

Message from the President

A Joyous Autumn to all of MIDTESOL!

As the new school year is off and running, like me, I hope you are all looking forward to the MIDTESOL [annual conference](#) at the University of Iowa on October 23-24. It is so rewarding to get together in one place to network with colleagues from all over the Midwest and the world. I always gain innovative ideas and renewed energy for fostering excellence and making a difference in our field. My role as president of the board will end at the annual conference, where I will hand over my duties to the capable hands of current Vice President Roberta Morgan. Please join me in wishing her every success. It has been my pleasure to serve as your board president this past year and I look forward to my new role in 2016 as Past President chairing the Nomination Committee for the MIDTESOL board. Thank you for the privilege of working with such great people in such a fulfilling vocation.

Joy and wonder in all your endeavors!

Terry Barakat
2015 President
MIDTESOL Board

“I always gain innovative ideas and renewed energy for fostering excellence and making a difference in our field. “

- Terry Barakat

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- In Memoriam : MIDTESOL Luminary Gen Lennon
- State by State Update
- MIDTESOL Conference Info

MIDTESOL REMEMBERS

DR. GENEVIEVE LENNON

Founding member of MIDTESOL, Dr. Genevieve Hanley Lennon, passed away at age 91 on April 9, 2015 in St. Louis, MO. Dr. Lennon's impact was significant and long lasting. In the words of Birdie Morgan, MIDTESOL In-Coming President, "the founding leadership for professional organizations really set the tone for the association, and Dr. Lennon worked very closely with TESOL to create our affiliate chapter." We would like to remember Dr. Lennon's contributions to this organization, the field of TESOL itself, and the students and colleagues she impacted through her work and throughout her life.

Gen's "leadership in professional organizations really set the tone for the association"

-Birdie Morgan

MIDTESOL In-Coming President

Dr. Lennon had a love of languages and received her Ph.D. from Saint Louis University in Bilingual Education. She was a foreign language teacher at the high school level for many years, and also taught ESOL in the University City, MO, Adult Basic Education Program. She established classes for Soviet refugees in the St. Louis area, and worked tirelessly to help newcomers learn English.

Looking back at the board minutes from the first MO-TESOL meeting on July 13, 1978, we can learn that Dr. Lennon has the distinction of hosting the meeting that formed the Missouri affiliate chapter of TESOL. Those attending the first meeting were fellow Missourians: Norma Gaus, St. Louis; Shirley Londe, St. Louis; Margie Oglander, Creve Coeur; Evelyn Patterson, St. Louis; Su Relyea, St. Charles; Susie Sueoka, St. Louis; Clara White, St. Charles; and Sue Gallop, Clayton.

The early meetings of a dozen or so participants grew into a full-fledged min-conference on October 14, 1978 at Lindenwood College, St. Charles, MO. There were 60 interested participants from Kansas, Missouri and Iowa present. A workshop was held and a business meeting was chaired by Barbara Van Ausdall. A constitution was presented for consideration and some sections were amended. The constitution was approved, a slate of officers presented, voted upon and approved. Dr. Gen Lennon became the first President of MOTESOL, which was to soon become Mid-America TESOL in 1979.

It is interesting to note that in the minutes there were a number of concerns expressed in that first executive board meeting. The board identified a need for those in public education to be more aware of the growing number of students in ESL. It is also mentioned in the minutes that the executive board saw a need for those in the ESL field to work more closely with educators in the foreign language field.

Dr. Lennon served two terms as president of Mid-TESOL, and she formed ESOL Consultants in 1986 with a colleague in St. Louis, MO. Her vision for Mid-TESOL has certainly grown from a group of ten meeting in her living room to the current membership that spans the entire Mid-west region.

Gen, You will be missed.

