

Spring 2020

MIDTESOL Matters

*The Mid-America
TESOL Affiliate Newsletter*



Downtown Omaha, Nebraska



Inside This Issue

page 3
Welcome from the President

page 5
#MIDTESOL 2019 Highlights

page 15
#TESOL2020

page 10
State News

page 18
2019 Award Recipients

“English language educators can create optimal classroom conditions conducive to effective and engaging learning. Without a doubt, all this year’s conference attendees left the conference with so many innovative ideas and strategies to use upon their return to their classrooms.”

Dr. Thu Tran
MIDTESOL President

MIDTESOL Matters

Table of Contents

A Welcome from the President	3
Year in Review	4
#MIDTESOL19 Conference Highlights	5
The Right to Education by Molly Kelley	8
Update from the Treasurer	9
State Updates Missouri	10
State Updates Nebraska	11
State Updates Kansas	12
State Updates Iowa	13
MIDTESOL Academy	14
#TESOL 2020	15
MIDTESOL Journal and Submission Information	16-17
Award Recipients	18-23
Student Essay Submission Information	24-25
MIDTESOL Member Advocacy Award Applications	26-27
Top Social Media Picks	28
MIDTESOL Member Profile	29
MIDTESOL 2020	30-31
About Our Organization	32

Follow Us!





MIDTESOL on Twitter: Follow us [Twitter.com/MIDTESOL](https://twitter.com/MIDTESOL)
MIDTESOL on Facebook: Like us [Facebook.com/MIDTESOL](https://facebook.com/MIDTESOL)
MIDTESOL on Instagram: Like us [Instagram.com/MIDTESOL](https://instagram.com/MIDTESOL)

A Welcome from the President

Dr. Thu Tran
MIDTESOL President
Missouri University of
Science & Technology
Rolla, Missouri



My first MIDTESOL conference was in St. Louis, Missouri in 2011. I was greatly impressed by the conference attendees who were so kind and dedicated. My first experience with this organization has turned out to be an outstanding opportunity for professional development and service. From being a member of MIDTESOL to attending as well as submitting proposals for annual conferences, delivering presentations, contributing articles, and working as the editors of the annual conference proceedings and the newly created MIDTESOL journal, each role allowed me to experience how wonderful MIDTESOL has been to its members by providing a wide array of professional engagement and growth opportunities. Having completed my term as Vice-President, I was inducted as President of MIDTESOL during the 2019 Annual Conference in Omaha, NE. It is truly an honor to serve you, members of this excellent organization of teachers of English to speakers of other languages.

Since this message was written just a few days after my return from our conference in Omaha, the memory of the conference is still fresh in my mind. I was able to attend some of the best presentations I ever attended. Drs. Yvonne and David Freeman provided extremely useful principles for ensuring success in the ESL K-12 contexts. Dr. Joan Kang Shin's workshop on teaching English to young learners was phenomenal. The rhythm, tempo, and movement in the workshop turned a room of educators into a highly engaging and lively environment. I am sure when the participants in the workshop bring what they learned into their classroom, none of their students can passively remain in their seats. They will be up, singing, moving, and dancing. I used the song I learned in the workshop with my kids. They all loved it and were able to sing it after a couple of minutes. Dr. Janet Zadina's plenary speech about the brain and its role in learning was so interesting. Using knowledge from neuroscience research, English language educators can create optimal classroom conditions conducive to effective and engaging learning. Without a doubt, all this year's conference attendees left the conference with so many innovative ideas and strategies to use upon their return to their classrooms.

I was also impressed by the number of conference attendees, quality sessions offered, exhibitors, and the excellent food and service of the conference hotel. One of the most memorable moments for me was when Susan Mayberger introduced one of her previous English language learners who has made it to Harvard and coincidentally was in town when the conference was in session. The success story of Susan's student is what has kept us as English language teaching educators. We strive to be the best educators we can to serve our learners, and we feel the joy of seeing our students succeed and become the best version of themselves.

The conference has always been the height and most visible part of MIDTESOL activities where we gather to learn from one another, socialize, and get a sense of belonging. We know that we are not alone in our pursuit to help English language learners to master the language for a brighter future where they can shine in whatever career of their choice. In addition to the conference, MIDTESOL provides its members with professional development opportunity via its publications throughout the year. Please check out MIDTESOL Matters newsletters, weekly features, and the MIDTESOL Journal. For those who attended or presented at our annual conference or elsewhere, please consider writing down what you learned or talked about and submitting it to one of our MIDTESOL publication venues. We would like for you to share what you have learned with MIDTESOL so we can all become better learners and educators. As fall is here, leaves are rapidly changing colors. Our brain will too change its "color" as we learn and increase our brain gray matter. Like the change of color in fall leaves, our brain changes its structure as we learn to improve our job in the educational arena.

I am pleased to serve you as president as well as learn with and from you.

Thu Tran
#MIDTESOL2020 President
tranthu@mst.edu



Alice Amy Chastain
Past MIDTESOL President
ESL Programs
University of Iowa

Year in Review

It has been a whirlwind year and an even faster moving fall term! I can hardly believe that the conference is in our rearview mirror and the holidays are upon us. Your new MIDTESOL board is hard at work planning member benefits and professional development for our communities of practice including an opportunity to meet and network with your fellow members at TESOL in Denver, upcoming webinar series to expand access to professional development beyond localized events, supporting our Interest Sections to achieve the goals they've set, and expanding our advocacy efforts to best represent all voices in our region. In this community, remember that every voice is important and valued. Your voice is needed. Your leadership and vision is desired.

A diversity of perspectives and ideas strengthen our organization and our ability to support one another and our students. There will be a number of opportunities in the coming months for you to answer calls to serve your MIDTESOL. We are run entirely by volunteers and in that spirit, we are excited to support and train you every step of the way. Mentors are available for new members of the board to help ease the transition. You do not need previous experience to take on many of the positions and committee roles. Should you ever have questions or thoughts about joining the board, please reach out to any board member to discuss the opportunities and responsibilities.

I am excited to report that our colleagues at Emporia State University will be traveling to represent the "Best of MIDTESOL" with ***Cross-Campus Bridges and Reflections on a Multilingual Composition Pilot*** at the upcoming TESOL International Convention in Denver. As part of this four-person panel, Dr. Katherine Daily-O'Meara, Jon Phelps-Leach, Cara Codney, and Dr. Cathryn Crosby, three will be first time attendees bringing fresh perspectives to contribute to the field with an exciting, innovative presentation that involves supporting multi-lingual students on their campus through elective offerings of courses alongside other freshman composition courses to strengthen the linguistic and cultural scaffolding these students have and opening the door for them to bring the strength of their multilingual knowledge and experiences to enrich that course. I hope you will all take the opportunity to support this presentation in Denver if you have plans to be present.

