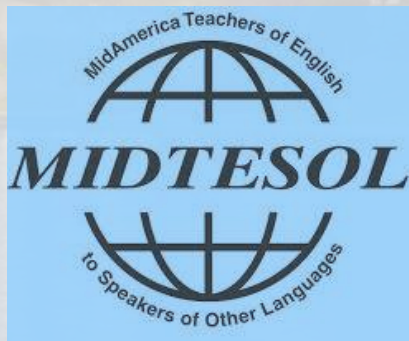


Spring 2021

MIDTESOL Matters

*The Mid-America
TESOL Affiliate Newsletter*



Wichita, Kansas



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“Virtual events and online connections will continue to remain strong as we go forward into this year even as we begin to think about seeing our colleagues in person again someday. As the professionals in our field, you have something to contribute to MIDTESOL as we seek to support each other in the next year. We all look forward to seeing and hearing your ideas in the classroom, advocating for students, and managing programs.”

Kelly McClendon
MIDTESOL President

MIDTESOL Matters

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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

Kelly McClendon
MIDTESOL President
Washburn University
Intensive English
Program Coordinator
Topeka, Kansas



Greetings everyone! Just a quick note to let you know of some things going on in MIDTESOL and a little reflecting on the past year since the pandemic started affecting our daily lives.

The [TESOL International Convention](#) is coming up at the end of March. The price of attending this virtual conference is greatly reduced, and English Language Teaching professionals will be attending from all over the world.



Usually MIDTESOL has its own social gathering at this international event. This year is no exception. Our gathering will look a little different, and anyone can register and attend. You don't have to be attending TESOL. We are very excited about this aspect of the gathering. It will be a networking and social gathering. To know more, read Kaylene Sasse's (our VP) article on p. 4.

MIDTESOL's 2021 conference will also be virtual as you will see in this issue. We are looking forward to this event as our 2020 virtual conference was a success. Save the date for October 22-23! More information can be found on p. 9.



Another new change coming your way is that the MIDTESOL board will be switching to Google Workspaces. This will greatly improve the communication and efficiency within our organization. We will all see this change in the form of a new email address for MIDTESOL (support@midtesol.org).

Finally, let's reflect a little on this past year in MIDTESOL. We switched our conference to virtual and made it a success, we have had several informal coffee-hour talks for decompressing, sharing, and networking. We have continued the publication of our journal and newsletters in the midst of everything. The website and social media have also been active and important in this year so that we can stay connected. Virtual events and online connections will continue to remain strong as we go forward into this year even as we begin to think about seeing our colleagues in person again someday. As the professionals in our field, you have something to contribute to MIDTESOL as we seek to support each other in the next year. We all look forward to seeing and hearing your ideas in the classroom, advocating for students, and managing programs.

Kelly McClendon
#MIDTESOL2021 President



Kaylene Sasse
MIDTESOL Vice President
Assistant Professor ESL/English
Bellevue University