Gen Lennon with friend and colleague Barb Schwarte



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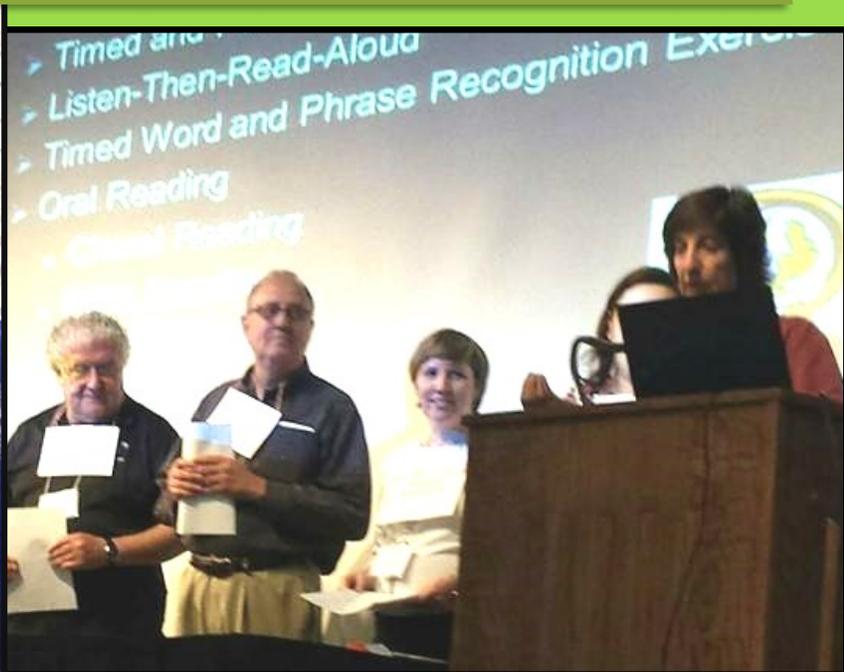
Stay current with all MIDTESOL happenings by checking out MIDTESOL on

[Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Linked in](#).

Be sure to tag us in your relevant pictures and tweets!



Top: MIDTESOL members in Iowa for the strategic planning meeting.
Bottom left to right: 1st Nebraska Gathering, Dr. Fredricka Stoller at MIDTESOL 2014



Editors' Corner

Editors Kurtis Foster and Laura McBride

Hello all MIDTESOLers!

Please drop us a line with any questions you have about finding information about MIDTESOL or getting your information and ideas to the region.

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Top Tweets:

The most inspiring TESOL conversations happening on the web.

 **Kelly J. Cunningham** @ESLCunningham · Jul 30
Looks like I'll be @uiowa @uiowalMU Oct. 24th for @MIDTESOL presenting on "Supporting Graduate #ESL Students with Peer Review Groups"#acwri

 **MIDTESOL** @MIDTESOL [Follow](#)

Congrats on your proposal acceptance! We look forward to hearing you & Tweeting from your session, @ESLCunningham. @uiowa @uiowalMU

2:56 PM - 30 Jul 2015

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2015 Advocacy and Policy Summit Highlights tesol.org/advance-the-fi ... via @sharethis #TESOLadv15 #advocacy4ELs #ELLChat

RETWEETS 2  

1:15 PM - 9 Jul 2015

 **Jennifer Morrison** @TESOLJennifer [Follow](#)

MIDTESOL exists to strengthen effective L2 English teaching in IA KS MO NE as we respect individual language rights. @MIDTESOL

FAVORITES 2  

5:14 PM - 12 Jun 2015

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If you're PK12 #ESL educator in IA, KS, Neb (or 7 other states in ELPA Consortium), follow @ELPA21Assess for updates

ELPA21 Consortium @ELPA21Assess
Check out the latest #ELPA21 newsletter here: bit.ly/1gdbFYP #ELLchat

8:36 AM - 13 Jul 2015

State by State Update

News from the Representatives

Calling All of you in the know: If you know of an event or an issue in any state that MIDTESOL should be aware of, please contact the State Rep-At-Large, by emailing midtesol@gmail.com with the subject line “<your state here> news”

News From Iowa, Melissa Meisterheim, state Rep-At-Large

Now that students have arrived and classes are in session, you might be looking for policy updates, fresh ideas or professional networking opportunities in Iowa. Here are some suggestions for this fall.