It has been my great pleasure to serve our MIDTESOL as President and Vice-President and now as Past President and Nominating Chair. I look forward to working closely with many of you this year as you reach out to nominate yourself or others to play an important part in helping MIDTESOL continue to strengthen the effective teaching of English in Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska to people whose native language is a language other than English while respecting their individual language rights.

Amy Alice Chastain
Past President & Nominating Chair
amy-chastain@uiowa.edu

#MIDTESOL19 Highlights Considered a Success!

Susan Mayberger
2019 Conference Chair
Nebraska



The MIDTESOL19 Conference: **Bridges to Success** held in Omaha on September 27 and 28 was considered a success by the almost 700 participants in attendance. Survey results indicated that 96% rated the conference from good to great. Feedback included that there was a nice variety of speakers and topics, that it was great to have students as part of the Saturday luncheon and many positive remarks about Janet Zadina, Joan Kang Shin, David and Yvonne Freeman and Juan Cangas. The success of the conference also rests with the many of our colleagues that presented at the conference as well. #MIDTESOL19 would not have had such an impact without colleagues sharing their expertise with other colleagues. There were requests to include presentations on neuroscience, early childhood and enhanced secondary presentations in future conferences. Another benefit of holding #MIDTESOL19 in Nebraska was that our membership from Nebraska increased dramatically.

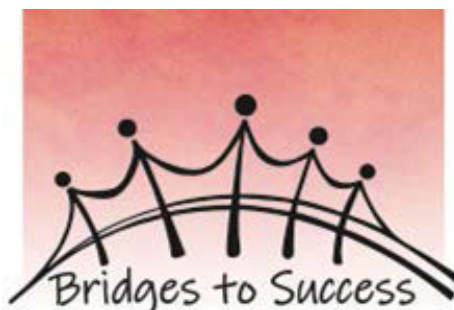
The pre-conference school visits to schools in the Omaha Public Schools (OPS) were a great addition according to participants. There were visits to high school programs including the district's Teen Literacy Center (a program for SLIFE students), the K-12 Dual Language Program and the Yates Community Center and an elementary school. One MIDTESOL Board Member said that it was the school visits that brought her colleagues for the first time to the conference. Jaimie Cogua, OPS Coordinator of EL, DL Migrant and Refugee Education, and her team are to be thanked for opening up their classroom doors.

At the luncheon on Saturday, Kimberly Kreicker received the Distinguished Service Award for her years of work for MIDTESOL. She has been involved in many MIDTESOL Conferences in past years and served as the MIDTESOL Treasurer. Our organization is where it is because of her dedication to our profession.

Putting on a conference for 700 participants is no easy task, and as an organization we need to be thankful to the members that were on the MIDTESOL19 Planning Committee. Without their hard work and attention to detail, the conference could not successfully take place. Many members don't realize that a conference of this magnitude needs to bring in significant revenue including having participants stay in the conference hotel. The hotel provides the use of its rooms for free as long as there are a certain number of room reservations connected to the conference. Staying at the conference hotel is one way that members can support the MIDTESOL conference and keep our registration prices lower.

I want to thank all of you that attended #MIDTESOL19 and to ask that you mark your calendars for #MIDTESOL20 which will be held on October 2 and 3 in Des Moines. I encourage all members to think of ways that they can be active in our professional organization whether it is by attending conferences, being part of the #MIDTESOL20 Conference Planning Committee, participating in an Interest Section Group or writing an article for our publications. By working together, we can ensure that Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska are providing the "bridges to success" for all of our English Learners.

Submitted by Susan Mayberger
MIDTESOL 2019 Conference Chair



MIDTESOL 2019 Omaha, Nebraska Conference Highlights!



Conference Highlights!



The Right to Education

Statement from Molly M. Kelley, MIDTESOL 2020 Conference Chair

On October 2nd and 3rd of this year, MIDTESOL will host our annual conference in Des Moines, Iowa.

The theme is *Community at a Crossroads: The Right to Education*. I would like to explain what this means:

Non-native English speakers in America are under attack, and I'm not being figurative. Travel bans currently restrict entry to the United States for peoples from Iran, Libya, Somalia, Syria, Yemen, North Korea, and Venezuela. As of February 21st of this year, the ban will expand to the countries of Nigeria, Myanmar, Sudan, Tanzania, Eritrea, and Kyrgyzstan (NAFSA, 2020). Asylum seekers south of the border have also been refused and additionally, due to policies officially deemed "Zero Tolerance," families have been, in many cases, irreparably torn apart, with "more than 2,730 children... separated from their parents" (Boghani, 2019). These are just the children we know about, but what about the ones that remain unseen, lost in bureaucracy? The shame and sadness I feel reading headlines describing the legalization of concentration camps in America (Abramsky, 2019) leave me speechless.

For these reasons and more, I take pride being a member of TESOL International Association, our parent organization. Their position statements are clear:

- TESOL strongly opposes policies that arbitrarily target specific groups of people or create barriers based on race, religion, nationality, native language or language proficiency, refugee status or other demographic factors, focus only on enforcement or punitive measures, or emphasize fear and hostility towards immigrants, refugees, and other nations.
- English is no longer viewed as something optional, but essential.
- Because of our interconnectedness and dependency, the ability to communicate in more than one language is more important than ever in promoting international cooperation and goodwill, and in dispelling misunderstanding and mistrust.

Our students have a right to their English-language education, which is essential to a student's ability to self-advocate in a climate where their various identities are being used against them and their families.

Our conference will address these topics and more, with keynotes from renowned lexicographer and senior Cambridge ELL dictionary editor Kory Stamper, as well as Dr. Christel Broady, director of the ESL teacher Education Program at Georgetown College, current member of the TESOL International Board of Directors, a specialist in K-12 Biliteracy, and fierce advocate for immigrants and their teachers.

Join us.