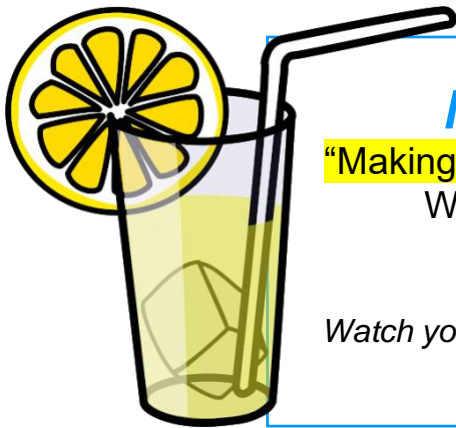
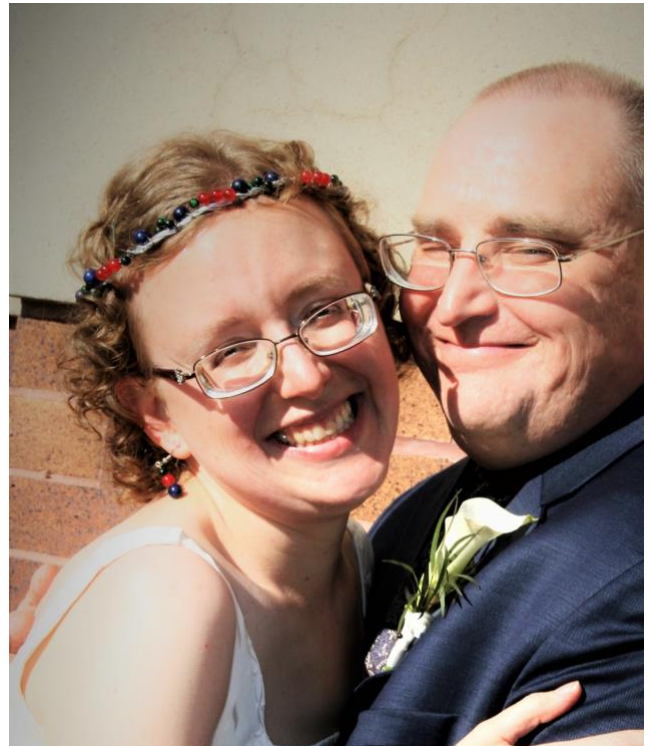
Vice President's Report

Greetings, everyone! I hope you have fared well through a rough winter and the interesting challenges that continue to arise or persist in so many of our present working circumstances. Please note that since I last communicated with you in this format, I got married. 😊 If you need to reach me for any reason, please use my updated email address: kasasse@bellevue.edu. I would love to hear from you and know how we as your MIDTESOL board can better support you with your work-related needs!

This time around, I want to talk briefly about the upcoming TESOL Conference. **Will you be attending TESOL 2021?** Because it is completely virtual again this year, travel details are not an issue and related expenses are much more affordable. **Reminder: you can save on your conference registration fee if you are already a regular TESOL Member or a TESOL student member.** The conference runs from March 23-27, with the bulk of the regular events happening over the last three days. For more information or to register, start here: [TESOL 2021 Convention Schedule](#).

Personally, besides just attending TESOL 2021, it will be my honor to serve you all by hosting the *MIDTESOL Social* – an additional event where you can come to reconnect with old friends and/or meet new friends who work in our region. Please see the basic details below. I hope to see you there!

Kaylene Sasse
MIDTESOL Vice President
kasasse@bellevue.edu



MIDTESOL Social @ TESOL 2021

"Making Lemonade Together: Bonding Through Highs and Lows"

Wednesday – March 24, 2021 – 8:00-9:30 PM (CST)