TSSL

The 13th Annual Technology for Second Language Learning Conference will be held at Iowa State University from September 18-19th. The focus will be on phraseology and formulaic language. Plenaries will be given by Dr. Phillip Durrant from the University of Exeter, UK and Professor Dilin Liu from the University of Alabama. Go to <https://cywrite.engl.iastate.edu/wp/tssl-2015/> to see the conference schedule and register.

MIDTESOL

MIDTESOL 2015 will be held in at the Iowa Memorial Union at the University of Iowa in Iowa City from October 23-24. Randi Reppen from Northern Arizona University will give the opening plenary as well as a workshop on effectively using corpora for vocabulary and grammar instruction in a variety of contexts. Be sure to register at www.midtesol.org.

MwALT

MwALT 2015 (Midwest Association of Language Testers) will be held on October 3, 2015 at the University of Iowa. The plenaries will focus their presentations on assessing writing, but other posters and presentations are focused on a variety of language testing. The Plenary Speakers include Dr. Carol Chapelle from Iowa State University, Dr. Christine Tardy from University of Arizona, and a panel discussion led by Dr. Deborah Crusan from Wright State University. This and more information can be found at MwALT's website: <http://www.education.uiowa.edu/teach/foreign-esl/mwalt-2015>

ICLC

Building a culture of achievement” is the theme for this year’s Iowa Language and Culture Conference. Keynote speakers include Kate Kinsella from San Francisco State University, Iowa’s 2015 Teacher of the Year” Clemencia Spizzirri, Dr. Luis Crus from Cruz and Associates Consulting and “Enrique’s Journey” author Sonia Nazario. ICLC will be held at the Marriott Convention Center in Coralville, Iowa from November 9-11, 2015. The registration deadline is October 1, 2015. Go to <http://www.iowaclc.com/> for registration information

K-12

The state of Iowa is implementing updates after the Department of Education had its federal site visit in 2014. See the department of Education website or your Area Education Agency’s (AEA) websites for more information. AEA 267, for instance, has an informative screencast for LIEP educators about the new state updates at <https://www.aea267.k12.ia.us/ell/liep-updates-summer-fall-2015/>.

Iowa is also replacing I-ELDA with ELPA21. Look for further information at the ELPA website <http://www.elpa21.org/> and the Iowa Department of Education.

If you know of an event or an issue in Iowa that MIDTESOL should be aware of, please contact the Iowa Rep-At-Large.

State by State Update

News from the Representatives

News From Nebraska, Natalie Baskin, Nebraska state Rep-At-Large



Nebraska Planning 2016 MIDTESOL Conference

The 2016 MIDTESOL conference planning committee is being led by Vicki Anderson of Concordia College. The goals of the committee include creating a dynamic program that acknowledges the vibrant culture of our new conference home (Kansas City) and having strong K-12 representation. A survey is in the works that will be dispersed to MIDTESOL members to determine what the areas of interest are and use that information to create a meaningful conference that people will be willing to travel-sometimes extensively-to attend.

Nebraska Adopts New English Language Proficiency Standards

Nebraska adopted new English Language Proficiency (ELP) Standards in December, 2013. The new standards, to be fully implemented in the 2015-2016 school year, are consistent with college-and-career ready standards and focus on both language development and access to content knowledge.

Nebraska to Implement New ELPA21 Assessment

Nebraska was recently part of a state consortium (including Arkansas, Iowa, Louisiana, Nebraska, Ohio, Oregon, South Carolina, Washington, and West Virginia) that developed a new ELL assessment. The ELPA21 (English Language Proficiency Assessment for the 21st Century) will be used this spring to assess all ELL students in the state. It measures student proficiency in reading, writing, listening, and speaking and is based on the new ELP standards.

Nebraska Member-at-Large Update

Since the reintroduction of Nebraska to MIDTESOL and my appointment to the position of Nebraska Member-at-Large, I have been working on ways to reach out to the ESL teaching and learning communities in the state. One of my interests is in introducing/reintroducing MIDTESOL to those with potentially few resources or support networks in western part of Nebraska who could be served by having a connection to our organization. Even more specifically, I am thinking of ways to more successfully integrate the Nebraska K-12 ELL network into MIDTESOL, as I have learned that their interests are occasionally underrepresented by our organization and at our conferences.

