

MIDTESOL MATTERS



The Mid-America TESOL Affiliate Newsletter

November 2016



Thank you to all attendees, presenters, and exhibitors who attended the 2016 MIDTESOL Conference!



This year saw the largest attendance in the conference's history!

In This Issue

- 2016 Conference Re-cap
- MIDTESOL Award Winners
- Announcement: TESOL Summit
- State updates

MIDTESOL MATTERS



The Mid-America TESOL Affiliate Newsletter

November 2016

Message from the President

As the new president of MIDTESOL for 2016-17, let me first welcome new members and thank continuing members. The support and participation you give to this organization is the reason we have grown not only in numbers but also in strength and vibrancy. This year's fall conference was our largest and the first in a while that didn't have to be scheduled around a university football schedule. As I attended sessions, walked through the Exhibit Hall, and talked with presenters, everyone's enthusiasm was infectious. It reminded me of why I attended my first MIDTESOL conference and became a member in the first place.

MIDTESOL provides a professional home for me. Whenever I present at our conference, I receive thoughtful and kindly-delivered feedback. When I return home, I am eager to exchange notes with my colleagues so we can implement a technique or discuss an idea that we learned from the sessions we attended. This organization has always given me so much that I was extremely honored in 2012 to start serving MIDTESOL as the Iowa Representative-at-Large. Since then I have been the Conference Co-chair and the Vice President. Throughout this service, my fellow board members have taught me a great deal about what can be accomplished by a group of volunteers with a vision.

In recent years, we have enhanced our communications, enriched our web content, and expanded our conference, and I believe we have the foundation to provide more. Many people may join MIDTESOL for the conference, but we are and can be much more. If this fall's conference was any indication, there are so many ideas and so much energy among the members. My hope is to support the board and members in harnessing that energy to expand member benefits beyond the conference. Exciting things are already in place for 2017 such as the Iowa Winter Workshop and the Social Gathering at TESOL in Seattle. For updates throughout the year, visit our website, read our emails, or visit one of our social media platforms.

Enjoy the rest of 2016!

Melissa Meisterheim



-Melissa Meisterheim,
MIDTESOL President

-Roberta Morgan,
MIDTESOL Past-President

MIDTESOL 2016 :

INNOVATION AND IMPROVISATION



MIDTESOL 2016 :

INNOVATION AND IMPROVISATION

CONFERENCE REPORT

MIDTESOL 2016: Innovation and Improvisation was held September 30th and October 1st at the Kansas City Marriott Downtown. The Conference Committee hoped that by centralizing the conference location and utilizing a hotel venue, we would be able to expand the size and scope of the conference and standardize the conference-going experience.

This year's event was MIDTESOL's largest ever, with over 700 attendees. This bypassed our previous attendance record of 385, which was set in 2013 in Lawrence, Kansas. Attendees came to MIDTESOL this year from 18 states and the District of Columbia, as well as the countries of Ecuador, Germany, Iraq, Japan, South Africa, and South Korea! Those attending from the four-state MIDTESOL region included 52 from Nebraska; 73 from Iowa; 223 from Kansas; and 294 from Missouri.



MIDTESOL 2016 offered a wide variety of presentations. There were 207 individual presenters, who provided over 160 break-out sessions on a wide range of topics. New to the conference this year were Poster Sessions; and an EdTech Bazaar, which was held in a bring-your-own-device space that was intended to build upon the idea of TESOL's Electronic Village. As one attendee said, the message of the EdTech sessions were, "see, this is how you can do it!" There were also unique Group-Think sessions, which provided a hands-on "maker" experience.

For many attendees, listening to - and then meeting - Dr. Stephen Krashen was a highlight of the conference. Presentations and book signings by Deborah Short, Sammi Eckstat, and Sonia Nazario were also very well received.



MIDTESOL 2016 :

INNOVATION AND IMPROVISATION

CONFERENCE REPORT



The Conference Committee would like to thank everyone who worked so hard to make this year's conference a success. We also request that you save the dates for **MIDTESOL 2017: Crossroads of Cultures**, which will be held September 29-30, again at the Kansas City Marriott Downtown. In 2017, the conference will be held in the historic Meuhlebach side of the Marriott complex, providing us with larger meeting and exhibit spaces. We look forward to seeing you there!

-Kimberley Kreicker, Ph.D.; Conference Chair

More Info at :

<http://midtesol.org/>



MIDTESOL 2016

TRAVEL AWARDS

This year's theme of Innovation and Improvisation gathered professionals from across the region to present and learn.