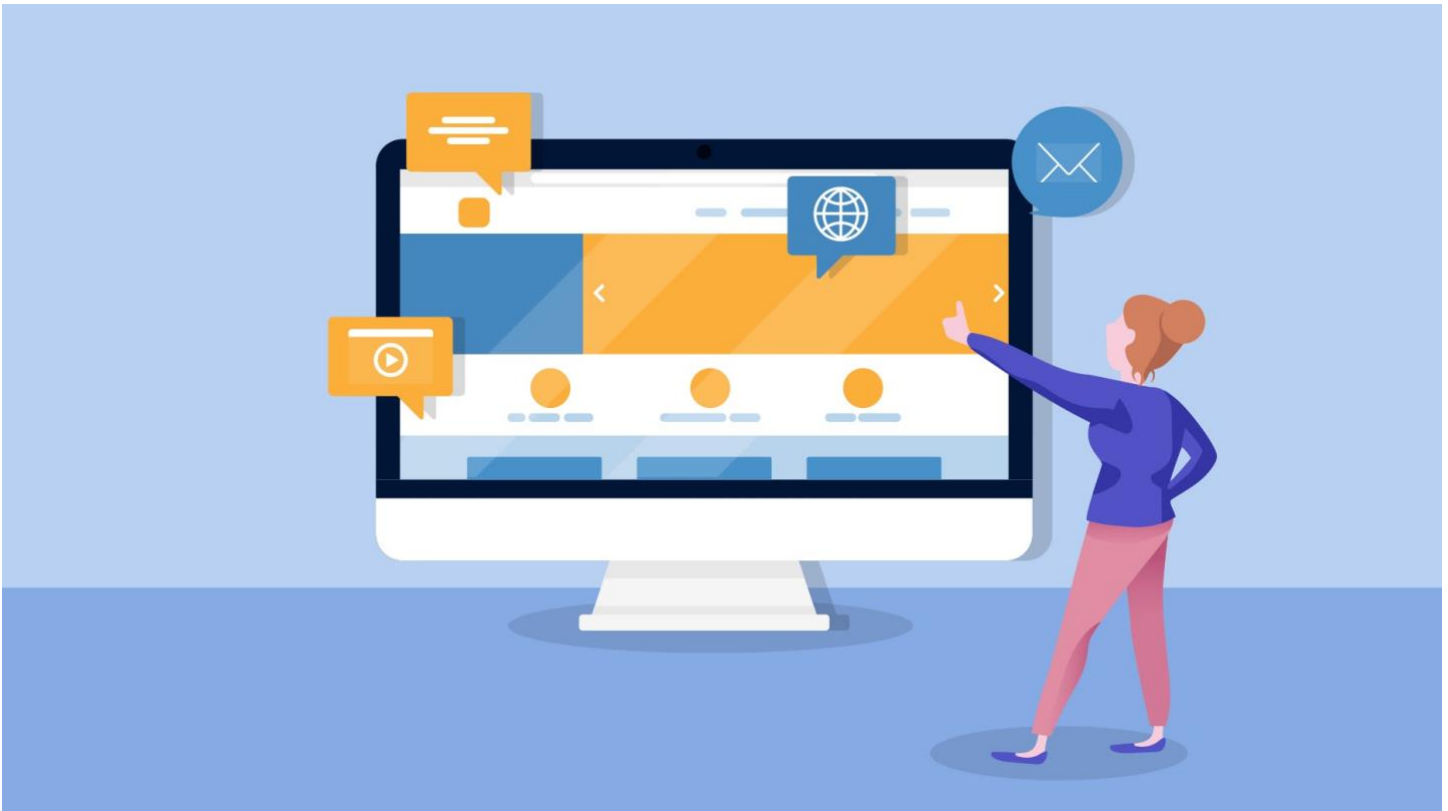
Hosted via Zoom

Watch your inbox for related emails with more info & details about attending!

Tell Us What You Think!

Please provide your feedback about our upcoming [MIDTESOL](#) website redesign. We plan to improve the look and functionality of the site, and we want to include your ideas about the types of content and uses for it.

The deadline for the survey is **Friday, March 12, 2021**. [Click here to complete the survey.](#)



Connect with MIDTESOL on social media





Members-At-Large State News



State Update: Missouri by Elizabeth Holloway

MISSOURI

When I was completing coursework at the University of Dallas in preparation for my second (teaching) career, one of my Education professors, Dr. Cherie Clodfelter, said something in class that I've never forgotten. She said the most predictive characteristic of a child's success was not intelligence but it was "tenacity". This can also be applied to teachers, especially now. How teachers have rallied and persisted through the uncertainties of our COVID winter is a study in tenacity. The MIDTESOL news from Missouri is dominated by COVID 19, its effects on us, and our response to it.

Missouri's MIDTESOL members are college and university lecturers, K-12 teachers in both public and private schools, TESOL students, and instructors in Adult Education programs. NOT one of us has been unaffected by the events that unfolded just a year ago.

Missouri colleges and universities diversified learning delivery, including a combination of online, blended, or face to face learning. In the Spring 2021 semester, modifications for Co-Vid were either adjusted or extended from Fall 2020. International travel restrictions affected ESL, EAP, and TESOL graduate programs, and they continue to present major challenges to teachers, administrators, and learners.