Molly M. Kelley
MIDTESOL 2020 Conference Chair

References

- Abramsky, S. (2019, August 23rd). *Trump Is Legalizing Concentration Camps for Immigrant Families*. The Nation. <https://www.thenation.com/article/archive/immigration-kids-trump-flores-concentration-camps/>
- Boghani, P. (2019, October 22nd). *A Guide to Some Major Trump Administration Immigration Policies*. PBS. <https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/article/a-guide-to-some-major-trump-administration-immigration-policies/>
- NAFSA Association of International Educators. *Travel Ban: NAFSA Resources*. (2020, January 21st). Retrieved from <https://www.nafsa.org/professional-resources/browse-by-interest/executive-order-travel-ban-nafsa-resources>
- TESOL International Association. *Position Statement on English as a Global Language*. (2008, March). Retrieved from <https://www.tesol.org/docs/pdf/10884.pdf?sfvrsn=2&sfvrsn=2>
- TESOL International Association. *Position Statement on Immigration Policy and Reform in the United States*. (2017, August). Retrieved from <https://www.tesol.org/docs/default-source/advocacy/immigration-reform-2017-position-statement---final.pdf?sfvrsn=0>
- TESOL International Association. *Position Statement on Multilingualism*. (2004, October). Retrieved from <https://www.tesol.org/docs/pdf/2933.pdf?sfvrsn=2&sfvrsn=2>



Lynn Tiemann
MIDTESOL Treasurer
 Grant Wood AEA
 Cedar Rapids, IA

Updates from the Treasurer

We are nearing the midyear point of our 2019 fiscal year. The money from dues and profits from the annual conference enable MIDTESOL to provide a variety of functions. Spending for MIDTESOL is categorized into awards, software and websites, dues/fees, membership, marketing, board expenses, conference expenses, insurance and banking costs.

MIDTESOL members have an opportunity for awards. This past year MIDTESOL provided awards for four presenters and eight intersection members to support attending MIDTESOL and one general member and one board member to attend TESOL. Additional awards included adult and student essays and the Distinguished Service Award.

MIDTESOL is able to provide communication and professional learning for members. Information and services are available through our website managed by Nice Girl’s Media, CVENT for Conference and Payment Management and Zoom. In addition, the MIDTESOL Matters Newsletter and the MIDTESOL Journal are resources for communication and learning.

Additional expenses to support MIDTESOL include affiliate dues to TESOL, insurance, banking fees and conference expenses. Board funding supports travel for some of the officers, socio-political advocacy, travel for board meetings and expenses.

Funding from the MIDTESOL conference funds the upcoming fiscal year. Extra income over expenses from previous conferences allowed for the purchase of three CDs to ensure stability in the future. This year an additional \$15,000 was rolled into a CD that matured.

MIDTESOL OPERATING BUDGET

(to date 10/20/19)

	2017-2018	2018-2019
Start Date	November 2017	November 2018
End Date	October 31, 2018	October 31, 2019
Approved Operating Budget	\$28,520.00	\$31,875.00
Actual Operating Expenditures	\$22,222.27	\$23,512.34
Remainder carried over to next FY	\$6,297.73	\$8,362.66
CD Reserve Funds	\$31,998.23	\$47,843.46



Members-At-Large State News



State Update: Missouri by Elizabeth Holloway

MISSOURI

Returning to Missouri Valley College after the MIDTESOL annual conference is always a bit of a shock. Teaching EAP on a small campus has its charms (really), but it is isolated. I find it difficult to connect with other TESOL professionals or to stay current in my field. It was such a pleasure to be around so many like-minded individuals, sharing tips, exchanging ideas, and seeing the newest materials and technology for language learning. With the conference fresh in my memory, I say a special thank you to Missouri members who presented and shared expertise with others in Omaha.

An added benefit for me this year was returning to serve on the Board of Directors after a 2- year hiatus. I look forward to participating on the Board and to serving TESOL professionals in Missouri as your Member-at-Large. There is never a shortage of obstacles in education, but teaching in ESL has its own set of challenges for our teachers, instructors, and professors.

Missouri is still largely a rural state, and Marshall, Missouri, where MVC is located, is a small rural town. However, in our town, as in many similar locations, ELLs need services and teachers. Data from the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education show, in 1985, there were 3,156 English Learners in the state. In 2018, there were 38,952 ELLs. The classes keep growing, in both our cities and our small districts.

Many of us know Andrea Hellman, who coordinates Missouri State University's TESOL program. She was recently quoted in a report written by Nikki Ogle and posted on September 3, 2019, for KY3 in Springfield, "We have a shortage of specialists for English Language Learners nationwide and Missouri is in that category also," she said.

Those of us teaching in higher education or community-based adult education and literacy programs face different challenges which can be discussed on this page.

The flip side of this are the rewards of being in the TESOL field. It is easy to become so overwhelmed with our busy schedules that we forget the joys of the job. Every day I am presented with student work that informs, delights, inspires, or amuses me in some way! I am sure you feel the same.

According to our latest membership numbers, Missouri is home to 195 MIDTESOL-ers. I invite you to contact me with any news, concerns, or achievements that you would like to see reported, pursued, or congratulated in my reports to the board, or to be published in MIDTESOL Matters. My email address is hollowaye@moval.edu.



MIDTESOL Conference
2020
October 2 and 3, 2020
Des Moines, Iowa



Members-At-Large State News

State Update: Nebraska Kaylene Powell



NEBRASKA

MIDTESOL 2019 in Omaha was an insightful, uplifting, enriching conference! I want to offer one more shout out to our own Susan Mayberger for her outstanding work and guidance in helping us have a successful conference experience.

Thank you to everyone who traveled (some of you much further than usual) to attend our organization's first ever Nebraska-hosted conference. And thanks to all those from Nebraska, both near and far, who joined us this year, many of you for the first time ever. In fact, we gained 183 new Nebraska members since our 2018 conference. I hope our new Nebraska members will enjoy being a part of MIDTESOL in the months ahead and will also choose to join us in Des Moines this coming fall. (Please reach out to me if you have questions about renewing your MIDTESOL membership or presenting your ideas in a session for other EL professionals at our next conference.)

At our 2019 conference, it was also great to see so many Nebraska-based presenters listed on the schedule. Thanks to all who shared their ideas, experiences, and expertise with us through a variety of different session types. I was able to attend a few of those sessions and found each one to be inspiring in its own way. Additionally, I greatly appreciate the colleagues who took time to join me for a short-notice Nebraska state meet-and-greet as the conference was wrapping up. I was pleasantly surprised by the nice balance of elementary through higher ed, urban to rural, and instructor to administrator ratios we had represented in the group attending. All ideas shared gave me a few areas upon which I can focus as I advocate for and communicate with EL educators across our state before our next conference.

In other state news, in early February, University of Nebraska at Omaha hosted their 14th Annual MALT Colloquium on Language Teaching, an event that MIDTESOL-connected educators were interested to hear about and at least a few got to attend. (I was hoping to attend myself, but, ironically, I missed out on the event mainly due to my MIDTESOL Board responsibilities.) If you, by chance, were able to attend or know someone who went, please contact me. I would love to ask you about your experience there. And for those in the area who are looking for more opportunities to network, learn, or present, consider watching for notices about their 2021 Colloquium, as there is no charge for this one-day event each year.