Interest Section Travel Award (\$125):

Buu Linh, EdTech
Interest Section, Vietnam



Joanna Schindel, K-12,
F.L. Schlagle High
School, (Kansas)



Shyam Pandey, Higher
Education/
Teacher Training Interest
Section, MNSU

Paula Rolim, IEP Interest
Section, SEMO
(no picture available)

MIDTESOL 2016

AWARDS

This year's theme of **Innovation and Improvisation** gathered professionals from across the region to present and learn.

Presenter Travel Awards:

- ♦ Jennifer Selvidge and Tracy Hirata-Edds, co-presenters, University of Kansas. Title of Presentation: *University blue books: modified portfolios to enhance student learning*
- ♦ Alatheia Barks, The Language Company. Title of Presentation: *Comic Books as a Teaching Tool*
- ♦ Ivana Lucic, Iowa State University. Title of Presentation: *ePortfolio Affordances: Innovative Technological Opportunities in the ESL Classroom*

Student Award Winner:

- ♦ Alejandra Alana from the University of Kansas. Title of Presentation: *Traveling into Space: Creating Third Spaces in ESL. She wins a check for \$200.*

Distinguished Service Award, formerly Pat-on-the-Back:

- ♦ Paula Moore, former president of MIDTESOL

MIDTESOL 2016

TRAVEL AWARD WINNER REPORTS

Kim Becker & Ivana Lucic (Travel Award Winner MIDTESOL 2016)

ePortfolio Affordances: Innovative Technological Opportunities in the ESL Classroom

A web-based platform, such as ePortfolios, can be used effectively and efficiently in teaching, learning, and assessment as they are learner-centered. "They make students responsible for their learning by enabling them to organize and control the content of their e-portfolios, which helps them to personalize their e-portfolios. This responsibility requires students to reflect and assess their own learning" (Yastibas & Yastibas, 2015, p. 5). This presentation addressed the affordances of using ePortfolios as teaching, learning, assessment, and reflection tools. ePortfolios provide teachers and students with a flexible, learner-centered resource for housing and representing various types of artifacts and assignments, incorporating personal experiences, reflecting on learning, interacting with various audiences, and linking with other technologies.

Research has shown that the use of ePortfolios enhances student metacognition by providing a tool to collect and display student work. Utilizing such technologies is motivational because it allows students to create, organize, control, and monitor their own work. Especially for second language students who are often studying multimodal (written, oral, visual, electronic) and multi-skilled (speaking, listening, reading, writing) forms of communication, ePortfolios can provide a platform for enhancing learning across these skills. Students can use them not only to display completed versions of projects, such as essays and presentations, but also to reflect on the potential of involving technology in learning processes. Beyond traditional skill development, studies have shown that -- especially for Millennials -- students do not always think critically about the technologies they use daily. ESL instructors who employ multimodal technologies, such as ePortfolios, have the potential to provide their students with firmer comprehension of how to successfully position themselves as creators of both visual and textual information.

The practice of ePortfolio development is now a requirement in Iowa State University's foundation communication courses (i.e., English composition) and is optional across all departments. This is accomplished via a WordPress platform on a secure university server. In our presentation, we showcased student ePortfolio examples, and invited attendees to come and share in this collaborative session about an innovative tool for multi-modal second language teaching and learning. We demonstrated sample activities that could be performed in and out of the ESL classroom to facilitate improvement of reading, writing, listening, speaking and pronunciation. We presented ways to utilize this platform to share a multitude of media files to promote collaboration among students, and also, to motivate reflection and self-assessment. The session gave instructors ideas about how to combine ePortfolio features in order to enhance learning of second language skills.

References:

Yastibas, A. E., & Yastibas, G. C. (2015). The use of e-portfolio-based assessment to develop students' self-regulated learning in English language teaching. *Proceedings-Social and Behavioral Sciences*, 176, 3-13.



tesol international
association

**Advancing Excellence in
English Language Teaching**

Summit on the Future of the TESOL Profession

Hosted by TESOL International Association

Athens, Greece

9-10 February 2017

What does it mean to be an English language educator, researcher, or advocate? What will the future hold for the profession of Teaching of English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL)? In celebration of its 50th anniversary, TESOL International Association, as the largest organization focused exclusively on English language teaching for speakers of other languages, must bring together thought leaders, policy makers, and industry professionals to affirm and support the TESOL profession. Don't miss the ground-breaking conversation that will shape the profession's future!