In fall 2020, across the U.S., the number of international students studying at U.S. universities, whether from within the U.S. or online from abroad, decreased by 16 percent, while enrollments of *new* international students decreased by 43 percent, according to a study reported in InsideHighered. One in five international students is studying online from outside the U.S. Ninety percent of responding institutions collectively reported that nearly 40,000 international students have deferred their studies to a future term. This trend was also seen in Missouri. A 19% decrease in international enrollment at Mizzou was reported in *The Missourian*. International students aren't the entire picture for ESL, EAP, and TESOL programs, but their numbers are indicative of the downturn in enrollment for our IEPs and Pathways programs.

When it comes to tenacity, we must cheer our colleagues who work in K-12 schools across the state! The most recent information that I could find from the National Center for Educational Statistics shows that 3.8% of public-school students in Missouri are identified as ELLs. That seems low, but it varies dramatically from district to district. Teachers of children learning English have had to adjust to the unpredictability of the classroom situation, sometimes going from in seat learning to online in the course of a day, when COVID is diagnosed. Stay at home students have fewer opportunities to interact in English, and access to technology remains an issue. Overall 23% of all Missouri students lack access to the internet at home, according to the Internet Connectivity Survey conducted by DESE in May 2020. For persisting to serve our state's ELLs, we thank you.

We should not forget that there have also been positive results. Many programs and individuals successfully navigated implementation of new technologies, and we learned that professional development could be done successfully via the Internet. The Virtual MIDTESOL Conference held last fall was a success according to everyone from Missouri who I know to have attended. We have each other for support, and we have our students, who despite the difficulties, persist in their studies.

Involvement in MIDTESOL has always inspired me to persist in this career. If you have stories of tenacity or news from your region of the state, please share them with me at hollowaye@moval.edu. I would love to include them in my next writing.



Members-At-Large State News

CALL FOR Member-At-Large of Kansas



Join the MIDTESOL Board!
[Click Here for More Details](#)

Responses due by March 29, 2021

KANSAS

Do you want to become a MIDTESOL leader, representing the interests of Kansas? The MIDTESOL board is seeking candidates for the position of Member-at-Large: Kansas Representative!

We are seeking the next MIDTESOL Member-at-Large: Kansas Representative, a position which is responsible for representing the geographic area of Kansas on the MIDTESOL Board.

A successful candidate shall be responsible for promoting membership and helping to ensure member involvement in the association. This person will assist the Executive Board, as requested, in planning and facilitating MIDTESOL events in their geographic area, such as mini-conferences or workshops, either as separate events or in cooperation with other organizations.

State Representatives serve as members of the nominating committee. This is a two-year position and is a voting member on the MIDTESOL board.

Connect with MIDTESOL on social media



TESOL VIRTUAL Convention 2021



I'M ATTENDING!

TESOL 2021 Virtual
24-27 March
INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION & ENGLISH LANGUAGE EXPO

 **tesol** international association
www.tesolconvention.org

#TESOL2021

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

If you are presenting at #TESOL2021, please fill out the following form by **Monday, March 15th** so we can help spread the word about your presentation. [MIDTESOL Presenters Survey](#)



MIDTESOL Social @ TESOL 2021

"Making Lemonade Together: Bonding Through Highs and Lows"

Wednesday – March 24, 2021 – 8:00-9:30 PM (CST)

Hosted via Zoom

Watch your inbox for related emails with more info & details about attending!

[Click Here to Register for TESOL 2021](#)



