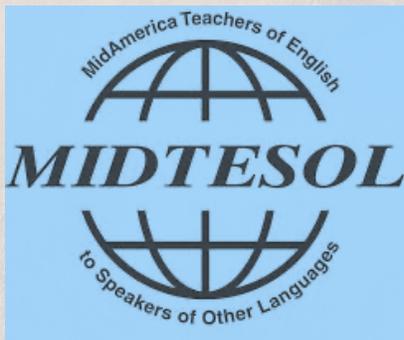


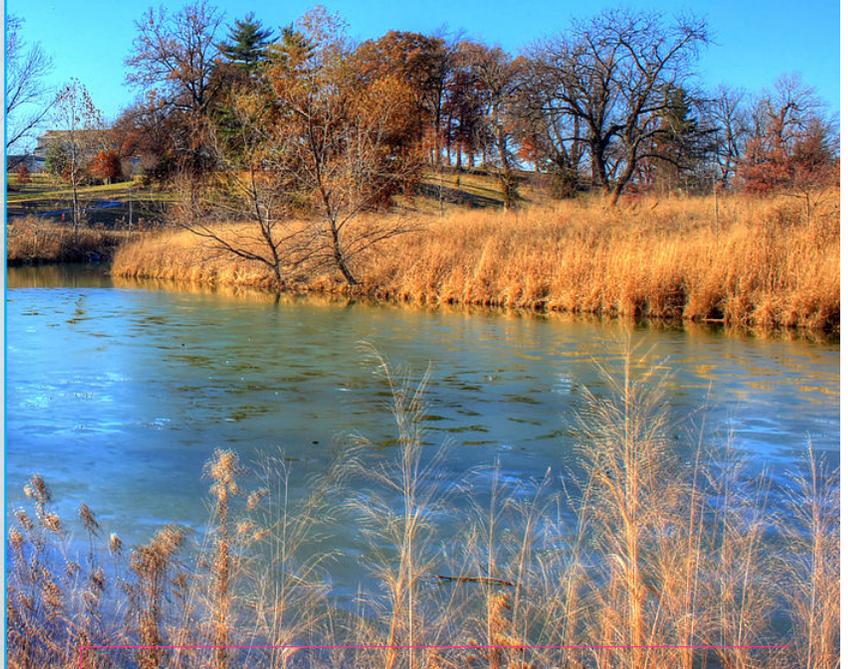
Spring 2022

MIDTESOL Matters

*The Mid-America
TESOL Affiliate Newsletter*



River View, St. Louis, Missouri



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“ I am also excited because changes are on the horizon for many of us... Smile, my friends, and inhale the anticipation with me. **Good things are on the horizon!**”

Kaylene Sasse
MIDTESOL President



MIDTESOL Matters

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A Welcome from the President

Kaylene Sasse
MIDTESOL President
Bellevue University
ESL Program Director
Associate Professor
Bellevue, Nebraska



Happy Spring, Colleagues!

After the cold and often-gray winter months, I am excited for a change of pace and a season of refreshment. We indeed have some good things to anticipate. The TESOL International Conference in Pennsylvania is bound to include many helpful sessions. And I'm looking forward to hearing follow-up conference reports from several of our members who recently received travel awards to help them participate in-person or virtually. Those reflections will be included in our summer issue of *MIDTESOL Matters*, so be sure to watch for them.

I am also excited because changes are on the horizon for many of us. (That's certainly true of me and discussions about the future at my institution.) After a couple of years of much fluctuation, it can be easy to instinctively fear, run from, or worry over what changes may lie ahead for us in our work and volunteering opportunities. But I have been reminding myself of the value of *believing* instead of *fearing*, *standing* instead of *shrinking*, and *hoping* instead of *agonizing*. Many of us may have regained some sense of pre-Covid "normal" in our lives; however, the working, supporting, and economizing challenges that yet face us on the other side may surprise us. Yet, we have survived and we are stronger for it. So, I encourage us all to keep looking for ways we can encourage our own colleagues and remind ourselves that we can take what we have learned to move forward in confidence.

Finally, I'm excited because of ongoing chances we have to serve each other. I have been working hard with our current board members to help negotiate fall conference planning details, make sure that travel award notifications were sent, and consider organizational needs tied to the larger TESOL conference. And I want to encourage each reader to consider: How might you become involved in a large or small MIDTESOL leadership role? And how might you encourage your own colleagues and friends to become MIDTESOL members too? Please email me at kaylenesasse@midtesol.org if you'd like more information about ways in which you can serve or if you'd like to discuss some talking points you can share with other people to introduce them to our organization and the benefits of membership.

