

Dear HTA Members,

As I approach the end of my first term as President of the HTA, I want to express my gratitude for the trust and support you've given me. Reflecting on the progress we've made and the challenges and wins we have had together, I am more committed than ever to continuing to serve and represent all of you. I am asking for your vote and support in my bid for a second term as President as well as delegate to the NYSUT Representative Assembly and the AFT Convention.

When I first ran, I shared my vision to build a stronger, more cohesive union—one where every member's voice is heard, valued, and respected. I came to this role with years of experience as a dedicated member, HTA representative, Elementary Vice President, and member of our negotiation teams, as well as my long-standing dedication to advocating for all members. Those experiences have been invaluable in shaping the work we've done together over the past year.

During my first term as President, we've made strides in advocating for better working conditions, and ensuring that each of you has the support you need to be successful. I've worked alongside our Executive Council to keep communication transparent, foster a culture of collaboration, and advocate for the development and well-being of our members. I've been honored to stand with you, making sure that our voices are heard as one.

As I reflect on my journey as a member of the HTA and our shared progress over the years, I am reminded of why I've dedicated myself to this work. From my early years as a teacher and my roles in various committees, to my ongoing efforts to improve our working conditions, every step has been about creating a better, more supportive environment for each other.

A President's role is to defend and support each member—no matter what. I take great pride in having been a steadfast advocate for our rights and ensuring that we remain united as we work toward common goals. As we move into the next chapter, there is still so much more to do. I am committed to:

- Continuing to fight for better working conditions and fair compensation for all members.
- Prioritizing transparency, communication, and collaboration within our union.
- Supporting both the personal and professional growth of every member.
- Strengthening our solidarity and ensuring our collective voice is always heard in the district.

We are facing challenges in education that require us to stand strong and unified. We must continue to support one another and ensure that every member feels empowered and most importantly, respected. Our newest members need us now more than ever, and it is crucial that we continue to show up, together, for each other and for our students.

Thank you for your continued trust in me as your President. I am proud of what we have achieved, and I look forward to working alongside all of you in my second term. If you have any questions or would like to share your thoughts, please don't hesitate to reach out. I welcome your feedback and look forward to the opportunity to continue serving and advocating for all of us.

Working alongside each other we can keep making a difference, strengthening our union, and ensuring that our collective voice remains powerful.

As always, we are better**TOGETHER**.

~Heather