

MEET AET VOLUNTEER

Alice Pulliam



Level of AET membership:

BCET

Type and location of practice: (City, State)

I worked as a Resource Specialist for 45 plus year - in San Bruno, California (6 years) and then in Hillsborough, (33 years) California - both in the SF Bay Area.

Leadership roles held in AET:

I am a Past President of AET, current AET Board Member, Chair of Governance, invited member of the Executive Committee, and member of the Supervision and Conference Subcommittees. Member, and Conference Committee Member.

How long have you been an educational therapist?

45+ years

What brought you to educational therapy?

In 1970, I was hired as an educational therapist at a Federally Funded Community Mental Health Center in Charlotte, NC. I was hired because I had worked as an aide at a Residential Treatment Center for Disturbed Children. I loved the work and went on to get an MA in CA where I met Bev Metcalf and helped start the SF Bay Area Study Group-the first outside of LA.

Areas of expertise:

My areas of expertise are curriculum-based measurement, working with complex cases, assessment, adapting curriculum K-8, and supporting wrap-around service for children.

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

Involve yourself in AET - in a study group (live or in person) and/or committee work where you will get to know other ET's and find individuals whom you respect. These ETs will be experts you can turn to when you have challenges with particular clients and are looking for advice.

Describe a challenge you have faced as an educational therapist:

My greatest challenge was at the beginning of my work as a RSP. I had a parent who focused on litigation instead of her child. I was lucky to have ET colleagues that provided the support I needed. I was able to put the child first and involve the father who was able to listen. I am eternally grateful for the support I received.

Describe a highlight of your educational therapy career:

The highlight of my career has been working with students whom no one else could figure out - putting together a program that was particular to them and their strengths. I loved helping them understand how they learned.

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

Educational therapy will become widespread. Parents, schools, and colleges worldwide will look to ETs to support students with learning challenges. Our profession will begin to more accurately reflect the diversity of our communities.

How have you benefited from your membership in AET?

My membership in AET has given back to me a thousand fold. I have made strong connections with members from all over the US. These ETs have become close friends and they are also colleagues to whom I can always reach out to with questions. I am grateful for this exceptional group of ETs.

Hobbies/Leisure Activities:

Dancing , swimming, cooking for my kids/grandkids, watching grandkids play soccer, rugby, baseball games and supporting the youngest with his love of art

