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CCA Board of Directors, District B
Report on CTA GLBT Issues Conference
December 9-11, 2016

I recently had the pleasure of attending the CTA GLBT Issues Conference in Palm Springs. It was my first time attending this conference. At the conference, I attended a workshop at each time they were offered. The names of the workshops are listed below, along with my takeaways:

1. How to be an Out Educator or Supportive Ally, presented by Jolene Tripp. My most valuable takeaway from this workshop was learning of Ed Code 66271.2, which states “the governing board of each community college district [is] requested to designate an employee at each of their respective campuses as a point of contact for the needs of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender faculty, staff, and students at the respective campus. At a minimum, the name and contact information of that designated employee shall be published on the Internet Web site for the respective campus and shall be included in any printed and Internet-based campus directories.” I have followed up with my own college’s HR department to find out who this person is on our campus (if any has been designated) and will encourage other colleges to do the same, through my work on the CCA Board.
2. Impact of Legislation on LGBTQ+ Community, presented by Rhem Bell and Seth Bramble. I was interested in this workshop as I plan to start attending meetings of the CCA Legislation and Advocacy Committee.
3. Meet the CTA President, presented by Eric Heins. I was very interested in hearing Eric’s story. The part that resonated with me the most was when he shared that he kept his identity as a teacher separate from his identity as an out gay man, an observation I have also made about myself. He found that these two identities became more integrated through his work in CTA leadership.
4. Stressed?, presented by Alyson Brauning and Roger Kavigan. I was drawn to this workshop due to having a few too many things on my plate this semester – teaching six classes, taking a class, serving as president of my local chapter and on the CCA Board, and also singing in a community chorus. The workshop gave an overview of circumstances in one’s life that can create stress, and also a few tips for managing it.