Interest Section Highlights

K-12 Interest Section

Assessment News

For Missouri schools - The WIDA consortium is now up to 36 states and is offering training for their new ACCESS 2.0 on their website (www.wida.us). They also have provided new resources for teachers including an area for shared lesson plans and professional development. There are also common core resources as well as the amplified ELD (English language development) 2012 standards.

For Nebraska, Kansas, and Iowa schools - ELPA21 consortium of 10 states is preparing to release their new assessment system related to the ELP (English language proficiency) standards and common core. The website contains information about ELL assessment and language development (www.elpa21.org).

Professional Development

The Department of Education through the Office of English Language Acquisition has been gradually releasing chapters of an EL Toolkit to help districts identify and provide adequate resources for all ELs. At this time, four chapters have been released with a new chapter being added about every two months (www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/oela/english-learner-toolkit/index.html).

Higher ED Interest Section

Please help us welcome our new Higher Ed Interest Section Chair, Dr. Diana Pascoe. I spoke with her yesterday, and she is excited to be on the MIDTESOL board once again. Here's a brief bio for those of you who don't already know Diana.

Dr. Diana Pascoe has worked in the ESL/EFL field for more than 30 years. She was the President of TESOL-Honduras for 3 years and organized regional conferences. She has participated in MIDTESOL events as a presenter and was the chair for the 2011 MIDTESOL conference. She has been a presenter and conference proposal reviewer for TESOL several times and been an interviewer for the Fulbright Screening committees for ETAs. She has received two grants to be an English Language Specialist for short teacher training programs in Honduras. Currently, Dr. Pascoe is the Director of the ESL Program at Saint Louis University in Missouri.

EDTech In Focus

Using Socrative in Reading/Writing Classes

by Katie McClintic, EdTech IS co-chair, University of Kansas

Socrative: What is it?

[Socrative](#) is a student response system teachers can use to assess and/or pose questions to students. The aggregated results can be seen in real-time, which allows teachers to gauge student understanding of content or see questions from students related to course material. Socrative creates a virtual community within the classroom, allowing students to more easily collaborate, discuss, and contribute to class instruction. Finally, teachers can save the student responses through reports that are generated at the end of each activity. The reports are saved to the Socrative teacher dashboard or compiled in a spreadsheet or PDF.

How does it work?

Socrative enables students to contribute using tablets, computers and smartphones. Teachers will need to create an account, which provides them with a room code. Students can then log in using the designated room code to answer quiz questions, complete exit tickets, or post questions. To see step-by-step instructions on how to get started with Socrative, you can check out this comprehensive [video](#). This is a great tool to introduce at the beginning of a course so students can get acclimated to using the tool from the very start of the semester.

Socrative in the classroom

One suggestion is to introduce students to the concept in the computer lab, then help them download the app to their smartphone. The app is compatible with all types of phones—just have students search for “Socrative” in the app store. When students search in the app store, there will be two apps to choose from:



Students only need to download the “student” app. Teachers can download both “student” and “teacher” apps. This allows teachers to control content from mobile devices while allowing them to see the student view as well.

Suggestions for Using Socrative for Academic Reading/Writing Classes

Paraphrasing workshop: One of my course goals is to help students learn to paraphrase appropriately. In class, students work individually to paraphrase sentences. They then use their mobile devices to post their paraphrased sentences using the “quick question” feature. Once all students have posted their sentence, I turn on the “vote” feature, asking students to read everyone’s paraphrases, then vote on which submission most closely meets the criteria for a paraphrase (note: I allow students to post their sentences anonymously. I also ask that students not vote for their own sentence.) Because we have a mediated classroom, I can project the student contributions on screen; we can also look at the voting results in real time. Once students have voted, we look at the top vote getters and discuss what makes it a good paraphrase.