I will be reaching out by email a few times through this spring and summer to communicate with our current Nebraska members regarding some pertinent issues. Please feel free to respond to those emails, or to contact me directly anytime - kaylene.powell@bellevue.edu. I am always happy to receive your ideas, hear about your concerns or questions, and to help be your voice on our MIDTESOL board and/or help support you in thoughts you would like to share with your own school leadership or our politicians.

Action Points for NE Members

- Be thinking about any topics you might like to see MIDTESOL offer a webinar on.
- Consider writing a short article for our weekly insights blog and contact me for information about how to submit it. (Can be about teaching ideas, educational concepts, classroom experiences, etc.)
- Let any EL or other educational colleagues around you know about our organization and encourage them to join, if they haven't joined already.
- Send me the name(s) and contact information for your school administrator(s) or local government officials, if you would like, so that I may encourage them to lend an ear to the needs of you and your learners.



Members-At-Large State News

State Update: Kansas Roger Laubengayer



KANSAS

As your Kansas Member-at-Large, I would like to thank all my fellow Kansans who attended the 2019 MIDTESOL conference, and I would like to give a special shout out to Nicole Primm, KSDE Educational Consultant, who set up our state's meet-up at the conference. It was a great success, and we will definitely do it again in Des Moines next fall. If you are a MIDTESOL member from Kansas, please reach out to me at rlaubengayer@tps501.org with any concerns, questions, or ideas you'd like to share with me about how we can make your membership to MIDTESOL more beneficial!

Opportunities for Kansas Students

- MIDTESOL Student Essay Contest <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1s8XiPp-Zs7pAVptTIPp2NRP5EncpFjSInqT26fVsEU/edit>
- Kansas Crime Stoppers Association, collegiate scholarship https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Uo1U_UJNmGzibS_T7-aLGvbGTuun9y1/view?usp=sharing
- **Close Up:** local, state and national program offerings specifically designed for migrant and immigrant and ELL middle and high school students https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com?url=http%3a%2f%2fwww.closeup.org&c=E.1.c_nHoQ48oeAFTm6lv8k_ddRtZDK7MznXYb4hDK-aJoKNNjnhKiz_XTXadGhjmNSW_oMrG6RWA_QMSITxueRhuazkvnaWNRvWleBrolZe8qm_Bpidw9eSw_&tvpo=1
- Kansas 911 PSA Video Contest <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1IJQyl29Kpy9xG-ZkJmwr-bl2dk2ZRmU4/view?usp=sharing>
- SkillsUSA Kansas Scholarship <https://drive.google.com/file/d/14xJkkDJT7jrHHhSirwUN6ZM-fmzEdt0p/view?usp=sharing>

Opportunities for Kansas Teachers

KELPA Standard Setting: KSDE is recruiting members for the upcoming Kansas English Language Proficiency Assessment (KELPA) standard setting event. If you work with English Learners, they need your expertise to help set the standards for the new KELPA assessment. Dates May 19-22, 2020: Location: Lawrence, KS: Deadline to Apply: February 28, 2020: <https://collector.kiteaai.org/#uuid=f266feee-1588-4020-aed9-52034c237334&client=KANSAS>

Book Club: ELL Frontiers: Using Technology to Enhance Instruction for English Learners by Andrea M. Honigsfeld: Beginning: April 1, 2020. Discussions will take place weekly (Wednesdays), online, for one hour with book authors! Here is the link to the registration: <https://events.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=939>.

ESOL Praxis Preparation: Test Prep Strategies for ESOL Endorsement: April 8, 2020: Girard, KS: 9- 3pm: Cost: \$125 for non-members, free to Title III Consortium members: Register at <https://secure.rec1.com/KS/greenbush-ks/catalog/index/10ab6f0a8ef6373d30444acc52934cc1?filter=c2VhcmNoPUVTT0w=>

Connect with MIDTESOL on social media





Members-At-Large State News

State Update: Iowa by Dakota Thomas-Wilhelm



Greetings from Iowa, the host of the upcoming annual MIDTESOL conference in Des Moines at the beginning of October. If you are a MIDTESOL member in Iowa, please feel free to reach out to me (dakota-thomas@uiowa.edu) with any questions, concerns, or ideas you'd like to share. Thanks for everyone who has been in contact over the recent months!

What's happening in Iowa?

IOWA

The annual Iowa Cultures & Language Conference took place November 9-11, 2019 in Coralville, Iowa. I had the privilege of working the table at ICLC for a few hours and was able to have some wonderful conversations with people at the K-12 and community college level. We made sure to advertise our upcoming MIDTESOL Conference that will be held in Des Moines this fall. Hopefully we will have more K-12 and community college presence at the upcoming conference!

For the first time in Iowa's history, [775 high school students](#) in the State of Iowa were awarded the *State of Iowa Seal of Biliteracy*. The *Seal of Biliteracy* is aimed at recognizing high school students who are proficient in more than one language. According to the [Iowa Department of Education](#), "The Seal of Biliteracy is an award given by a district to recognize students who have attained proficiency in two or more languages, one of which is English, by high school graduation". In the first year since its inception, 96 schools signed up to offer the seal, and 55 of them awarded it. The seal was earned by students in 19 different languages: American Sign Language, Arabic, Bosnian, Burmese, Chinese, French, German, Hindi, Hmong, Italian, Japanese, Karen languages, Korean, Latin, Russian, Spanish, Swahili, Turkish, and Vietnamese. Congratulations to all of these students!

Upcoming events in Iowa?

In lieu of the MidWinter Workshop (previously coordinated by Zachary Smith and Molly Kelley), I am partnering with Sue Almén-Whittaker, the Ed-Tech Interest Section Chair, to start **MIDTESOL Academy**, an online web series. The aim of this web academy is to encourage collaboration and sharing among MIDTESOL members and the greater TESOL community with a goal of providing an ongoing web series that can serve as a permanent professional development opportunity that easily reaches all of the MIDTESOL membership.

We are inviting any and all MIDTESOL members to submit short videos (about 2-10 minutes) and/or screencasts to be shared on our YouTube channel. These can be research talks, teaching tips, educational technology demonstrations, or anything related to the changing TESOL field. Feel free to propose something as a stand-alone video or a short series in itself!

If you are interested in submitting a video to our web academy, please complete this online submission form: <https://forms.gle/yS5bMUnf8Y5ncx958>. The initial call-for-proposals will close on May 1, with a rolling acceptance to be started in the coming fall.

If you have any questions, please contact me at dakota-thomas@uiowa.edu.