Smile, my friends, and inhale the anticipation with me. **Good things are on the horizon!**

Kaylene Sasse
#MIDTESOL2022 President



Zachary Smith
MIDTESOL Vice President
ELA Teacher, Des Moines Public
Schools
Des Moines, Iowa

Vice President's Report

Hello, MIDTESOL Friends!

My name is Zachary Smith, and I currently serve as MIDTESOL's Vice-President. Currently, my full-time position is within the Des Moines Public School District, where I am a ELA teacher for the Virtual Academy.

It is very exciting for me to be writing to you as your current board Vice President. I have been involved with MIDTESOL on the board for over a half dozen years now, as a state-member at large and then exhibitor coordinator. Over these six years, I have seen so many great changes come from our organization. Currently, the changes that have happened during this pandemic just confirm with me that MIDTESOL is stronger than ever. We will make it to our new normal, whatever that is, stronger than we were before this pandemic began in 2020.

During this pandemic, a trend that I've noticed is organizations, companies and individuals focusing on negative effects of the pandemic. Yes, there have been some negative effects to MIDTESOL but as a board--with strategic planning, a lot of hard work and a little bit of luck--we have been able to pivot many of these into some real, positive changes. Here are a few that I would like to highlight:

1. **MIDTESOL Conference** - The pandemic forced us to change the 2020 conference very suddenly, and without much notice, to a virtual conference. It resulted in the conference committee basically planning two conferences, because we had never experienced planning a virtual conference before. From the feedback that we received from those who attended the conference, I believe it is safe to say that our first ever virtual conference was a resounding success. This also let us know that whatever our new normal is moving forward with conferences, we have the capability of having a virtual component. The 2021 conference grew from the experience that we had from the 2020 conference. We expanded the geographic area of where our attendees usually come from and included an international keynote speaker (who was amazing, by the way!). The 2022 conference will be our first pivot into a hybrid conference and we are excited to show you all the benefits that our in-person and virtual attendees will have compared to our conferences in the past. P.S. Please save the date...as MIDTESOL 2022 will be coming to you both virtually and in-person in Kansas City on September 23-24, 2022.
2. **Financially Secure** - MIDTESOL was able to make it through the pandemic without a financial loss because our conference committee in both 2020 and 2021 did such amazing jobs creating virtual conferences. Enough cannot be said about the wonderful job that these committee members did over the past two years, as they were game changers in the field of conference planning for MIDTESOL because of all the "firsts" that happened during these two virtual conferences. We were able to make it through the pandemic without having to use any of our savings and not making drastic changes to our budget due to the success of the conferences. This also goes to the accurate, precise record keeping

of our treasurer, Lynn Tiemann. She has continued the legacy of past treasurer Kim Kreicker, who was the driving force on creating CDs as investments for the organization to assist with our financial security.

3. **Membership** - You may be thinking that this should be a negative from the pandemic, because on paper, our membership numbers are down. Yes, the numbers are down, but this is to be expected. Many schools and organizations have stopped paying professional organization fees, there have been many job cuts, etc. These situations are terrible and not what we want to have happen. However, on the flip side, those who are still members have stepped up and decided that MIDTESOL is incredibly important to them. Want proof of this? Look at all the new faces involved in our committees and MIDTESOL Board over the past year. There are too many to mention, but we have welcomed many new members to extremely important leadership positions within the organization. This is so important, because an organization cannot grow without fresh ideas and momentum...and MIDTESOL has plenty of that! If you are interested in being more involved, we'd love to get to know you. Please reach out to me, and we'll have a conversation and find some ways for you to become more involved. This can range from being an intersection committee leader to submitting for one of our publications to possibly running for a board position. There is something for everyone to do within MIDTESOL, no matter how much time you have! **We'd love for you to get involved.**
4. **MIDTESOL Website** - with the pandemic and everything being virtual for so long, we realized that revamping the website was a necessity. Have you seen the new Website? One word comes to mind when I see it...BEAUTIFUL! This new site is sleek, modern, professional looking and user-friendly. It absolutely was a refreshing, positive change that has already been given large amounts of positive praise and increased digital foot traffic.
5. **Member Benefits** - With the shift of going more virtual, we have worked as a board to realign goals to make sure that members are getting the most of their membership. We have had virtual coffee talks, webinars, etc. As we continue moving forward, we will continue with these additional benefits that are free for our members and add value to your membership to MIDTESOL.