Vocabulary workshop: We often practice unit vocabulary by analyzing sentence patterns and collocations. After the analysis, students attempt to use the vocabulary in their own sentences using the same patterns/collocations. Again, students work individually to write their sentences, then post their sentences using the Socrative app on phones or tablets. This allows us to look at everyone’s sentences quickly and easily, discussing the merits of each.

Reading Comprehension: Students work in pairs to complete quick quizzes related to reading content. Students can also create discussion questions related to the content, then participate in discussion groups to answer these student produced questions.

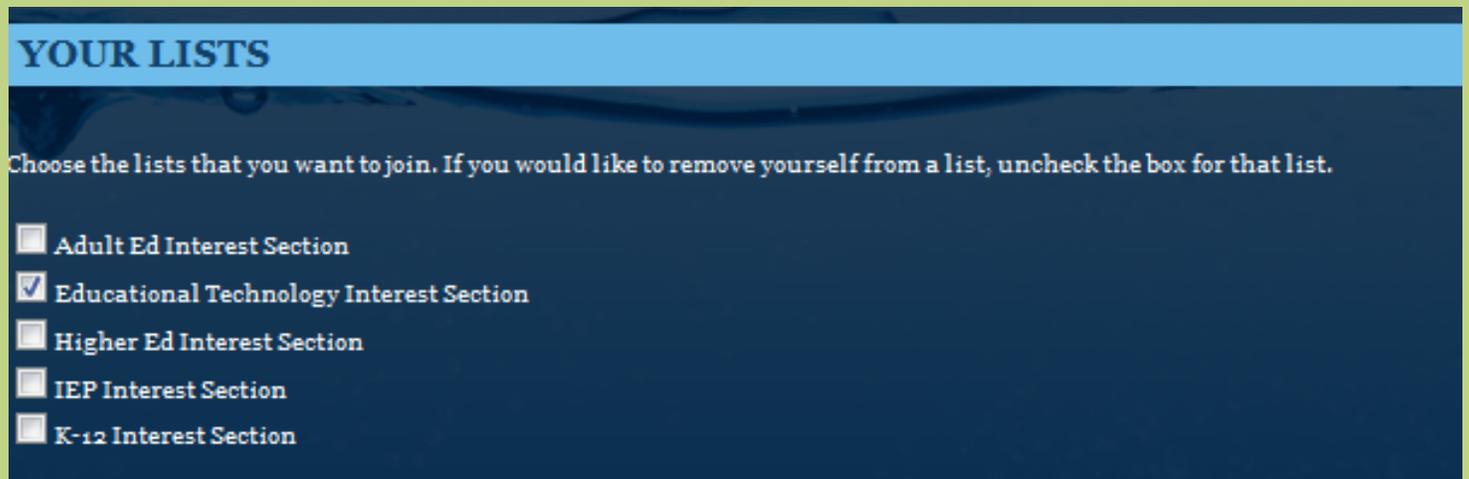
Interested in Tech? K-12? Higher ED?

Here's what to do:

Edit your profile setting in your [membership file](#).



Choose the Interest Section you feel passionate about



Share your projects and ideas with like-minded professionals. Let's talk.

MIDTESOL CELEBRATES

GRANTS AND ESSAY WINNERS

MIDTESOLer Jamie Cardwell details the TESOL experience made possible by MIDTESOL's Travel Grant

I had the opportunity to attend the TESOL 2015 conference in Toronto, Canada, through a travel grant from MIDTESOL. Attending the conference allowed me to gain personal and professional experience. I attended sessions about technology in the classroom, networking with other professionals, supporting teachers, laws affecting ELLs, and a research workshop. During the research workshop, I met an employee from Denver Public Schools whose sole purpose is to research best instructional practices for ELLs. She has provided me with invaluable research about ELLs and academic achievement to use for my dissertation. During the conference, I attended our MIDTESOL event where I was able to network with all of the wonderful people in our organization. Although it is a social event, we often discuss work-related issues through this supportive network of professionals.