**Video Submission Deadline
Due May 1, 2020**

MIDTESOL Academy Coming to YouTube



Hello MIDTESOL colleagues,

This is Dakota Thomas-Wilhelm, your Iowa Member-at-Large for the MIDTESOL Board. In lieu of our traditional MidWinter Workshop, I am collaborating with the Educational Technology Interest Section Chair, Sue Almén-Whittaker, to establish the **MIDTESOL Academy on our MIDTESOL YouTube channel**.

The aim of this web academy is to encourage collaboration and sharing among MIDTESOL members and the greater TESOL community with a goal of providing an ongoing web series that can serve as a permanent professional development opportunity that easily reaches all of the MIDTESOL membership.

We are inviting any and all MIDTESOL members to submit short videos (about 2-10 minutes) and/or screencasts to be shared on our YouTube channel. These can be research talks, teaching tips, educational technology demonstrations, or anything related to the changing TESOL field. Feel free to propose something as a stand-alone video or a short series in itself!

For those who are interested, but new to creating videos and/or screencasts, there are a variety of online resources available free-of-charge, and we would be happy to share more information with you about those!

If you are interested in submitting a video to our web academy, please complete this online submission form: <https://forms.gle/yS5bMUnf8Y5ncx958>. The initial call-for-proposals will close on May 1, with a rolling acceptance to be started in the coming fall.

If you have any questions, please contact me at dakota-thomas@uiowa.edu.

Thank you so much,

Dakota Thomas-Wilhelm, IA Member-at-Large
Sue Almén-Whittaker, Ed-Tech Interest Section Chair

Connect with MIDTESOL on social media



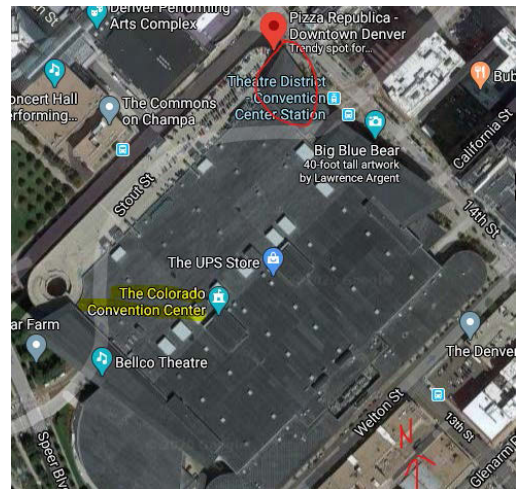
TESOL Convention 2020 Denver, Colorado



Congratulations to MIDTESOLers who are presenters at this year's TESOL International Convention!

If you are presenting at #TESOL2020 in Colorado, please fill out the following form by **Friday, March 13th** so we can help spread the word about your presentation. <http://forms.gle/WHApzDJvgfr4uJv19>

MIDTESOL Social at TESOL



Planning to attend TESOL 2020? Join us for a MIDTESOL reception with plenty of pizza and appetizers at the **Pizza Republica** restaurant, inside the Colorado Convention Center immediately following the opening plenary at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, March 31, 2020. Questions? Contact kelly.mcclendon@washburn.edu

Just Released! Check out the second edition of the **MIDTESOL Journal**

Feature Articles

Exploring Kiva.org

Ryan Kaduce

Errors! Should They Be Corrected? A Text-Based Quantitative Study about Error Correction in the ESL Classroom

Dhoha Marafie

Effective Activities and Tips for Teachers

Dagnabit! It's Time to Teach Swearing in the ESL Classroom

Ryan and Kaduce & Nicole Metzger

TV Shows and Language Learning: Tips for Teachers

Tetyana Kucher

Adult ESL Learners and Sharable Learning Supplements

Kaylene Powell

Turning Writing Into a Person: A New Approach to Teaching and Thinking about Writing

Patrick T. Randolph

Six Effective Strategies for Acculturation Using Powerful Reading Practices for Linguistically Diverse Learners

HeeGyoung Song & Dawna-Lisa Buchanan

Reviews of Instructional Materials

Teach-This.com: A Useful Tool for Teachers

Sara Daniels



Click on this link to get to the full MIDTESOL Journal material:

<https://midtesol.org/publications/midtesol-journal/midtesol-journal-vol-2-2019/>

Call for Submissions to MIDTESOL Journal

Submissions for Volume 3
Due March 1, 2020

MIDTESOL Journal is an annual blind peer-reviewed academic publication dedicated to the dissemination of research and ideas of interest to English language teaching professionals in Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas and world-wide. Articles in the MIDTESOL Journal are grounded in research, theory, pedagogy, and best practices in language learning and teaching.

You're Invited To submit to the MIDTESOL Journal

MIDTESOL accepts the following types
of submissions:

- Language teaching professionals' interests (no more than 3000 words)
- Effective activities and tips for teachers (no more than 2000 words)
- Reviews of instructional materials (no more than 1000 words)

Submission Guidelines

Please follow these guidelines carefully.

- There must be an abstract of no more than 150 words in your manuscript
- All submissions should be in English
- Submissions should use correct American Psychological Association (APA) 6th Edition format
- All words should be 12-point Times New Roman font, including the header
- The article title should be 16-point Times New Roman font in bold. If the title runs over to a second line, single space the title
- Authors' names must NOT be included anywhere in the manuscript

Submissions should be sent by email as a .doc or .docx file to the Editor at shelley.fairbairn@drake.edu with the subject line: **MIDTESOL Journal LastName and Three First Words Of Title**

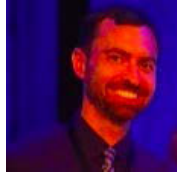
In the text of your email, include your contact information, a short bio, and institutional affiliation.

Review Process

- All submissions will be made to the Editor.
- The Editor will review submissions first for compliance with submission standards.
- All accepted submissions will be blind reviewed.
- Manuscripts are accepted for publication based on the peer reviews and the final judgement of the MIDTESOL Journal editor.

2019

Award Recipients

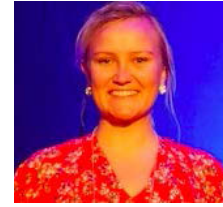


Interest Travel Award Recipient Ben Vilkas

I was thrilled to be able to attend this year's MIDTESOL conference in Omaha, Nebraska. As an Assistant Professor in a small college, I am the only full-time faculty member that teaches any of our courses in ESL instruction for our teacher preparation program. Thus, being able to attend a conference and network with peers on best practices is very helpful. I have already used some of the information that I gained from the workshops in my courses and have also shared with my students about joining MIDTESOL in the future

as many will be teaching English Language Learners within the K-12 environment. In addition, I have met with colleagues who teach our other education courses and have discussed ways to add more ESL related content into our courses for our students. For example, we have recently discussed ways to focus on improving our college students' lesson planning and curriculum design when they are in schools and teaching students who are learning English. I will continue to network with peers that I met at MIDTESOL and look forward to attending the 2020 conference in Des Moines!