I hope that you agree with me that MIDTESOL has done an excellent job of pivoting through the pandemic. I just want to make sure that I am clear in regards to the fact that this success has happened due to the hard work of many people. A sincere and heart-filled thank you to everyone who has assisted MIDTESOL during this time from service on the board, as an inter-section committee chair, committee member or a conference volunteer. **Without your help and dedication, MIDTESOL would not be what it is today.**

During this year as Vice President and next year during my time as President, I hope to continue on this very positive trend of bringing in new leadership with great ideas to help MIDTESOL continue moving forward and adapting in the future. I can safely tell you, my friends, with your involvement and ideas...MIDTESOL has a bright future ahead. I am excited to take this ride with you!

Yours in service,

Zachary Smith
#MIDTESOL2022 Vice President



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

A Message from the Past President

Hello MIDTESOL colleagues!

I'm glad you found your way to this newsletter to find out what is going on in our organization. I'm currently the immediate Past President of MIDTESOL... which means that I have served you as VP, President, and now Past President almost exclusively online during the pandemic. I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to see and know those of you who have attended our virtual conferences and meetings during this time. MIDTESOLers really are special bunch of colleagues.

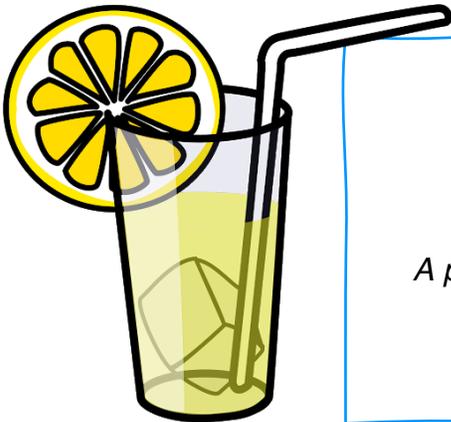
Now to my job this year. I'm looking around for people who would like to join the board or explore a new position in our interest sections. If you think this is you, please email me at kellymccclendon@midtesol.org or kelly.mccclendoln@washburn.edu. We have open positions in Community College/Adult Education Interest Section Chair, and Program Administrators Interest Section Chair. We have open Editor positions such as MIDTESOL Journal Editor, Associate Editor of MIDTESOL Journal, and *MIDTESOL Matters* newsletter editor.

On the horizon is spring and then sooner than we think, our hybrid fall conference will be here. See you at MIDTESOL Conference 2022 in September!

Best regards,

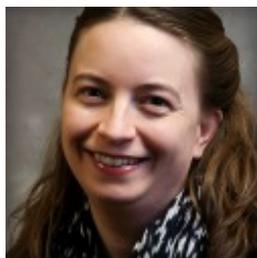
Kelly McClendon

#MIDTESOL2022 Past President



MIDTESOL Social (Post-TESOL)

A post-TESOL MIDTESOL gathering is in the works! Watch your inbox for related emails with more info & details about attending.



Adrienne Johnson
**MIDTESOL Socio-Political
Concerns & Professional
Standards Chair**

Associate Professor of Education
Missouri Western State University
St. Joseph, Missouri

A Message from the Socio-Political Concerns Chair

Refocusing and Recentering in 2022

Planning advocacy goals for the upcoming year is perhaps sign of hope, or maybe defiance in the face of an inability to plan ahead for such a long time, but it is also a real need for our field, and for the learners we support. To help you plan those goals, here are a few updates on advocacy efforts on a national, and local level.