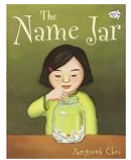
#MIDTESOL21 Conference Update



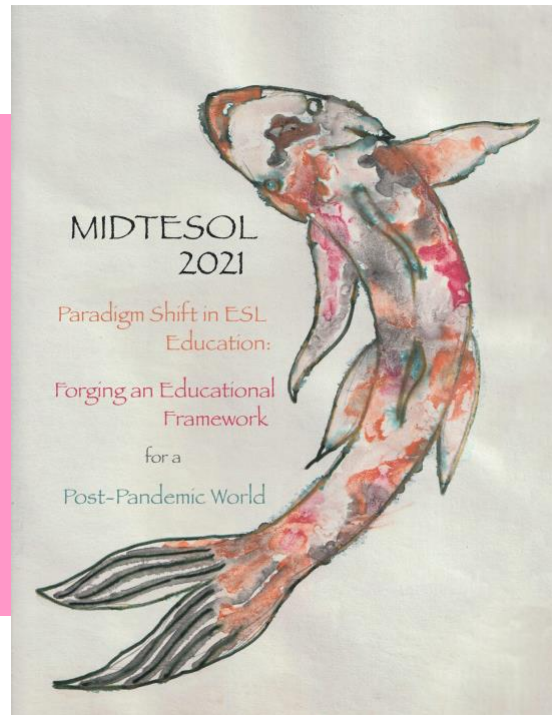
We are pleased to announce that session recordings from #MIDTESOL20 are finally available on the [conference website](#)! (Note that not all sessions were recorded.) We invite you to revisit sessions from the conference including the three keynote presentations.

The field of English language teaching is constantly changing, but the pace of change has exponentially accelerated in the last year of our fight with the effect of COVID on our profession and the lives of our English language learners.

In response to this, MIDTESOL is pleased to announce that we will hold a virtual conference on October 22-23, 2021 with the theme "**Paradigm Shift in ELT Education: Forging an Educational Framework for a Post-Pandemic World.**" In the spirit of paradigm shift, the conference will feature keynote speakers Yangsook Choi (author of *The Name Jar*, herself an English language learner) and LaTrice Lyle (educator, speaker, consultant, abolitionist, changemaker, and creator of the popular Anti-Racism 101 Email Course for Educators).



The conference will also feature a number of workshops (some by Yangsook Choi and LaTrice Lyle), presentations from the MIDTESOL membership, and opportunities for connection and discussion. Stay tuned for more details about the conference--as well as a call for presentation proposals and notice of prizes available for early registration--in upcoming months. Check out the [MIDTESOL Website](#) in the upcoming weeks for more information!



MIDTESOL K12 ELP Testing Statement January 2021

In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Mid-America Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (MIDTESOL) organization urges state departments of education and associated educational professionals to prioritize protecting the health and safety of vulnerable populations, including students, their caregivers, their teachers, and other educational staff when developing and communicating plans related to English language and other testing requirements for learners of English.

Such efforts to protect the health of English learner populations and their communities should include flexibility with assessment timing and clear communication of testing related rights in accessible formats (including native language communication) to districts and families. Clear notification about the options available to families to opt out of testing requirements without negative consequences should be highlighted as well.

If testing is required, state departments of education, school districts, and schools must recognize that the testing results for many students may be both invalid and unreliable due to a variety of uncontrollable variables affecting the delivery of the tests, extreme disruptions to learning environments, and the unprecedented stress that students and educators are experiencing, all of which may prevent students' ability to demonstrate their full scope of knowledge and skills on an assessment. Thus, test results from the 2020-2021 school year should be interpreted and used only with extreme caution and any decisions using the results should be based on a preponderance of additional supporting data. [Click here to view this statement on MIDTESOL's website.](#)

This statement is similar to [the statement](#) made recently by the TESOL International Association, of which we are an affiliate.

Connect with MIDTESOL on social media





2021 MIDTESOL Member Advocacy Award applications are being accepted!

Applications Due
March 15, 2021

Description

Three MIDTESOL members will receive a free registration (worth up to \$199) to attend the VIRTUAL TESOL Advocacy & Policy Summit, to be held June 21-23, 2021 and annual 2021 TESOL membership (worth up to \$105). 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 Mid-Winter conference, 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 VIRTUAL TESOL Advocacy & Policy Summit, including virtual visits with elected officials.
- Ability to assist in pre-summit planning for elected official 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, 2021, based on experiences and learning at the summit.
- Winners will be encouraged to also share experiences via social media.

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 time-commitment required to fully participate in the virtual TESOL Advocacy & Policy Summit.
- 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 states and fields (K-12, higher education, community college, IEP) that have been under-represented at previous summits.

TESOL Advocacy & Policy Summit

One of a kind!!!!