Presenter Travel Award Recipient Phoebe Pyrtle



My name is Phoebe Pyrtle and my presentation for MIDTESOL was called “Supporting ELLs at the Hole in the Wall Gang Camp”. Paul Newman created this summer camp for children who suffer from life threatening diseases, so they can experience some normalcy. This presentation served as my graduate school Capstone Project for the May 2019 semester. My presentation, although unique and very specific, was targeted toward English language learners who experience life threatening diseases such as cancer, HIV, and sickle cell anemia. For the MIDTESOL 2019 conference, I presented a PowerPoint presentation which provided the population studied, the summer camp and its history, and training staff on how to work with ELLs with serious illnesses at this camp. The majority of my presentation showed the different video trainings I made at the camp in different settings to

discuss how to support ELL campers socially, emotionally, and physically. The trainings were targeted toward young professionals with little to no training on working with adolescents and ELLs.

As a first year ELL teacher, I benefitted from MIDTESOL greatly! I was able to meet and hear from men and women who are truly in the thick of the TESOL world and learn from their ideas and experiences. I gained more confidence in my knowledge of ELLs at camp by sharing my findings, and I was even able to meet some people who worked in my own school district that I had never met! What I benefitted from most was specifically looking through the eyes of ELL educators who are specific to our region of the United States. It was such a pleasure learning from the men and women working in mid-America and how they support our special group of students.



Presenter Travel Award Recipient Aziah McNamara

This autumn of 2019 marks my 11th year working as an ESL instructor for the English Language Program (ELP) at Kansas State University. The many years prior to that when I worked my way towards earning a Bachelor of Education in TESL and a Masters of Arts in Linguistics have been instrumental in shaping how I perceive the practice of language teaching and learning. An area that I started developing interest in is how teachers can effectively use technology tools in language instruction.

My presentation at MIDTESOL 2019, titled “Electronic Feedback: Supporting Instruction to Optimize Students’ Voices,” was an attempt to showcase samples of work I have done over the years as well as share my reflection of practical methods and techniques in providing electronic feedback to ESL students to encourage engagement and develop learner autonomy. During my presentation, I was also able to gather valuable insights from those who attended my session. While interacting with them, it was helpful to learn how different and yet similar the different language programs are in our four-state region. We share the same student

issues with regard to learning retention, general attitude, and language proficiency, some of which are factors beyond our control. As far as trends for technology tools is concerned, though, there is no denying that language teachers can contribute towards bridging the digital divide for their students by transforming the ways they provide language instruction. This can be possible especially when teachers have developed an understanding of and the mindset for the language learning process, a recurring theme I noticed in the many presentation sessions I attended at the conference. I have learned that in order to have a significant impact on our students’ learning, it is imperative that we, as teachers, know our students and the struggles they face. I was fortunate to be able to attend and participate in the many discussions on language teaching and learning with my fellow peers. Presenting at and attending the MIDTESOL 2019 conference has left me with a feeling that I am part of a professional learning community that is dedicated to developing the scholarship of language teaching and learning. I look forward to learning more from this community in the years to come.

Presenter Travel Award Recipient Cate Crosby



I attended my first MIDTESOL conference this year and found there to be many benefits. These included attending informative sessions on topics related to my teaching, learning from publishers about new resources in the field, networking with other TESOL professionals from my state (KS) as well as other states represented, and volunteering for a position in the higher education/teacher education interest section.

I also had the opportunity to give a panel presentation.

The following is a summary of our presentation:

Cross-Campus Bridges: Reflections on a Multilingual Composition Pilot by Dr. Katherine Daily O'Meara, Cara Codney, Jon Phelps-Leach, and Dr. Cathryn Crosby

Multilingual students in the university have access to multiple sites of writing: in the IEP, in first-year composition, and in discipline-specific courses. This panel presentation at this year's MIDTESOL conference, comprised of various stakeholders in multilingual student success at Emporia State University (Emporia, KS), shared the lasting effects that multilingual composition course offerings have on L2 writers and their instructors. The first panel presenter, Dr. Katherine Daily O'Meara, the director of composition in English Modern Languages and Journalism, examined survey results

from a study of a multilingual composition pilot, which included perceptions from both multilingual students and the teachers of multilingual composition. The results included: 1) student successes: less pressure to have "perfect" English proficiency, smaller class sizes, diverse student makeup and background, and understanding teachers, and 2) student challenges: acclimating to U.S. and university writing standards, difficult textbooks, and varying English proficiencies in a single class section. The takeaways of teaching multilingual students are: it is a coordinated effort, visibility and marketing are key, and student agency in choosing mainstream vs. multilingual sections is vital (Saenkhum, 2016).

The second panelist, Cara Codney, one of the multilingual composition instructors and the director of the IEP at Emporia State, addressed three specific and broad challenges that multilingual students face in composition courses and college writing: peer communication, L1 sources, prior experience and background. In addition to the challenges that the multilingual writers faced, she also focused on how these challenges manifested in the classroom and how accommodations were made. She also discussed how

survey data from the preliminary study specifically relates to day-to-day operations in the classroom.

The third panelist, Jon Phelps-Leach, one of the other multilingual composition instructors, imparted strategies for making the textbook accessible and adapting content to a multilingual audience, discussing the idea of “shared knowledge context” separate from the cultural context assumed to be shared by most textbooks. He demonstrated how this bridging is accomplished in multilingual composition contexts, including teaching academic argument and counter-argument, as well as synthesis writing.

The final presenter, Dr. Cathryn Crosby, director of the IDT/TESOL Program, focused on the bridge work the first three presenters have built to help multilingual students succeed in writing for their majors. She shared

a genre study of the writing that multilingual TESOL teacher candidates completed for their coursework in three different TESOL programs, the difficulties and strengths these candidates had with academic writing, strategies for helping them improve their writing, and how this translated into a pedagogy for teaching academic writing to L2 writers.

The panelists concluded by discussing the multiple bridges that are needed for multilingual student support, retention, and overall success in all writing spaces and across the entire campus. Moreover, advocates for multilingual writers are needed throughout their college journey.