1. For a number of years TESOL International has held the **TESOL Advocacy & Policy Summit** in the summer. This summit used to be held in D.C. and moved to a virtual format in 2020. MIDTESOL has supported a number of MIDTESOL members to attend for advocacy training and meetings with elected officials. As of this publication, registration for the 2022 TESOL Advocacy & Policy Summit is open; if you have an interest in attending, look for information and updates on MIDTESOL Advocacy Award applications in your email and this edition of *MIDTESOL Matters*!
2. **TESOL International continues to advocate for humane policies to support DACA recipients.** Most recently, TESOL submitted comments to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security in support of the Coalition for the American Dream. Follow these links to learn more about the coalition:
 - o [TESOL Joins Coalition for the American Dream](#)
 - o [TESOL's letter](#)
 - o [sign-on letter from the Coalition for the American Dream](#)
3. **MIDTESOL states have received a significant number of Afghan refugees in recent months.** Original numbers [predicted from September 2021](#) were Missouri - 1,200; Nebraska - 775; Kansas - 490; Iowa - 695.
 - o Local refugee resettlement organizations such as Jewish Vocational Services (JVS) in Kansas City have been organizing resources and seeking donations for these new arrivals. Job training, adult English language services, and other resettlement efforts are all high need areas.
 - o Local school districts have also been welcoming the school age children into their classrooms, many of whom require intensive English language and socioemotional support. Thus, supporting these efforts is a high priority for MIDTESOL members who have the ability to do so.
 - o To support these efforts, the National Clearinghouse for English Language Acquisition (NCELA) has a number of resources, including a recent Webinar and resource introduction on "Education and Afghan Newcomers: Keeping the Promise." These resources and the webinar recording can be found at: <https://www.ncela.ed.gov/>
4. **Other areas of concern and legislative focus in P-12 education in MIDTESOL states (and nationally):** teacher (and staffing) shortages, critical race theory, masking policies, the role of school boards, virtual learning, emergency certification for teachers, substitute certification requirements,

public access to classrooms, posting of curriculum and lesson plans, and more. Many bills related to these issues have been filed, recently, in local governing bodies. Some have passed, others continue to be hotly debated.

- It is important to note that state elected officials are receiving tremendous amounts of pressure from parents and special interest groups to propose such bills. However, just because a bill is proposed does not mean it will pass. Thus, there are three critical steps that MIDTESOL advocates can take to minimize the impacts of harmful legislation:
 - **Stay informed** - Bills often move quickly in states where a single party holds a supermajority of votes. Viewpoints and perspectives can also often be narrow or limited when outside perspectives are not sought, heard, or understood. There is often limited time to act and share information to counteract inaccurate narratives. Thus, pay attention to legislation being proposed. Do not immediately panic when a potentially harmful bill is proposed, but do ready yourself to act.
 - **Share your experiences and expertise:** Educators and EL professionals have valuable, and unique first hand experience and knowledge. Always assume that if you are not sharing those experiences, someone else is filling that void with information to counter what you know to be true. Your voice does matter.
 - Elected officials will often act on what they believe to be true, and, yes, often do so with so-called ‘good intentions’. Thus, helping to correct misconceptions and providing evidence and stories that reflect your realities, and those of your students can have powerful impacts.
 - Also remember to keep parents and community members (the other constituents of your elected officials) informed! This includes parents and community members who are not part of the EL community. EL community members can become self-advocates, but helping to gain support from a wider community can have powerful, and long-lasting effects.
 - **Vote** - Local elections often matter more than national elections. Pay attention to your local school board elections (*Do you know when the next one is for your local school district?*) and to upcoming midterm elections this fall.

5. International Students: COVID continues to disrupt international travel, and reduce the number of international students in the nation. However, there are signs of support for addressing the damage to international education caused in recent years. A good organization to follow, that has advocacy resources and updates for international education is [NAFSA](#). Here are a few of NAFSA’s recent priorities

- [Supporting Afghan students and scholars](#)
- [Responsible Education Mitigating Options and Technical Extensions \(REMOTE\) Act](#)
- Call for [national strategy for international education](#)
- [FACT SHEET: Biden-Harris Administration Actions to Attract STEM Talent and Strengthen our Economy and Competitiveness | The White House](#)

Remember to take care of (and advocate for) your own mental and physical health, too. Then, when you have the ability to do so, choose one issue that most impacts your students or your role, and commit to taking at least one action step (see some of our previous posts on “advocacy action steps”) this year. If you can take more than one step, all the better! Starting with one step is perfectly acceptable too, though. Best of luck MIDTESOL advocates!

Adrienne Johnson

#MIDTESOL2022 Socio-Political Concerns and Professional Standards Chair

Join the MIDTESOL Team!

Open Positions for 2022

Are you looking for a way to make an impact while gaining experience, serving the profession, building your C.V., and expanding your network by collaborating with a diverse group of English language teaching professionals? MIDTESOL has several open board positions to be filled yet this year. Please reach out to Kelly McClendon (kellymclendon@midtesol.org) to indicate your interest or with any questions.

