MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT:

In mid-February I had the opportunity to attend and present at a mini-conference hosted by the University of Nebraska—Omaha’s MALT (Master of Arts in Language Teaching) Department for teachers of ESL and World Languages. A certain percentage of the participants were K-12 teachers, and the day’s sessions concluded with a round table discussion featuring in-the-trenches teachers from various school districts who talked about the state of language education in K-12 schools in the Omaha metro area. Without a single exception, each one told a story of struggles stemming from growing class sizes, personnel and budget cuts, drastic elimination of professional development opportunities, and an expectation from district administration for every individual instructor to “do more with less” to the point of creating negative consequences for students. How discouraging and frustrating! Our particular Midwestern corner of the world of ESL has already been experiencing severe budget and personnel challenges in higher education and adult education. These challenges have spread to K-12 education ESL as well.

In response to these difficult times, MIDTESOL seeks to spread that same sense of hope and efficacy through our own membership. The MIDTESOL organizational agenda for 2018 is focused on enhancing the “MIDTESOL member experience,” and this includes initiatives for setting up opportunities for MIDTESOL members to collaborate with and share resources with each other as we ride out this wave together. Here are just a few that you have learned of recently or will soon be receiving communication about:

In the third week of February you received an e-mail inviting you to consider joining a committee that would oversee helping channel MIDTESOL members’ expertise to the assistance of EMBARC (Ethnic Minorities of Burma Advocacy and Resource Center), a non-profit organization in Iowa geared towards aiding adult refugees and their families. Please consider if you or someone you know would be a good match for this opportunity.

In This Issue

- Save the Date - MIDTESOL 2018
- Awards Applications:
  - ESL Student Essay Award
  - Member Advocacy Award
- TESOL 2018 Convention Info:
  - Presentations by MIDTESOLers
  - MIDTESOL Gathering
In light of shrinking possibilities for professional development opportunities, our MIDTESOL state representatives have been creating and advocating special free or low-cost mini-conference events like the MALT Colloquium in Omaha and the Iowa Mid-Winter Workshop in Iowa City (unfortunately cancelled due to inclement weather). Please let your MIDTESOL state representative know if you have information about other free or low-cost opportunities that MIDTESOL could likewise advertise to the membership.

MIDTESOL Vice President Amy Chastain is currently collecting information on teacher certification in each of our states as a resource for ESL professionals who have been “displaced” from jobs in adult and university ESL (and might be interested in seeking work in the K-12 sector). Please contact her if you have information for her to add to the resource pool.

Please also share your ideas with the MIDTESOL board! What innovative ways can you think of about how MIDTESOL can get involved with helping our members help each other? In particular, how can we collaborate across our Interest Section boundaries and state lines in order to build each other up in the face of current challenges and to benefit from the perspectives and experience of our ESL colleagues who occupy different professional niches? If you have an idea, please contact your MIDTESOL Interest Section or state representative (see http://midtesol.org/administration-governance/board-of-directors/ for their names), or simply e-mail midtesol@gmail.com.

In late September, MIDTESOL will celebrate its 40th anniversary at the annual conference with the theme “Building on the Past, Looking to the Future.” Despite the significant challenges our field faces, we will not give up on pushing forward. If we support each other through collaboration and sharing of our resources we will be able not only to survive the present, but thrive and continue into the future to enhance our effectiveness in serving our populations of English Language Learners.

-Vicki Michael Anderson,
MIDTESOL President
Call for Proposals and Conference Registration coming in April! Watch midtesol.org under the “Annual Conferences” tab for more details.
MIDTESOL is pleased to invite its members to announce and submit student essays for the

Best K-12 ESL Student Essay Award and Best Adult ESL Student Award.

Topics reflect this year’s conference theme: "Building on the Past, Looking to the Future".

Eligibility:

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

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

Essay Topics:

Choose one of the following topics related to this year’s MIDTESOL Conference theme of "Building on the Past, Looking to the Future".

#1 Good advice is often given from older generations to younger generations. Think about advice that your parents, grandparents, or older people in your life have given you. How has that advice helped you? How will it affect your decisions in the future?