Summit at a Glance:

- 9-10 February 2017
- 200-250 Live Participants
- 500+ Interactive Online Participants
- Location: Athens, Greece
Royal Olympic Hotel

Through the lenses of equity, professionalism, and inquiry, and representing a wide variety of contexts, the Summit brings together the best respected and most innovative thought leaders for a strategic conversation about the future of the profession. In order to accommodate all voices, Summit Delegates-- industry leaders who influence English language education policy -- will attend the face-to-face Summit in Athens. Summit Participants -- industry stakeholders who implement English language education policy --will add their voices online.

Twelve featured speakers from six continents will facilitate the online and face-to-face conversations that are currently influencing the TESOL profession. Online discussions will start six weeks before the Summit. At the Summit, each speaker will bring ideas gathered from around the world to the Delegates, as well as invite Delegates and online Summit Participants to interact through live round-table discussions and Q&A. Following the meeting in Athens, the online conversations will continue in order to solidify the Key TESOL Summit Take-Aways.

TESOL Summit: Shape the Future of the Profession

SUMMIT ON THE FUTURE OF THE TESOL PROFESSION

Athens, Greece • 9-10 February 2017

#TESOLsummit

What will the future hold for the TESOL Profession?
Join TESOL International Association as we look to set the course.

250 Invite-Only Summit Delegates
Unlimited Online Summit Participants
12 Featured Speakers from 6 Continents

The Royal Olympic
28-34 Athanasiou Diakou Str.
117 43, Athens, Greece



3 Guiding Principles

Equity Professionalism Inquiry

4 Summit Themes 2 Days 1 Report

Futurology

Reimagining English
Competence

English is Multilingualism

The Profession as an Agent of
Change

To delve into the themes, modes of interaction, and registration process, go to

<http://www.tesol.org/summit-2017/themes>

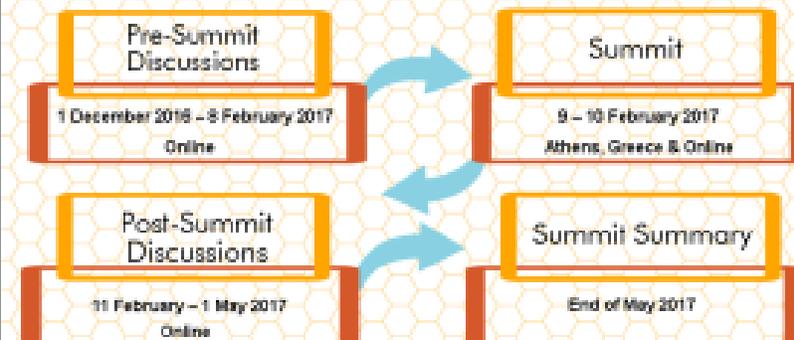
Attend Online for free!

Summit Participants will attend the Summit for the Future of the TESOL Profession online starting 1 December 2016. We encourage all Summit Delegates, researchers, practicing teachers, pre-service teachers, and English language students to participate. Registration is free and will open in November 2016. In addition to participating in pre- and post-Summit conversations, all Summit participants are invited to participate in the live streaming of the Summit in Athens, including opportunities to interact with Summit speakers through roundtable discussions and Question and Answer periods.

Beginning December 1st!

<http://tesolorg.wufoo.com/forms/z1t234wo0jv8o9i/>

Summit Timeline



Summit Outcomes



A document, stating principles that a variety of stakeholders commit to supporting, along with a comprehensive vision to guide policy, practice, and research will be released at the 2018 TESOL International Convention & English Language Expo in Chicago, Illinois, USA



Follow us to stay updated on all things TESOL Summit

www.tesolsummit.org

Guiding Principles for Planning

Inquiry

Value statement: TESOL [practice](#) and [policy](#) should be [inquiry-based](#), with practice informing research as well as [research](#) informing practice and policy.

Related actions

- Promote systematic and ethical inquiry to build a strong knowledge base for the field that drives practice and policies
- Promote inquiry on administration and policy
- Support teacher inquiry
- Commit to including all voices in inquiry

Equity

Value statement: English is an additional language and should not supplant the home language(s). TESOL occurs in different contexts with varying practices, cultures, and access to resources.