This event also allows us precious time to catch up with each other that is often difficult to find during our own conference in October. I also visited Niagara Falls and enjoyed the diverse cuisine of the inviting and exhilarating city. I thank MIDTESOL for giving me this opportunity and I hope to see all of you soon at our conference in a few months and at TESOL in Baltimore!



READ ON TO BE INSPIRED

Our best essay winners for Best High School Essay and Best ESL Essay tell their stories in the next two pages.

MIDTESOL: 2015 Best High School Essay

The Future is Now: Building Traditions

By Rachel Chun, Ames High School, 10th grade

Nominated by Shaeley Santiago and Kendall Schuldt

I think Chuseok is the most important and popular of all Korean traditional national holidays. Chuseok means "mid-autumn" in Chinese and is considered Korean Thanksgiving. For Koreans, it is a several days break for hometown. I'd get excited and feel bliss at least one week before the break starts. Early on Chuseok morning, the family and relatives gather together to perform traditional ancestral rites with prepared traditional foods, after which everyone enjoys the meal, exchanges gifts and plays games together. Among other holidays, especially Chuseok is more meaningful to me for several reasons that I want to continue in the future.

At first, I can enjoy the break with my loving family and relatives. When I'm tied up with many tests or heavy school work, I feel like I hardly have any time left for family. But I can relax and spend the Chuseok break pleasantly with my family and relatives without any worries or stresses from the school work. This is why Chuseok is a blissful time for me.

Chuseok gets me excited at the prospect of visiting my parents' hometown and seeing my relatives. However, since people nationwide leave the city for their family's hometown during the Chuseok period, highways and roads throughout the country are extremely congested, and it would take quite some time to go even a few miles. We call it "Mass Exodus of Populations." The core of Chuseok may then be for scattered family members to get together and share family spirit.

Furthermore and most significant, there is my favorite family tradition at Chuseok : making 'Songpyeon' which is one of delicacies eaten at Chuseok. Songpyeon is crescent-shaped rice cakes stuffed with ingredients like beans or honey and is steamed over a layer of pine needles. Songpyeon can be made in several shapes not only crescent shape, but also any other shapes I want to make. It's lots of fun to make it with family and cousins, and most of all, I like a cordial atmosphere created during making Songpyeon and talking face to face sitting on the floor all together. It's like the air is alive with chatter and laughter of my loving family and relatives. I still vividly remember those, especially what my grandmother said, "You will have a pretty daughter in the future if you make a pretty Songpyeon." For these reasons, I love making Songpyeon together and really hope that this tradition will last forever so that later I could let my children know about its interesting stories.

Lastly, Chuseok creates a special bond between family members. Since I'm so attached to my relatives

while staying, I feel the sorrow of parting and wish I could stay longer when it's time to say goodbye. It always reminds me of the family affection even after Chuseok. By this I mean, Chuseok instills into the minds of people the importance of family affection. I used to access Social Networking Sites or message with friends rather than spend with family as much as many people today are addicted to the electronic devices and look into their smartphones or televisions every free second they have. I observe that the communication between families decrease faster as we concentrate more on our own cyber spaces.

I think overall Chuseok is a good traditional holiday since it is an opportunity to feel and strengthen family affection. Our future will change its shape and direction depending on where we are now in addressing traditions like Chuseok. Hence, traditional breaks like Chuseok become more important in their own right, and should be a bridge for people these days to get connected, replacing technology for us to pay attention to our neighbors. With technology advancing at a fast-growing rate, I believe we would live more wisely if we won't forget the family values we felt from the Chuseok gathering. I'm aware that people around the world also have their own thanksgiving traditions for family gathering like Koreans do. That's why I think Chuseok as well as its equivalents of other countries should be inherited and further developed as part of the cultural heritages and bridges for human interaction

From left to right: Shaeley Santiago, Kendall Schuldt, Rachel Chun, and Dr. Mike Advise, Associate Principal at AHS



MIDTESOL: 2015 Best ESL Student Essay

How English Change my Life
By Abdulaziz Aloun, LCI Kansas City
Nominated by Mrs. Robyn Conners

When I first travelled to Victoria in Australia to visit my sisters and my cousins, I had no idea how to communicate with the people over there, after I arrived there and they picked me up from the airport and we went home. They helped me to find my way around. One day I decided to go shopping alone because my sister and cousin were all busy with university studies. I had trouble communicating with the worker, I didn't understand what to get and how to connect with the worker in terms of what I wanted to buy. My language barrier made it difficult for me to get what I wanted. From that time, I thought how important learning the English language was and what motivated me to learn it and how English helped me to reach my goals in life.