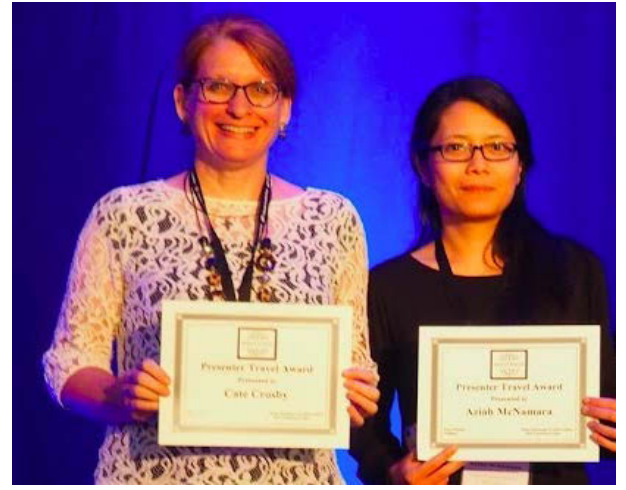
Who is advocating for your multilingual writers on your campus or at your school? How are they advocating for them?

Reference

Saenkhum, T. (2016). *Decisions, agency, and advising: Key issues in the placement of multilingual writers into the first-year composition courses*. Logan, UT: Utah State University Press.



Congratulations to all of our Award Winners!



Deadline for Submission
March 20, 2020
5 p.m.

Announcing MIDTESOL 2020 Student Essay Contests



MIDTESOL is pleased to invite its members to announce and submit student essays for the **Best K-12 ELL Student Essay Award** and the **Best Adult ELL Student Essay Award**. Topics reflect this year's Fall 2020 conference theme: "Community at a Crossroads: The Right to Education".

Eligibility

Best K-12 ELL Essay Award: The student must be a K-12 student in good standing who is enrolled in an ELL class or program in Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, or Nebraska.

Best Adult ESL Essay Award: The student must be an adult ELL learner enrolled in a higher education ELL/EAP program, Intensive English Program, or adult education program in Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, or Nebraska.

Essay Topics

Students may choose **one** of the following topics related to this year's MIDTESOL Conference theme of "Community at a Crossroads: the Right to Education".

1. A 'crossroads' is a time in your life when you must make a big decision between two options. Describe a crossroads in your life and the significant impact your decision had on the course of your life.
2. What does an education mean to you? Is it beyond studying classes at school? How? Explain. In what ways will pursuing an education be valuable to you?
3. The United Nations has listed one of its goals for this century is everyone has a right to a good education. However, not everyone has access to the same opportunities as others. In the United States, for example, public schools vary tremendously in quality of learning and resources. Is inequality the same in other countries? What are the reasons for this? What solutions would you propose?
4. People that attend school today are the future leaders of tomorrow. Describe how education has impacted and prepared you to be a future leader.

Rules and Format

Each student may submit only one essay and must be a student in good academic standing who is enrolled in an ELL class or program in a K-12 school, or an adult ELL learner enrolled in a higher education ESL/EAP program, Intensive English Program, or adult education program in Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, or Missouri. The essay must be solely the work of the student, with limited guidance from others. The essay must be 500 to 700 words in length; typed (12-point Times New Roman font) and double-spaced.

The essay must be submitted via e-mail by the sponsoring teacher, with a cover page, which includes the following:

- student name and contact information (phone number, address, email)
- school (name, address, phone number)
- grade level (K-12 Essay) **or** ELL level in program (Adult ESL Essay)
- sponsoring teacher and teacher's contact information (phone number, address, email address)

Notes	Judging	Scoring Criteria
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There should be no identifying information listed on any pages of the essay, only the cover page. This includes any mention of name or school. • Failure to abide by any of the above conditions will result in immediate disqualification. 	<p>Essays undergo blind peer reviews by the MIDTESOL Awards Committee.</p>	<p>Essay submissions will be scored based on ideas/content, organization, conventions, voice, sentence fluency, and word choice. In short, judges look for writing that is clear, creative, articulate, and logically organized.</p>



Student Essay Recipient Award Types and Prizes

Best K-12 ELL Student Essay Award

- **1st prize:** \$100 award; the name of the recipient, photo, and school affiliation will be published in the upcoming issue of MIDTESOL Matters, the organization's electronic newsletter
- **2nd prize:** \$50 award
- **3rd prize:** \$25 award

Best Adult ESL Student Essay Award

- **1st prize:** \$100 Award To Be Determined*; the name of the recipient, photo, and school affiliation will be published in the upcoming issue of MIDTESOL Matters, the organization's electronic newsletter
- **2nd prize:** \$50 Award To Be Determined*
- **3rd prize:** \$25 Award To Be Determined*

***Note**

Students on a VISA will receive an engraved plaque in lieu of a monetary award.

Students not on a VISA will have the option to receive a monetary award or an engraved plaque.

How to Apply/Deadline Information

To apply, sponsoring teachers must submit all student essays, including cover page, to Lindsey Simanowitz at lindsey.e.simanowitz@gmail.com MIDTESOL Awards Chair, by Friday, March 20, 2020 by 5pm. The subject line of the email should read "MIDTESOL Essay Contest 2020" You will receive confirmation from the Awards Chair that your submission has been received and a notification if you are an award recipient by Friday, April 3, 2020 by 5 pm. All applicant information will be kept confidential. Decisions made by reviewers will be final.

Connect with MIDTESOL on social media





2020 MIDTESOL Member Advocacy Award applications are being accepted!

Applications Due
March 11, 2020

Description

Three (3) MIDTESOL members will receive up to a **\$750 stipend** to be used toward expenses related to attending the TESOL Advocacy & Policy Summit in Washington, D.C., June 22-24, 2020. Winners will attend the summit with an experienced MIDTESOL attendee who will serve as a guide and resource.

Criteria for application

- Active member in MIDTESOL for *three or more years*
 - Evidence of active membership: attendance/presentation at annual MIDTESOL conference and/or MIDTESOL Academy, service to MIDTESOL, contributions to MIDTESOL Weekly Features or MT Matters publications, organization of professional development opportunities for MIDTESOL members, etc.
- Commitment to attend and fully participate in the entirety of the annual TESOL Advocacy & Policy Summit in Washington, D.C., including visits to Capitol Hill
- Ability to assist in pre-summit planning for Capitol Hill visits, particularly with gathering and organizing information to share with elected officials
- Commitment to write a MIDTESOL Weekly Feature Post and/or a MIDTESOL Matters Article by July 31st, based on experiences and learning at the summit
- Commitment to co-present with other Advocacy committee members at the annual MIDTESOL conference

Submission requirements

- 500-word essay including, but not limited to:
 - interest in MIDTESOL advocacy work
 - how MIDTESOL advocacy training will benefit personal and professional goals
 - understanding of the MIDTESOL Advocacy Goal Statement (see website)
 - stories to share with policy makers on how policies impact students and educators
 - assurance of ability to meet the financial and time-related costs required to attend the TESOL Advocacy & Policy Summit in Washington, D.C.
- Current résumé or C.V.