From the TESOL website

“The only event of its kind in the world, the TESOL Virtual Advocacy & Policy Summit is an unparalleled professional development opportunity for educators to learn about U.S. federal and international 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 and international education policies and issues
- share a powerful message with your members of Congress through the TESOL Advocacy Action Center
- share information about the issues and policies impacting your work locally and internationally
- join your colleagues from around the world and across the United States to make a difference
- receive over 16 hours of professional development

Highlights from the 2020 TESOL Advocacy & Policy Summit:

[300 TESOL Advocates Attend First Ever Virtual Advocacy and Policy Summit](#)

This past June, TESOL International Association held its first ever TESOL Virtual Advocacy & Policy Summit. Over 3 days, more than 300 TESOL professionals from all over the world came together to learn, network, and take action on a number of critical policy issues. This year's summit was supported in part by TESOL's strategic partner, the American Federation of Teachers.

Full Schedule

The agenda for the [2021 TESOL Advocacy & Policy Summit](#) is will be available in May. For an idea of the speakers and sessions that will take place at the Summit, [last year's schedule can be downloaded here](#).

The Summit will take place during the following times:

Monday 21 June: 12:30 pm - 8:00 pm EDT

Tuesday 22 June: 12:30 pm - 8:00 pm EDT

Wednesday 23 June: TESOL Day of Action, see schedule below

- All Day: Virtual Congressional meetings, scheduled by attendees at their convenience
- All Day: Visit and send messages to members of Congress in the TESOL Advocacy Action Center
- 12:30 pm - 2:00 pm EDT: TESOL Affiliate Network Panel on International Advocacy
- 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm EDT: Closing session and wrap-up

* All sessions will be recorded and sent to participants about 24-48 hours after the conclusion of the Summit.



2021 Virtual
TESOL
Advocacy
& Policy
Summit 21-23
June
2021

**Registration
now open!**

ADVOCATE TODAY FOR THE
ENGLISH LEARNERS OF TOMORROW



www.tesol.org/advocacy

Top Social Media Picks!




 **MIDTESOL**
Published by Shared via AddThis [?] · February 1 · 🌐

Interesting perspective on standard academic English (SAE) and other varieties.




INSIDEHIGHERED.COM

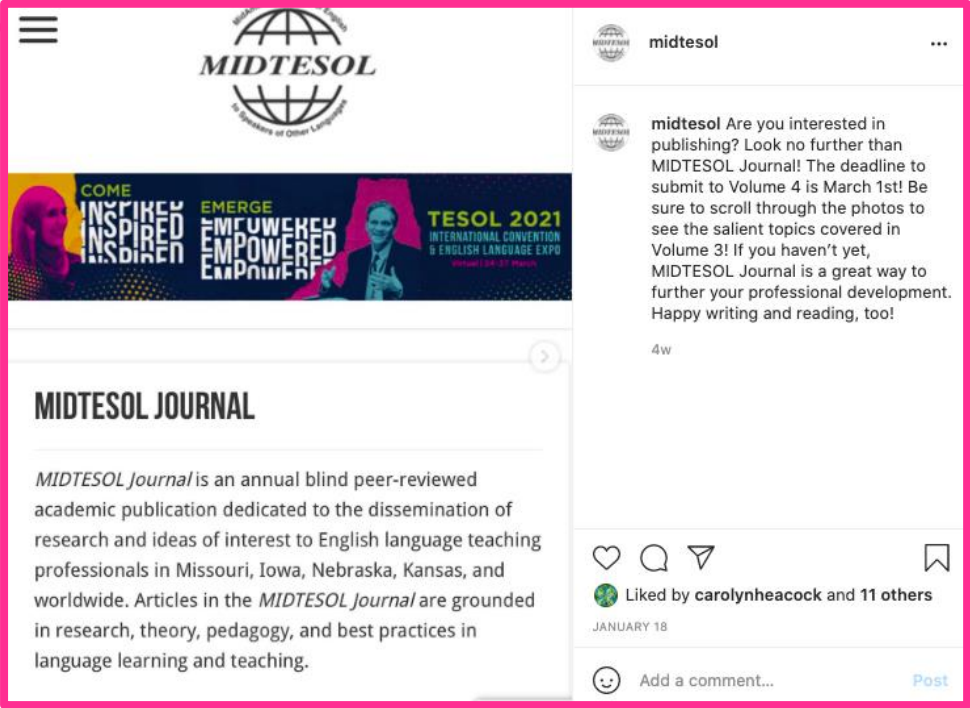
How professors can and should combat linguistic prejudice in their classes (opinion)