Communications Positions: Journal Editor, Associate Journal Editor (3-year terms)

Communications Director appointment with board approval; non-voting member

Unique Responsibilities

- Prepare submission information for fall conference presenters and disseminate that information in presenters' conference packets
- Make submission information available on the Affiliate website
- Solicit readers for the peer review panel based on interest section area
- Receive submissions from presenters
- Prepare submissions and reviewer information for the review panel and disseminate to that panel
- Interact with reviewers and authors during the editing process for articles that need revision
- Prepare the final copy of the proceedings for digital publication
- Disseminate the proceedings to the membership

General Responsibilities

- Attend board meetings 3 times a year to plan and implement vision
- Attend 1-2 officer meetings via Zoom each year
- Attend TESOL when possible and go to the Editor's workshop
- Attend fall conference
- Represent Association at events and with other organizations at request of president
- needs a description written
- Collaborate with other MIDTESOL Editors as needed and requested by the Communications Chair

Communications Position: *MIDTESOL Matters* Newsletter Editor (3-year term)

Communications Director appointment with board approval; non-voting member

Unique Responsibilities

- Solicit articles from board & membership (in person & via email)
- Produce and publish 3 newsletters per year
- Set 3 deadlines for newsletter submissions (15-20 days prior to publication)

- Coordinate with marketing co-editors, awards chair, and exhibitors coordinator in marketing fall conference in the newsletter
- Receive newsletters from and communicate with other affiliates
- Make the newsletter available to the Website Editor for placement on the site
- Send a dedicated link for the website to the Co-Editor for membership for distribution

General Responsibilities

- Attend board meetings 3 times a year
- If possible, attend TESOL and attend the Editor's workshop
- Attend MIDTESOL fall conference
- Attend 1 spring IS meeting, if held
- Represent Association at events and with other organizations at request of the president
- Collaborate with other MIDTESOL Editors as needed and requested by the Communications Director



Connect with MIDTESOL on social media



Get Ready - Get Set -Go!

MIDTESOL 2022 (September 23-24) in Kansas City!

#MIDTESOL22 Conference

The field of English Language teaching has undergone immense changes in the past two years, in part due to the pandemic, but also due to changes in immigration policies and many other factors. It hasn't been easy, but we are learning from and overcoming our challenges and emerging stronger.

The theme of our Fall 2022 MIDTESOL conference is **“Emerging Stronger: Leading Positive Change in ELT Education.”** Challenges offer us the opportunity to think outside the box, to be creative, and to come up with new ways of approaching our teaching and leading. At MIDTESOL 2022, you will be able to benefit from the insights others have gained during these strenuous times and, through sessions and networking opportunities, you will have an opportunity to share your insights with others. By coming together and learning from one another, we can positively impact our students, one another and our field.



Join us for #MIDTESOL22!

Theme: **Emerging Stronger: Leading Positive Change in ELT Education**

Dates: Friday-Saturday, September 23-24, 2022

Location: InterContinental Kansas City at the Plaza, 401 Ward Pkwy, Kansas City, MO

(We will also offer a scaled-down virtual option for those who aren't able to attend in person.)

Proposals

The conference planning team is aware that attending conferences is a significant financial and time investment. The value of conferences is dependent on the quality of the sessions and the opportunities to network with others in our field. We strongly encourage you to consider submitting a proposal with insights you have gained in the past three years.

The call for proposals will go out in late April, proposals will be due in at the end of May (see below), and presenters will be notified by mid-July.

Bookmark the [MIDTESOL Website](#) for more details about the conference. Information will be updated as it's available.

MIDTESOL 2022 CALL FOR PROPOSALS!

Emerging Stronger: Leading Positive Change in ELT Education

The COVID-19 pandemic was a global crisis that has created lasting effects in all areas of society. Within education, teachers, students and administrators were forced to adapt rapidly; in the field of English Language Teaching, the remote teaching and learning was especially difficult. Despite the challenges the pandemic presented, it also provided us with opportunities to think creatively, apply new technologies and techniques to teaching, explore new research interests, and develop new approaches to our field.

The MIDTESOL 2022 Conference Committee is looking for teachers, administrators, researchers, teacher trainers, graduate students, and student service providers who have emerged from the pandemic with insights and skills to positively impact our field by sharing their knowledge with others.

Presentation Formats:

- **Dialogue** (45 minutes): A peer-to-peer facilitated discussion about a TESOL-related topic. The leader begins by introducing the topic and then engaging the participants by asking thought-provoking and practical questions.
- **Presentation** (45 minutes): A research- or practice-oriented session that may be delivered individually or as part of a group discussion.
- **Workshop** (90 minutes): A carefully structured, hands-on professional development activity. The leader helps participants solve a problem or develop a specific teaching or research technique.
- **Poster Presentation** (45 minutes): Self-explanatory exhibit that allows participants to engage in informal discussion with presenters during a designated time at the conference. Each presenter will prepare a bulletin board display, which will also be exhibited throughout the conference.
- **Virtual Presentation** (30-45 minutes): A research- or practice-oriented session that may be delivered individually or as part of a group discussion.