First of all, learning English is so important because it's considered the number one language in the world. Also, English has been the main language of communication in the business sector across the world and it's the language of science. For example, when I look through the statistics that rank the universities across the world I saw that the top universities in the United States and Britain take the lead of using English. Most popular movies and books that are published in the United States are made using the English language. By that, having the English language is very beneficial in every way.

One of the motivations of learning such a great language was when I worked in the bank the head office used English excessively to communicate with employees. For example, I had trouble translating many words so I had to use Google translate, but that didn't give me the chance to understand everything. Then I tried to study English using CDs and watching videos online. A time came where I

wanted to get a raise in a position working at the bank and one of the requirements that was needed was being a professional English speaker and writer. I came to a point in my life where I lost confidence in myself of speaking English, I couldn't continue working in the bank. I got a better position in the government sector where they gave me a full paid scholarship to study abroad in the United States that gave me great persistence and motivation to come here and set a goal and dream to achieve the best.

My goals became a reality that made me complete my master's degree and learn English. Studying masters was a dream come true to me to improve my life status and look forward to a better future for me and my job. Also, it gave me experience and to teach my kids another language that they can use

"I thought how important learning the English language was and what motivated me to learn it ..."

when they go to school. My other goals is to connect using English to learn how to communicate with another culture and to surf the internet and other technologies which meant making my own business successful.

English has been so important in our society to learn and it's considered a very important factor for science and business. It made my goals reachable in life and made me motivated to learn the first language that is used throughout the world. Setting my goals in life encouraged me to go further in life. After I learned English I found that my life changed dramatically to the best and I looked back and I saw a difference from the past compared to now.

MIDTESOL's Membership Benefits Through CVENT

Last year, your executive board made an important decision to bring our organization into the digital age and make being a MIDTESOL member easier and more beneficial! We purchased a contract with CVENT, an event and membership management system which allows you to register and pay for conferences and memberships all online – no more need to print, write checks, use envelopes, or spend money on stamps! Of course, if you prefer to use postal mail to send us fees, we are still glad to accept checks through the mail, although we do require membership registration be completed online.

Major benefits of this new system include:

- ◆ it puts your membership and registration information at your fingertips. You will always have access to your membership history;
- ◆ the system will remind you when it's time to renew!
- ◆ You can see a record of each conference you have attended starting from October 2013, including workshop sessions.
- ◆ A page highlighting member benefits on the membership website

About our Organization

MIDTESOL is a professional organization, an affiliate of International TESOL, whose goal is to support teachers and enhance the teaching of English to Speakers of Other Languages.

MIDTESOL Matters is a quarterly publication and is distributed to subscribers and dues-paying members of MIDTESOL. Articles, Teaching Tips, and Reviews are welcome from all members. The editor reserves the right to edit for space, clarity, or editorial balance. Materials published in MIDTESOL Matters become the property of MIDTESOL and could be shared with other TESOL affiliate organizations.

Expressed opinions do not necessarily reflect the views of MIDTESOL, TESOL, or the MIDTESOL Executive Board.

Our Mission

The mission of Mid-America Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages is to strengthen the effective teaching of English in Iowa, Kansas, and Missouri to people whose native language is a language other than English while respecting their individual language rights. As a regional affiliate of TESOL and a professional organization, MIDTESOL:

-Supports those involved with English language teaching, teacher education, administration and management, curriculum and materials design, and research;

-Provides leadership and direction through the dissemination and exchange of information and resources;