#2 We learn about what has happened in the past so that we can form our own thoughts and opinions in order to make the future better. What is something you have learned that you would like to change for the better in the future?

#3 Describe a tradition or value in your home culture. Choose one that is important to you or your family and explain it and its importance. How has it changed recently, if at all? Why has it changed? Do you believe it will continue into the future? Will it stay the same or alter somehow as the world is becoming more global?

Rules and Format:

Each student may submit only one essay and must be an ELL/ESL student in good academic standing who is enrolled in an ESOL/ELL/ESL 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 with a cover page, which includes the following:

• student name and contact information (phone number, address, email)
• school (name, address, phone number)
• grade level (High School Essay) or ESOL/ELL/ESL level in program (Adult ESL Essay)
• sponsoring teacher and teacher’s contact information (phone number, address, and email address)

Notes:

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.

Judging:

Essays undergo blind peer review by the MIDTESOL Awards Committee.

Scoring Criteria:

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.

Awards:

The selected recipient of each contest will be awarded $100. The name of the recipient, photo, and school affiliation will be published in the upcoming issue of MIDTESOL Matters, the organization’s electronic newsletter. Additional awards include one (1) second place award of $50 and one (1) third place award of $25.

How to Apply:

To apply, submit essay, including cover page, to Lindsey Simanowitz at simanowitz@ucmo.edu MIDTESOL Awards Chair, by April 2, 2018. The subject line of the email should read “MIDTESOL Essay Contest 2018” You will receive confirmation from the Awards Chair that your submission has been received and a notification if you are an award recipient by the end of April. All applicant information will be kept confidential. Decisions made by reviewers will be final.
Announcing – Applications for the inaugural 2018 MIDTESOL Member Advocacy Award are now being accepted!

Description:
One MIDTESOL member will receive up to a $1000 stipend to be used toward expenses related to attending the TESOL Advocacy & Policy Summit in Washington, D.C., June 18-20, 2018. Winners will attend the summit with an experienced MIDTESOL attendee who will serve as a guide and resource.

Applications due via email to Adrienne Johnson: ajohnson76@missouriwestern.edu

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 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 31, 2018, based on experiences and learning at the summit

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, 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 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 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 2017 TESOL Advocacy & Policy Summit

2017 speakers included

- Chris Coro, Office of Career and Technical Education, U.S. Department of Education
- Jose Viana & Supreet Anand, Office of English Language Acquisition, U.S. Department of Education
- Margie McHugh, Migration Policy Institute
- Roger Rosenthal, Migrant Legal Action Program
- Giselle Lundy-Ponce, American Federation of Teachers
- Amanda Bergson-Shilcock, National Skills Coalition
- Cesar Moreno Perez, American Federation of Teachers
- Diane Staehr Fenner, author of Advocating for English Learners: A Guide for Educators

For more information, visit: http://midtesol.org/applications-open-for-2018-midtesol-member-advocacy-award/
*MIDTESOL Journal* is accepting applications for Associate Editor(s).

MIDTESOL Journal Associate Editors coordinate peer reviews, liaise with authors and reviewers during the review and revision process, ensure accepted manuscripts are of substantive contribution to the field, and ensure that the final version of the manuscripts are consistent in terms of layout and formatting.

MIDTESOL Journal Associate Editor(s) should:

- have experience reviewing scholarly manuscripts in the field
- be active in MIDTESOL, TESOL, or other teacher organizations

To apply, please send an email to tranthu@mst.edu indicating interest in serving as the MIDTESOL Journal Associate Editor and a resume including relevant experience.

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**Call for Reviewers**

*MIDTESOL Journal* is seeking qualified reviewers to join our Editorial Review Board. We welcome applicants with expertise in all areas of second language acquisition and instruction. Applicants are invited to send a cover letter and CV/résumé to tranthu@mst.edu.