Related actions

- Be committed to social justice and equality-in-difference
- Support English development in under-resourced areas
- Further a commitment to [multilingualism](#) and plurilingual realities
- Leverage the diversity of learners as resource for learning

Professionalism

Value statement: Professional development should promote sustainable, continuous, collaborative, and coherent activities. The focus should be on change and [innovation](#) as opposed to academic outputs.

Related actions

- Build a more unified and cohesive community that meets the needs of this multifaceted profession
- Challenge the deficit model of teaching and learning, and promote the notion of the resourceful teacher
- Acknowledge second language [teacher identities](#)
- Enhance ongoing TESOL professionalism through various training models such as cascading, use of [technology](#), and/or training of trainers

For more information or to join the TESOL Summit mailing list, please contact [TESOL Professional Learning & Research](#).

Summit Themes

Futurology

The field of Future Studies offers a broad, holistic perspective that is essential for understanding the English language profession both today and in the future.

- What are the mega-trends (political, economic, social, intercultural, legal, and digital) and how do they impact English and English language education?
- What should policy makers keep in mind given these mega-trends?
- What should organizations, institutions, and [TESOL professionals](#) keep in mind given these mega-trends?

[Futurology Speaker Bios](#)

English in Multilingualism

English has an image as the ruling language that may eradicate linguistic diversity. Yet the TESOL profession, in its mission to teach English, must embrace the opportunity to simultaneously support [multilingualism](#).

- How can the multilingualism of students of English and TESOL professionals (particularly nonnative-English-speaking teachers) be recognized as an asset in [advocacy](#), [innovation](#), [policy](#), and [practice](#)?
- How can linguistic diversity be leveraged while teaching English, and what best practices allow teachers to incorporate the languages of their students into their daily professional practices?
- How can TESOL inquiry and reflection strengthen multilingual policies?

[English in Multilingualism Speaker Bios](#)

Reimagining English Competence

English competence has been traditionally defined in reference to a native or ideal speaker norm and in terms of the grammar of the language. This definition has been challenged.

- How can we overcome the native speaker as the standard and address the changing realities of English language use around the world, both with regard to students' needs for English and to teachers' needs for proficiency in English?
- What new research-based models and goals for English competence can be developed to guide policy and practice?
- How can the multiple [Englishes](#) that arise in different contexts be incorporated in frameworks, standards, large-scale tests, and rubrics?

[Reimagining English Competence Speaker Bios](#)

The Profession as a Change Agent

Each member of the TESOL profession must be empowered to foster positive change within a risk-tolerant culture.

- How can all [stakeholders](#) become more nimble and risk-tolerant?
- How can practice shape and inform policy and [research](#)?
- How can TESOL professionals be empowered to instigate and sustain innovation?

[The Professional as a Change Agent Speaker Bios](#)

For more information or to join the TESOL Summit mailing list, please contact [TESOL Professional Learning & Research](#).

How is the Summit different from other TESOL events?

1. TESOL International Association events traditionally focus on professional development and networking. The Summit on the Future of the TESOL Profession will focus on creating a roadmap for countries seeking to upgrade or reform their language education policies.
2. The format of the Summit is based on shorter sessions that challenge and inspire Delegates. The vast majority of the time involves the Delegates interacting with each other and Featured Speakers through a series of key discussions. The Delegate will have the opportunity to hear from all TESOL stakeholders and see how high-level policy decisions effect the quality of English language teaching and learning.
3. Summit Outcome: A working document for stating principles that a variety of stakeholders commit to supporting will be introduced to the Summit Delegates and Participants. This document will consist of a comprehensive vision to guide policy, practice, and research and be released at the 2018 TESOL International Convention & English Language Expo, 27–30 March 2018 in Chicago, Illinois, USA.

Featured Speakers

Guiding Principles Themes	Inquiry	Equity	Professionalism
Futurology	Sue Garton	Asmaa Abu Mezied	Greg Kessler
English in multilingualism	Li Wei	Jo LoBianco	Robinah Kyeyune
Reimagining English Competence	Anne Katz	Aya Matsuda	Ahmar Mahboob
The Profession as a Change Agent	Constant Leung	Franklin Tellez	Misty Adoniou

Top Posts in TESOL:

The most inspiring TESOL and Education conversations happening on the web.



