

MEET AET VOLUNTEER

Lori K. Dver, MA, BCET, FAET



Level of AET membership:

BCET

Type and location of practice: (City, State)

Private Practice in Pasadena, CA

Leadership roles held in AET:

President 2022-24 (currently Immediate Past-President)
Supervision sub-committee co-chair
Workshops sub-committee chair

How long have you been an educational therapist?

Since 1990

What brought you to educational therapy?

I was doing a lot of 1:1 work with students in my classroom. A friend (and AET member) told me that my work, and the strategies I was employing, was really educational therapy. She encouraged me to explore AET and rest, as they say, is history.

Areas of expertise:

I have two niches: (1) number sense and numeracy with upper elementary through middle schoolers and (2) EF skills and anxiety issues with middle schoolers through high schoolers.

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

Do what you love! If you can (I know - you have to pay the bills), only take clients that are within your preferred areas of interest. You're going to invest a lot of time and energy with each client, so hopefully you can look forward to most, if not every, session.

Describe a challenge you have faced as an educational therapist:

In my role as the case manager, I had a client where the parents, step-parents, and school were always at odds. It was a weekly struggle to remain professional when it was clear the adults had their own agendas and did not have the client's best interests at heart. I often felt like a referee.

Describe a highlight of your educational therapy career:

Here's a very recent highlight. I worked with a child from 5th through the beginning of 9th grade. Our focus was on EF Skills, spelling and writing. He blossomed and I "set him free" after he settled into high school. Two months ago, he called and asked me if I would help him hone his college essays. He said, "You know me and I would really value your input."

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

Bright and exciting! We're learning more about how to provide ET virtually, to utilize AI as a tool in our practices, and to navigate the world post-pandemic. These keep my intellectual curiosity buzzing!

How have you benefited from your membership in AET?

I am very proud to be a BCET member of AET which sets the highest ethical and training standards for the profession. AET's professional development opportunities keep me learning - all the time. The true friendships I have made by being involved are the most gratifying benefits of my membership.

Hobbies/Leisure Activities:

When I am not with my adult children and 5 grandchildren, I can be found on the golf course. My husband, Rob, and I play at least twice a week - a true benefit of living in SoCal!