Selection criteria

- Qualified applicants will demonstrate a strong level of commitment to MIDTESOL mission, a passion for advocacy, extensive experience in language education, and communication skills.
- Applicants do not have to have had prior formal training in advocacy, nor do they have to have previously visited offices of their elected officials.
- Among qualified candidates, preference will be given to MIDTESOL members from multiple states and fields (K-12, higher education, community college, IEP) that have been under-represented at previous summits. Preference will also be given to MIDTESOL members who have not previously received a MIDTESOL Advocacy Award.

TESOL Advocacy & Policy Summit

One of a kind!!!!



From the TESOL website

“The only event of its kind in the United States, the **TESOL Advocacy & Policy Summit** is an unparalleled professional development opportunity for educators to learn about U.S. federal education issues and advocate for policies that support English learners and the field of English language education.”

By attending the TESOL Advocacy & Policy Summit, you will...

- learn from experts and insiders about the latest federal education policy
- enhance your leadership skills with hands-on advocacy training
- share a powerful message with your members of Congress
- join your colleagues from across the United States to make a difference

Highlights from the 2019 TESOL Advocacy & Policy Summit:

<https://www.tesol.org/advance-the-field/advocacy-resources/tesol-advocacy-policy-summit/2019-advocacy-and-policy-summit-highlights>

- Over 100 TESOL professionals descended on Washington, DC, June 17-19, 2019, for the 13th annual TESOL Advocacy & Policy Summit. Over the course of the three-day summit, participants were briefed on education policies and legislative initiatives that impact English learners and English language teachers. Various policy-oriented breakout sessions were facilitated by the [U.S. Department of Education](#), [American Federation of Teachers](#), [National Skills Coalition](#), [Center for Applied Linguistics](#), [Migration Policy Institute](#), and [Migrant Legal Action Program](#).
- On the final day, summit participants visited the offices of more than 175 representatives in both the House and Senate. Before heading to Capitol Hill, however, participants received advocacy training, talking points, and policy briefs about key issues affecting the TESOL field. Additionally, participants spent time over the course of the first two days strategizing with other TESOL professionals in order to strengthen the messages they brought with them to their meetings on the Hill.



Top Social Media Picks!



MIDTESOL
@MIDTESOL


775 Iowa high school students awarded state
[#SealofBiliteracy](#) [educateiowa.gov/article/2019/1...](#)
[@BiliteracySeal](#)




775 Iowa high schoolers awarded Biliteracy Seal
In the first year since the state of Iowa launched its Biliteracy Seal aimed at high school students who are proficient in ...
[educateiowa.gov](#)

You Retweeted

Cathy Gabel @cathy_gabell · Sep 28
@UNLPIESL From the Orpheum, historic buildings and beautiful sculptures & fountains, to the Creighton soccer field view from the 19th floor, @DoubleTree was a great host to @VisitOmaha! Thank to all @MIDTESOL presenters and lively participants for a great #MIDTESOL19 conference!



Stephanie Frankorte @sfrankfo · Sep 28
A session with a view on this beautiful Saturday morning! ❤️ #midtesol19 #SeeingIsBelieving




midtesol DoubleTree by Hilton Omaha Downtown ...

midtesol Send us your MIDTESOL 2019 photos so that we can feature you! Thanks to @dakotajthomas, @kat_omeara, and @saddlebackeducational for tagging us in #MIDTESOL19 photos here in Omaha!

6w

Liked by dakotajthomas

SEPTEMBER 28

Add a comment...

MIDTESOL
Published by Claudia Franks [?] · September 13 · 🍷 Like Page ...



KY3.COM
With number of English-learning students rising, Missouri faces shortage of trained teachers

MIDTESOL Member Profile

Rebecca Mussack



MIDTESOL member Rebecca Mussack recently answered a few questions about her career as an ELL professional.

Current position & time in position

Elementary EL Teacher Leader and Instructional Coach (K-6), 8 years and counting!

Previous experiences

Literacy and ELL Methods Adjunct Graduate Instructor
ESL Resource Teacher (Grades 3-6)
Classroom Teacher (Grade 3 ESL Inclusion)
Classroom Teacher (Grade 4)

Education/training

B.A. in Elementary Education
M.S. in Elementary Education
ESL Endorsement
M. Ed. in Educational Administration

Years as MIDTESOL (TESOL) member

2 years

Interest Section(s)

K-12

Favorite Quotes

“Do the best you can until you know better. Then when you know better, do better.” Maya Angelou

“Whether you think you can, or you think you can’t-- you’re right.” Henry Ford

How did you become interested in working with ELLs?

One of my first years of teaching I was assigned to be a 3rd grade classroom teacher. My class was filled with several English learners, including 2 beginning English speakers. Until then, I had never had any experience in the field of ESL. It was extremely motivating and inspiring to work with such resilient students who made tremendous academic and English language growth throughout the school year. I admired their determination, vulnerability, and passion for learning.

What do you want people outside of the ELL field to know about your students?

As a teacher leader, I do not directly support a specific group of students. However, the Omaha Public Schools serves over 9,000 current English learners from diverse backgrounds representing over 120 languages. Our EL students are kind, hard-working, and are a huge asset as future leaders in a global community.

What advice do you have for teachers new to working with ELLs?

The advice I would give to teachers new to working with ELLs is to teach to your students’ cognitive level, not their English language level. Students have experiences and knowledge beyond what they might be able to share through English. Identify effective linguistic supports to scaffold up to the content they need to learn. Above all, appreciate and highlight the assets they bring to your classroom.

Why are you a member of MIDTESOL?

MIDTESOL is an outstanding organization that promotes best practices for English learners and strives to build a community where teachers can learn from each other. MIDTESOL celebrates English learner achievements and supports students as they further their education.

MIDTESOL 2020 Des Moines, IA



#MIDTESOL20 - Community at a Crossroads: The Right to Education

October 2, 2020—October 3, 2020
7:30 AM-5:00 PM

Des Moines Marriott Downtown
700 Grand Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50309

*“Word is not the privilege of some few persons but the right of everyone.”
Paulo Freir*

Working on the idea that **education is a right**, rather than a privilege, this year’s conference will discuss the importance and necessity of English education. Featured speakers include Kory Stamper, former Merriam-Webster editor, lexicographer, and author of *Word by Word: The Secret Life of Dictionaries*, and Dr. Christel Broady, ELT instructor, teacher trainer, and author of *Explain This to Me: Our US School: A Practical Spanish-English Guide*, who will share her knowledge and expertise with our attendees as well.



Dr. Christel Broady



Kory Stamper
PHOTO CREDIT: Michael Lionstar



About our Organization

Contact us at
www.midtesol.org

MIDTESOL is a professional organization, an affiliate of TESOL International Association, 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*