Following

@EvangelUniv @TESOLJennifer
#MIDTESOL16

News Junkie @newsjunkieswmo

Young Achievers: Evangel students present project at MIDTESOL conference ift.tt /2eRJTJy

RETWEET 1 LIKE 1



8:42 AM - 19 Oct 2016



Following

Feedback from participant who came all the way from Ecuador for #MIDTESOL16. Check out his site at [cognates.org](http://www.cognates.org)

Dear MIDTESOL,

Congratulations! The Conference was great! I mean it! Every year since 2009 I've presented at different TESOLs in different states, from California to N.Y., from Texas to South Carolina, and I think yours may be my top one.

Why?

1.- I don't know if it was a coincidence but at every session I attended, I noticed that there was more participation and questions than I've witnessed in other TESOLs. It did not happen as usual at the end of the presentations, but while the speakers were delivering their presentations. It just flowed naturally without representing interruptions for the speakers.

2.- I enjoyed and learned from the Ed-Tech Bazaar the most! The presentations were so cool and the message was like "see, this is how you can do it." I heard someone from the board say "we're trying to do something like the big TESOL Electronic Village". But it's not the same. The big TESOL is too impersonal, there are too many people. It's funny but us, the attendees, looked like kindergarten children around a table holding our laptops/lunchboxes and asking the teacher to come to us to help us open the app.

3.- In one of the interest sections meetings I attended, although we all had the same interest, it was obvious that that interest was still too broad. But the facilitator led us to identify our shared needs and we ended up forming like four different chat groups. That was so beneficial.

4.- I met Stephen Krashen! (that was in my bucket list. Now I have to meet Chomsky and Pinker)

5.- I launched my first App at MIDTESOL!!! (If you missed it: <https://chrome.google.com/webstore/detail/the-cognate-highlighter-b/pepihjcfobjekmidhfnjinoekpbnphdn/> or go to my personal website: <http://www.cognates.org/>)

RETWEET 1 LIKES 7



11:30 AM - 6 Oct 2016



MIDTESOL
@MIDTESOL



Following

Just because students know how to use various apps, that doesn't mean they are digitally literate. @BroadyESL #digital #literacy #edtech

RETWEETS

3

LIKES

4



8:05 AM - 24 Aug 2016



MIDTESOL
@MIDTESOL



Following

#Refugees at Our Door nytimes.com/2015/10/11/opi ... @SLNazario @nytimes
#MIDTESOL16



The Refugees at Our Door

We are paying Mexico to keep people from reaching our border, people who are fleeing Central American violence.

nytimes.com

RETWEETS

3

LIKES

5



7:13 AM - 1 Oct 2016



STATE BY STATE UPDATE:

Iowa News:



We had a great time at the MIDTESOL Conference in Kansas City last month! The Iowa Culture and Language Conference (ICLC) was November 15-16 in Iowa City. Thanks to all who stopped by the MIDTESOL table and joined us at our MIDTESOL social gathering at ICLC.

We will be announcing an upcoming Webinar Series for MIDTESOL members in November. Please check the MIDTESOL Website in mid November for more details.

Mark your calendars for our Winter Workshop! It will take place on February 3, 2017 from 2-5 pm at the University of Iowa. This will be a great professional development workshop that is free of charge to members of MIDTESOL. The goal of this workshop is to encourage networking and collaboration among MIDTESOL members and to preview presentations that will be given at the TESOL International Convention and English Language Expo in March. If you're interested in attending or presenting at the workshop, please email midtesolwinterworkshop@gmail.com.

There are a lot of exciting events happening around MIDTESOL this winter with ICLC, the new webinar series and the Winter Workshop. Please don't miss out on these great professional development and networking opportunities. As always, if you have any questions, concerns or comments please do not hesitate to reach out to me. You can contact me at zach.smith@kirkwood.edu or on Twitter at [@zas85](https://twitter.com/zas85).

Thanks!

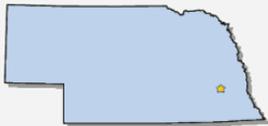
Zachary Smith

Iowa Member at Large

Kansas updates to be posted pending the MIDTESOL election for the Kansas Member-at-Large. Stay tuned!

STATE BY STATE UPDATE

News from Nebraska



Greetings!

My name is Jill Fox, and I am the newly-elected board representative-at-large from Nebraska. I have been involved in the ESL field since 2000, and have worked as a K-12 teacher, teacher-trainer, adult education teacher, family literacy program coordinator, and intensive English program instructor. I hold a Masters in ESL Education from the University of Tennessee, and am a PhD candidate in Educational Studies (with a focus on literacy, language, and culture) from the University of Nebraska. I currently work as the Director of the Intensive English Language Institute at Creighton University. I look forward to collaborating with colleagues around the state and the MIDTESOL region!

