

PTRA Designations

Since 1985 hundreds of teachers have participated in AAPT/PTRA Leadership Institutes and many have continued to consider themselves as “PTRAs”. It has come to the understanding of many currently active PTRAs that minimal participation in Leadership Institutes does not prepare one to be able to adequately present a certified PTRA Professional Development Session. This document is a proposal to establish another level of PTRA leaders, possibly known as “PTRA Specialist”, to develop a cadre of leaders certified to organize and/or lead certified PTRA Professional Development (PD) Activities. It would be counterproductive, and probably impossible, to contact previous attendees who consider themselves PTRAs, especially since the 1991 introduction of the PTRA-Plus program stated “Once a PTRA Leader always a PTRA Leader”, and expect them to discontinue their identity as PTRAs.

The PTRA Leadership Institute will continue to be organized by the PTRA Director and Oversight Committee and invite AAPT members at any level, with connections to K12 Educators, to apply and participate in the Institute upon acceptance. After participation in a PTRA Leadership Institute these attendees will be identified as PTRA “Associates”, however this will become only the first step towards certification as a PTRA Specialist. PTRA Associates would be encouraged to coordinate with identified PTRA Specialists to present PTRA certified Professional Development activities to their colleagues. Ideally the PTRA Associate and the Specialist would co-present these activities, if at all possible. In the likely scenario where they would be unable to actually co-present, the PD activity would be planned under the leadership and direction of the Specialist and may be presented by the PTRA Associate. Inactive PTRAs who do not meet the requirements to serve as a Specialist will be designated as PTRA Associates and would need to coordinate with a Specialist in order to present a PTRA Professional Development Activity.

Requirements for becoming PTRA Specialist:

1. Submit application to attend a PTRA Leadership Institute and be accepted to attend.
2. Attendance and participation in at least two PTRA Leadership Institutes in a 3 year period.
3. Participate in the presentation of a minimum of 3 hours of certified PTRA Professional Development activities each year under the direction of and in coordination with a current PTRA Specialist.
4. As a result of PD activities, submit appropriate funds to the AAPT/PTRA Continuation Fund (unless other approved circumstances forbid the collection of funds). The function of the PTRA Continuation Fund is to provide an opportunity for the AAPT/PTRA program to be self-sustaining as required for the continuation of the program by the AAPT Board of Directors.

5. Once the above requirements have been satisfied, agree to be identified as a “PTRA Specialist” and allow the AAPT/PTRA Program to publish name as part of a list of leaders certified to organize, coordinate and present PTRA PD activities.

Requirements to maintain designation as PTRA Specialist:

1. Attendance and participation in at least one PTRA Leadership Institute in a 3 year period.
2. Coordinate and lead certified PTRA presentations for a minimum of 3 hours each year.
3. Be willing to offer services to direct and coordinate certified PTRA presentations with PTRA Associates.
4. As a result of PD activities, submit appropriate funds to the AAPT/PTRA Continuation Fund (unless other approved circumstances forbid the collection of funds). The function of the PTRA Continuation Fund is to provide an opportunity for the AAPT/PTRA program to be self-sustaining as required for the continuation of the program by the AAPT Board of Directors.
5. PTRA Specialists who do not maintain the above requirements will be removed from published lists of certified leaders and be reclassified as a PTRA Associate until such time as they again become qualified.