If your proposal is accepted, you must pre-record your session and submit your recording and a digital copy of your handout(s) prior to the conference.

Proposal guidelines: Make sure your proposal has...

- A clear title (10-word limit)
- A 50-word abstract and a summary of the session with a clear statement of the focus and purpose of the session. (300-word maximum)
- The type of session and the intended audience

Proposal deadline: Tuesday, May 31 at 11:59 pm CST

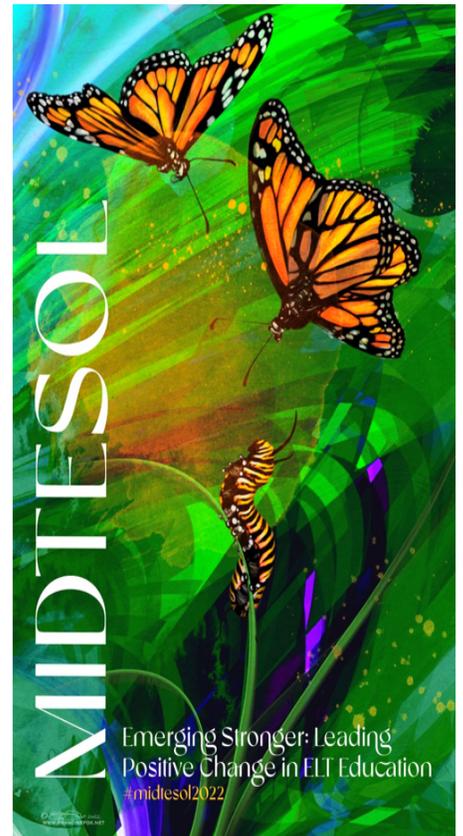
See the *MIDTESOL Website* [Conference Tab](#) for more information on criteria and submission

We look forward to seeing you at #MIDTESOL22,

Carolyn, Ben, Abdulsamad and Vicki

MIDTESOL 2022 Conference Planning Committee

Conference Chair Carolyn Heacock (University of Kansas),
Program Chair Ben Vilkas (Wayne State College in Wayne, NE),
Exhibitor Coordinator Abdulsamad Humaidan (Southern Illinois University),
Communications Chair Vicki Anderson (Concordia University Nebraska)



Welcome to one of our newest board members!

Like any organization made up of volunteers, MIDTESOL occasionally encounters vacancies in positions that arise unexpectedly. We'd like to introduce you to our newest board member who has agreed to step into the gap to help us out!

Greetings, MIDTESOL Colleagues!. My name is Abdulsamad Humaidan the Interim Exhibitor Coordinator for the 2022 MIDTESOL Conference and the Program Chair for the 2023 MIDTESOL Annual Meeting. I have been a MIDTESOL member and conference presenter since 2018 and I have also served as the MIDTESOL Journal Assistant since 2019. I first came to the United States of America as a Fulbright in 2012 to pursue an MA/TESOL and I am currently a Ph.D. candidate majoring in Language, Literacies, and Culture/TESOL at Southern Illinois University Carbondale. I have taught the English language in the United States and abroad for more than 10 years and have presented at regional, national, and international conferences. I also co-published a book chapter, two journal articles, a conference proceeding, and lesson plans. My research interests include in classroom assessment, teaching and learning English with technology, and teacher education. My goal for the Interim Exhibitor Coordinator position for this year is to strengthen our relationships that we have with the current exhibitors. Please, feel free to email me at abdulsamadhumaidan@midtesol.org if you have any requests concerning the types of vendors we bring in and what types of resources or services the vendors offer to us during the conference.



Members-At-Large State News

MIDTESOL wants to give a hearty shout-out to all the state representatives that serve as members-at-large on the MIDTESOL Board! These representatives are the most direct link between the MIDTESOL organization and the particular needs of your state, working hard to make connections between people and resources in a way that builds us up as professionals and helps our students. Way to go, State Reps!



State Update: Missouri by Phil Bridges

MISSOURI

To start, a quick introduction – Hello! My name is Phil Bridges. I am an academic specialist and teacher trainer with Missouri State University’s English Language Institute and CELTA Center. My goal as Missouri member-at-large is to hear from and represent the many voices and strands of English language education in our state. If you ever have news or events to share, don’t hesitate to contact me!