2016 MIDTESOL Conference

Nebraska has a growing membership in MIDTESOL of over 50 K-12 teachers, teacher-training programs, doctoral students, adult education, and intensive English program teachers and administrators. Many attended the 2016 MIDTESOL conference in Kansas City, MO this fall. Considering that Nebraska was largely out of the MIDTESOL picture for many years, the growing numbers of conference participants and the growing array of interest sections represented show highlight the positive effects of outreach done by the MIDTESOL board members. Special shout-out to former member-at-large Natalie Baskin (UNL), conference exhibitor coordinator Crystal Bock Thiessen (UNL), and conference co-chair Vicki Anderson (Concordia) for their work in garnering more involvement from other ELL professionals in our state, and for their part in helping to make this past conference such a success.

Hispanic Latino Summit

The 2016 Hispanic Latino Summit is sponsored by the Nebraska Department of Education along with the Latino American Commission. The 2016 summit was on Monday, October 24th at Kearney's Younes Conference Center. The purpose was to provide information for students and staff on the importance of graduating, and how to graduate career- or college-ready.

Nebraska has experienced a 100% increase in the number of ELLs since 2000, and almost 75% of those ELLs speak Spanish. The work of the summit participants, though, is to "assure equitable opportunities and hold high expectations for ALL children" (www.latinosummit.org).

School staff and students were invited, but the event was limited to the first 600 registrants. Find more information and event updates at www.latinosummit.org





STATE BY STATE UPDATE:

MISSOURI

by Andrea B. Hellman

Missouri discontinued the MELL Conference, which in prior years was one of the chief sources of professional development and networking for K-12 ELL teachers, specialists, and administrators in the state. As an alternative, ELL professionals were invited to the [Federal Programs Conference](#), which was held in Osage Beach, MO, September 25-27. Keynote speakers included Libia Gil, director of the Office of English Language Acquisition at the US Department of Education. Although the conference featured [eminent speakers](#), the majority of ELL teachers in Missouri did not recognize this event as their own and they opted for professional development with more familiar brands (MIDTESOL, WIDA). There is potential to recruit even more ELL teachers from Missouri to attend MIDTESOL; however, they prefer more contextualized and practical sessions that are focused on their specific interests, especially curriculum, assessment, and teaching models that are being implemented within their districts and buildings.

The Missouri MELL is undergoing changes with long-term implications.

1. Missouri (House Bill 1490) voted to replace the Common Core standards, developed and approved the [Missouri Learning Standards: Grade- and Course-Level Expectations](#) to be implemented this school year.
2. Missouri remained a member in the WIDA Consortium; [WIDA's English Language Development Standards](#) are in effect and WIDA training on these standards continue (next, October 6). These are generic: performance levels, performance definitions, CAN DO descriptors, supports, features of academic language in the different modalities. Additional WIDA webinars are offered statewide for the fall on differentiation and WIDA tools.
- 3.. DESE welcomed a new ELL Curriculum Director, [Ryan Rumpf](#), who has international experience with WIDA standards and who is studying the implications of the learning standards change. He is attending the MIDTESOL Conference, along with many of the [DESE ELL and Migrant Staff](#). Claudia Franks, the MELL Region 4 Instructional Specialist, is now a member of the MIDTESOL Board.
4. ESSA has fiscal consequences for Title I and Title III, which is casting a shadow over the future of the Missouri MELL program.
5. On September 23, the [US Department of Education released non-regulatory guidance under ESSA](#), which states that Title I and Title III staff should work together and coordinate services to ELs.

Missouri districts are introducing new instructional approaches to teach ELs.

1. Most notably, Carthage is in the second year of implementing a [dual language program](#). They started with Kindergarten and Grade 1 at Fairview Elementary School: half of the day is in Spanish and the other half in English. Assistant Superintendent, Kandy Frazier, is directing this innovation.
2. Several districts are introducing the [collaboration and co-teaching model](#) designed by Andrea Honigsfeld and Maria Dove. Their [Missouri collaborators](#) are Alla Gonzalez Del Castillo from St. Louis Public Schools and Debra Cole, MELL Instructional Specialist.

Missouri TESOL Teacher Education programs across the state encountered two main challenges.

