership roles held in AET:

Past President, member of many committees

How long have you been an educational therapist?

Since 1983

What brought you to educational therapy?

My major in college was Psychology, taught kindergarten, worked as an aide for 10 years in a Special Education class. I met my dear friend Susan Fogelson who was taking a MA in Reading and Learning Disorders at CSUN. When she told me about it, it sounded like the perfect melding of everything I was doing and had done. So, I followed her direction and of course she led me to AET.

Areas of expertise:

Reading comprehension, executive functioning, writing

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

All new ET's should/must join and become active in AET. There is so much to learn in an Association which is nurturing and caring!

Describe a challenge you have faced as an educational therapist:

It is important not to take on "more than you can chew".

Describe a highlight of your educational therapy career:

There are so many highlights. Watching how my clients are progressing, hearing from them as they have moved on in their lives, watching their self confidence grow as they become more competent,

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

There is such a need for our profession. As we become even more known nationally and internationally, we will become even more important.

How have you benefited from your membership in AET?

I have and continue to learn SO MUCH and made lifelong friends.

Hobbies/Leisure Activities:

I love to travel, read, walk, and knit