February marks two full years since the first cases of COVID-19 in Missouri. Educators have adapted, persevered, and weathered numerous challenges while continuing to serve the needs of their students, schools, and communities. What helping learners acquire English language skills looks like in Missouri has been changing since before the pandemic, but Missouri’s educators and programs have creatively met the challenge, virtually and face-to-face. It will take time and effort to measure the impacts of the pandemic on learners.

The rise of the Omicron variant in Missouri at the end of 2021 has impacted education in Missouri in early 2022. Over 60 Missouri school districts saw some sort of temporary closure due to rising COVID caseloads. Many universities throughout the state have made adjustments to respond to the rise in cases, as well. At Missouri State University, our upcoming English Language Educators conference, already postponed due to the pandemic, will be held virtually in March due to Omicron’s rise.

It has been worth watching Missouri politics during the legislative session, as there are many bills and lawsuits that might affect how schools, universities, and local communities are able to address the evolving pandemic, make curriculum decisions, and fund schools. Also of note is the evolving budgeting process. Among the governor’s proposals are increases to the state’s minimum teacher salary, funding for university buildings and infrastructure, and investment in the Missouri State Employee Retirement System (MOSERS).

Though backlogs in visa appointments are slowing the admissions process, many Missouri universities have reported their largest intake of new international students since the onset of the pandemic, and short-term face-to-face programs have resumed, as well, though winter weather can complicate plans.

Over the past two years, many programs have diversified their online offerings, short programs, and outreach to local English learners.

Missouri continues to see an influx of new refugees from Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Central America, and more. This has created a need both in schools and communities. The Missouri Office of Refugee Administration and International Institute-St. Louis are resources for learning about needs and opportunities to assist this population.

I am surely not alone in hoping that the rest of 2022 brings more students and fewer surprises. There is still a lot of English language teaching happening across Missouri, however. If your school or program is doing something interesting, please let me know and I will spread the word. I look forward to serving you and MIDTESOL as your Missouri member-at-large!

Phil Bridges

MIDTESOL Member-at-Large (Missouri)

Connect with MIDTESOL on social media





State Update: Iowa by Cindra Porter

IOWA

The eyes of many educators have been on legislative actions in many states this season. As our country continues to work its way through debates at the federal level around what is considered “best practices” in education, individual states are also seeing legislation around education practices that may benefit or impede language learners’ access to language instruction in schools and institutions of higher education.

For many educators, engaging with politics feels uncomfortable right now. Many people who previously held open interest and curiosity around legislative actions now feel reluctant to read the news, or search out information on currently proposed laws in their states. Recently, a teacher shared with me that she felt “powerless” where state legislation was concerned, with the result that she now avoided any news or information about bills related to education in Iowa. Another educator shared that she is interested in learning more, but doesn’t know where to access information or find updates related to education. Searching for laws can feel intimidating if you have never engaged in this process before. The following information shares some basic tips to access information around legislative actions in the state of Iowa.

Tip #1: Seek out sites that track legislation by topic

The Iowa Department of Education has provided a list of education-related bills on their Website to help Iowans identify and follow bills related to education that have been proposed this year in the Iowa legislature. Some of the bills related to language learning this year include but are not limited to bilingual education pilot programs (SF 310), funding related to English Learners (SF 2074), and changes on community college instructor qualifications and community college accreditation (SF 2128).

[Iowa Department of Education Bill Tracking Page](#)

Tip #2: Learn how to track bills in the current session

Perhaps you would like to do a search of your own, using search terms that may not be related to general education. The Iowa Legislature website offers a page that defines terms and offers a brief guide on how to get started in tracking and/or searching bills. (See link mentioned in Tip #1.)

Tip #3: Develop an understanding of how a bill becomes a law

While many of us learned how a bill becomes a law thanks to Schoolhouse Rock, we might be a bit rusty on the process. If you are tracking a bill and wonder what actions must take place before the proposed bill is passed on to the Iowa Governor for signature, review the process in Iowa.

[How a bill becomes a law in Iowa](#)

Tip #4: Know who represents you in the Iowa Legislature

At this point, you might be motivated to reach out to the people representing you in the Iowa legislature and share your thoughts on proposed legislation. If you are not sure who represents you in our state legislature, the site below will identify your senator and house representative once you provide your home address.

[Find My Legislator](#)

If you have questions about navigating the Iowa Legislature website or finding more information on education-related bills in Iowa, please feel free to email me at cindraporter@midtesol.org.