1. The [new teacher certification rule](#) effective August 1, 2017 required program revision. The MO K-12 ELL endorsement is 30-credits, with nine credits in special education, content area literacy, and reading interventions.
2. Institutions of higher education were invited to participate in several grant competitions by the US Department of Education Office of English Language Acquisition. Of these, the [National Professional Development](#) program was of the greatest interest in the state, which required an intense period of planning between December, 2015 and February, 2016. The very large number of applications delayed the notification of the awards. Missouri State University received a 5-year grant award for the iELT-Ozarks project, which will provide customized, online courses for the Missouri K-12 ELL endorsement to teachers in three partner districts: Springfield, Monett, and McDonald County.

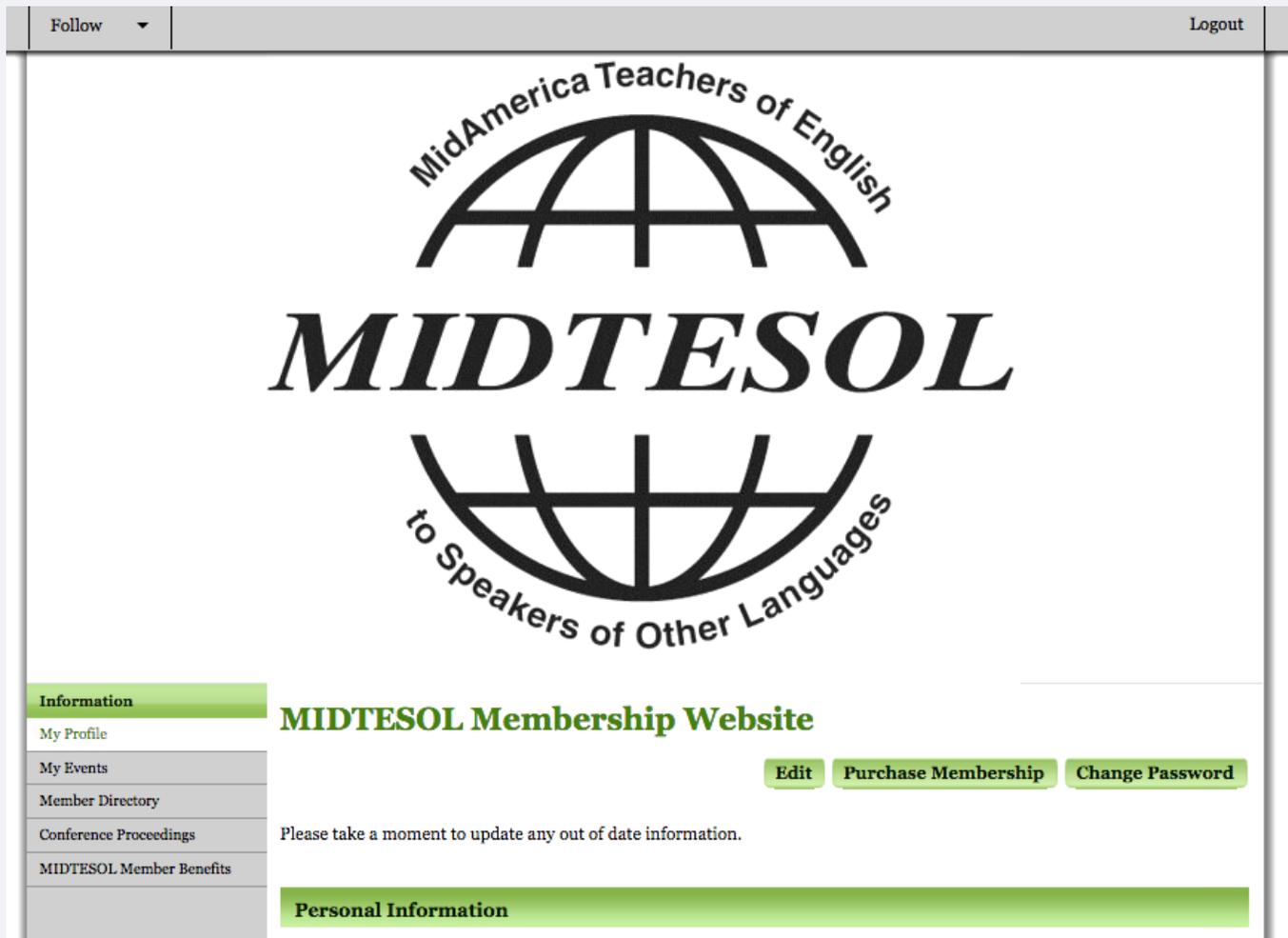
Intensive English Programs in the state felt the effect of the [Saudi government's cut of the King Abdullah Scholarship program](#). Programs underwent very significant budget cuts, program revisions, and staff reallocations.