 **MIDTESOL @MIDTESOL** · Jan 13

Data from 3 of our 4 states (IA, MO, KS) is included in this report. Check out the [#sealofbiliteracy](#) stats for your state.

 **Seal of Biliteracy @BiliteracySeal** · Jan 13

Here is the National Seal of Biliteracy Report for the 2018-19 Academic Year. There were 108,199 students reported to have received the state Seal of Biliteracy in 2019, up from 91,433 in 2018.
ow.ly/9RaB50D6ZdH



 **MIDTESOL**
MIDTESOL JOURNAL

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 worldwide. Articles in the *MIDTESOL Journal* are grounded in research, theory, pedagogy, and best practices in language learning and teaching.

midtesol Are you interested in publishing? Look no further than MIDTESOL Journal! The deadline to submit to Volume 4 is March 1st! Be sure to scroll through the photos to see the salient topics covered in Volume 3! If you haven't yet, MIDTESOL Journal is a great way to further your professional development. Happy writing and reading, too!

4w

Liked by [carolynheacock](#) and 11 others

JANUARY 18

Add a comment... Post

MIDTESOL Member Profile

Nicole Primm



MIDTESOL member Nicole Primm recently answered a few questions about her career as an ELL professional.

Current position & time in position

EL Program Consultant for Standards and Assessment at Kansas State Department of Education

Previous experiences

Classroom Teacher for 10 years in Missouri

Education/training

B.S. in Elementary Education

Masters in Curriculum and Instruction

Years as MIDTESOL (TESOL) member

2 years

Interest Section(s)

K-12 and Teacher Training

How did you become interested in working with ELLs?

I became interested in working with ELs through my 10 years as a classroom teacher when I was always assigned this population of students. It became a passion of mine to see ELs thrive and not only learn English but also share their lived experiences with their peers as well through voice and choice. Equity and advocacy have also been a passion of mine and advocating for not only ELs, but underrepresented populations will always remain at the forefront of all of my work.

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

Since I am no longer in the classroom and working at the state level, I would want those outside of the ELT field to know that ELs are more than capable of meeting high expectations. If you go with a mindset that they can't then they won't. Making sure that the proper scaffolds are in place are key to student success. Diversity, equity, inclusion and anti-racists topics must be embedded within curriculums now more than ever. We are beyond the days of ELs being "their students", it's time for ELs to "all of our students" and all teachers should teach them as such.

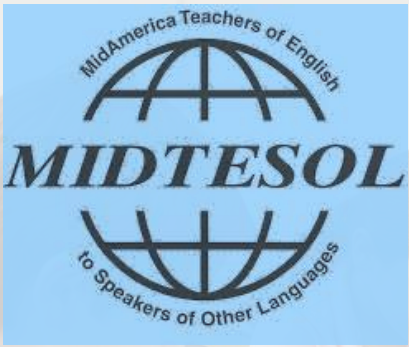
What advice do you have for teachers new to working with ELLs?

ELL students will come to your classroom with a wide range of language abilities. So be welcoming and encouraging. Use visuals, embed culturally diverse texts and tasks within your lessons. Take the time to get to know your EL beyond the surface level and show them that you do see them and value what they have to bring to your classroom.

Be clear with your objectives and flexible with your assessments. Make the effort to include parents in decisions and keep them informed on their student's progress. Lastly, be reflective and make the time to adjust and stay informed on best practices for ELs.

Why are you a member of MIDTESOL?

I am a member of MIDTESOL because I value the sense of community and professional development that this organization provides. It also makes sense with my current role to be a member and help recruit others in Kansas to be a part of the organization, as well.



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 respectful of 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*