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TESOL Convention 2022

MIDTESOL
Member shout-out!

Congratulations to MIDTESOLers who were presenters at this year's TESOL International Convention! (Presentations listed approximately in order of appearance in the TESOL 2022 program.)

Shelley Fairbairn & Kristen Hollenback - *Reimagining EL Writing Assessment: Fresh Perspectives and Differentiated Practices*

Elizabeth Baertlein - *Creating an Open-Access Academic Writing Textbook for Adult Immigrant Students; Create Open-Access Resources to Promote Access, Equity, and Engagement*

Abdulsamad Humaidan - *Conference Proposals 201: What happens after you submit?*

Joan Kang Shin and Andrea B. Hellman - *Engaging Young ELs With TESOL's 6 Principles*

M'Balía Thomas, Ph.D. - *Navigating Disciplinary Boundaries in TESOL Teacher Education: An Unexpected Lesson in Culturally Responsive Teaching; panel participant for Problematizing the Problem: Approaches to a Multicultural and Multilingual Classroom.*

Jeanne Beck - *PBL Tools for Form/Function, Reflection, and Assessment*

Shelley Fairbairn – *Supporting Biliteracy Development with Linguistically Differentiated Assignments and Rubrics*

Angela B. Bell, Andrea B. Hellman, Ximena Uribe-Zarain, & Sarah Sandidge - *What COVID-19 Taught Us About Family Engagement: Advocacy in Action*

Andrea Hellman, Ari Sherris, Faridah Pawan, Zeynep Köylü, Kenan Dikilitaş, & Kate Mastruserio Reynolds - *Researcher Narratives as Methodological Resources of Research Pedagogy*

Andrea B. Hellman, Angela B. Bell, Ximena Uribe-Zarain, & Sarah Sandidge - *The Teaching Practices of Additive Multilingualism in the Content Classroom*

Jackie Otting - *Equitable Education for Multilingual Learners with Disabilities Starts with Prepared Teachers*

Patrick T. Randolph and Laura Giacomini - *Overcoming Burnout: Livening Up Your Teaching Career With PD*

Patrick T. Randolph - *Creating a Healthy Spirit: Mindfulness Ideas and Activities for Teachers;*
Using Neuroscience to Support Creative Writing for ELs;
A Brain-Based Approach for Acquiring Vocabulary: Movement, Mindfulness, and Music;
Music and Movement: Cheerfully Solidifying Vocabulary in the Long-Term Memory;
Developing Critical Analysis: Introducing the 1-Point Multi-skills Analysis;
Using Peer-to-Peer Observations for PD and Personal Growth





2022 MIDTESOL Member Advocacy Award applications are being accepted!

MIDTESOL
Member benefit!

2022 TESOL Advocacy & Policy Summit

20-22 JUNE 2022
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA, USA



 tesol international association

Description

Up to *three* MIDTESOL members will receive up to a \$750 stipend each to be used toward expenses related to attending the TESOL Advocacy & Policy Summit in Washington, D.C., June 20-22, 2022. Winners will attend the summit with an experienced MIDTESOL attendee who will serve as a guide and resource. Winners will attend the summit with an experienced MIDTESOL attendee who will serve as a guide and resource.

Applications accepted until funding is depleted

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 TESOL Advocacy & Policy Summit, including in person 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, 2022, 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.

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 Virtual 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

Tentative Schedule

6 June - Hill Training Webinar (recorded for those who miss the live event)

20 June - Evening Keynote Speaker (includes reception)

21 June - Full Day with Invited Speakers (includes breakfast and lunch)

22 June - Meet with Representatives on the Hill (optional ticketed dinner)

The full agenda for the 2022 TESOL Advocacy & Policy Summit will be available in May.

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- 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
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A look back at last year's virtual Advocacy & Policy Summit:

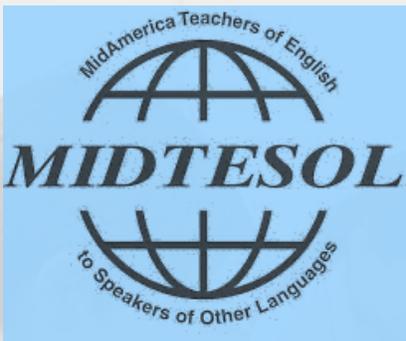
[Program Booklet: TESOL 2021 Virtual Advocacy & Policy Summit](#)



TESOL Advocacy & Policy Summit

One of a kind!!





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*