1. The [NAFSA Region IV Conference](#) will take place in Springfield, MO, October 24-27. This year, the prominent topics of the 60 sessions are study abroad, enrollment management, and meeting students' needs.
2. We did not hold a state MIDTESOL meeting in the spring. There were opportunities for PD in the state (WIDA and MELL workshops for K-12 teachers and the [ELI TESOL & SLA PD Conference](#)).

Are you interested in getting involved with an IS?

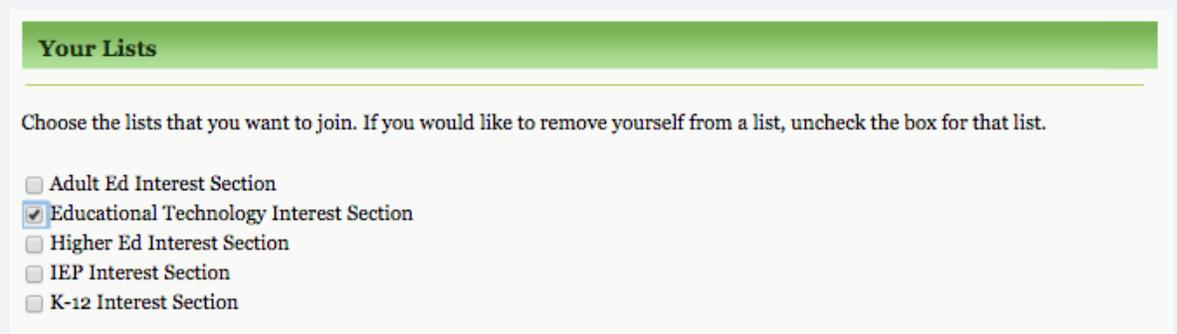
Here's what to do:

1. Edit your profile setting in your membership file accessible from the midtesol.org site, or at <https://www.cvent.com/Events/ContactPortal/Login.aspx?cwstub=19255e93-37d9-4d38-ac7d-2ac8779a50d1>



The screenshot shows the MIDTESOL Membership Website profile page. At the top, there is a navigation bar with a "Follow" dropdown and a "Logout" link. The main content area features the MIDTESOL logo, which consists of a stylized globe with the text "MidAmerica Teachers of English" above it and "to Speakers of Other Languages" below it. The word "MIDTESOL" is prominently displayed in the center. Below the logo, there is a section titled "MIDTESOL Membership Website" with three buttons: "Edit", "Purchase Membership", and "Change Password". A message below the buttons reads: "Please take a moment to update any out of date information." On the left side, there is a sidebar menu with the following items: "Information", "My Profile", "My Events", "Member Directory", "Conference Proceedings", and "MIDTESOL Member Benefits". The "Information" section is currently selected and highlighted in green. Below the message, there is a section titled "Personal Information" which is also highlighted in green.

2. Choose Interest Sections to get involved with:



The screenshot shows the "Your Lists" section of the MIDTESOL Membership Website. The section title "Your Lists" is displayed in a green header bar. Below the header, there is a message: "Choose the lists that you want to join. If you would like to remove yourself from a list, uncheck the box for that list." Below the message, there is a list of interest sections with checkboxes:

- Adult Ed Interest Section
- Educational Technology Interest Section
- Higher Ed Interest Section
- IEP Interest Section
- K-12 Interest Section

3. Start receiving and sharing great info about the field!

Announcement From the Board:

MIDTESOL would like to recognize the contributions of our members to the association of which we are an affiliate, TESOL International. We will continue to post this information on our website in honor of TESOL's 50th anniversary celebration in 2016 and would ask that any MIDTESOL member who has presented, been published, volunteered, or otherwise served TESOL in a leadership capacity since TESOL's inception please fill out the following [survey \(http://goo.gl/forms/q2VwWPNxdT\)](http://goo.gl/forms/q2VwWPNxdT).



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 foster excellence in English language learning in Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska 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
- Encourages access to the standards for English language instruction, professional preparation, and employment

Contact Us

Reach us with any questions about MIDTESOL

Visit us on the web at www.midtesol.org