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**Your invitation to submit to *MIDTESOL Journal***

**Dear English Language Teaching Professionals,**

We would like to encourage you to submit a manuscript to our annual publication, *MIDTESOL Journal*, which was The Conference Proceedings of MIDTESOL for the past six years. Below you will find information regarding *MIDTESOL Journal* and the submission procedures. This is a wonderful opportunity to publish your work in a peer-reviewed publication. We hope that you are able to submit, and look forward to reading your work!

Best,

Thu H. Tran

MIDTESOL Journal Editor

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**General Information About *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 Journal* accepts the following types of submissions:

- Feature articles (no more than 4000 words) related to all aspects of English language learning and teaching
- 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)

Please follow the submission guidelines carefully.

**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 judgment of the *MIDTESOL Journal* editor.

**Submission guidelines**

1) Submissions should be sent by email as a .doc or .docx file to the Editor at tranthu@mst.edu.

2) Include the following in your subject line: MIDTESOL Journal_Last Name_Three First Words of the Title.

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

4) There must be an abstract of no more than 150 words in your manuscript.

5) All submissions should be in English.

6) Submissions should be in correct American Psychological Association (APA), 6th Edition format.

7) Make sure all words are font 12, Times New Roman (including header).

8) The article title should be font 16, bold. If it runs over onto a second line, single space the title.

9) Authors’ names must not be included anywhere in the manuscript.
MIDTESOL: Celebrating 40 years of supporting language learners and their teachers in Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska, and Kansas!

Call for articles, resources, photos, interviews, events and more!

Help to make this MT Matters newsletter a useful tool for you and your colleagues. We are accepting the following submissions for review and possible inclusion in the next edition of MT Matters:

- Teacher-created lessons with reproducible graphic organizers (please be sure to include a target audience).
- Original short articles or stories relevant to your teaching context and/or experiences.
- Photos (with appropriate permissions) reflecting your teaching context.
- Written or artistic student work (please include context in which work was created).
- Member Profiles—please contact MT Matters editors if you are interested in being featured in upcoming issues, or know a colleague who deserves some recognition in the field.
- State or regional events open to MIDTESOL members (please be sure to include all relevant details and contact information).

Submit content to: communications@midtesol.org

MT Matters publishes editions in Fall (October/November), Spring (March/April) and Summer (June/July) each year. The publication process can take multiple weeks, so please submit time-sensitive materials far in advance of publication dates. Submissions will be reviewed by the editorial board and/or MIDTESOL board members for quality, relevance, and consistency with the MIDTESOL mission.

Follow us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/Midtesol/
Follow us on Twitter: https://twitter.com/midtesol

Get involved or keep up-to-date with MIDTESOL Weekly Features: http://midtesol.org/category/weekly-feature/
Editors’ Highlights

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

I have been thinking about qualities or “Pillars” of effective advocacy. Here is one of mine “Teach others-help colleagues and neighbors grow their understanding about ELs”. Ok Twitter advocates, what are YOUR “Advocacy Pillars”? @MIDTESOL #ELLCHAT #advocacy4ELs #MIDTESOL

http://bit.ly/2tg1ez8

Have you seen @usedgov new data story on #ELs? Check out statistics for districts across the U.S. including #MIDTESOL states of MO, IA, NE, & KS! ed.gov/datastory/el-c ...

#ELLChat

http://bit.ly/2oEyT0M
TESOL 2018 is fast approaching and plans and preparations are in full swing! on Thursday, Mar. 29 11:30-1:30; you will find familiar faces at the Affiliate Booth located in the Exhibit Hall. Stop by, say hello, share a smile, and grab some snacks and water—it’s the perfect place to refuel!

In addition to MIDTESOL events and activities, we encourage you to plan to attend an open meeting of what will now become Knowledge-based member communities (formerly known as Interest Sections). These groups are the key to getting the most out of TESOL by bringing what is a giant, sometimes intimidating, organization down to a manageable size and group of like-minded professionals who share the same passions in the field as you do! Find “your people” here:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Interest Section Open Meetings (Wednesday)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5:00 pm–6:30 pm</td>
<td>Adult Education (N131)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Bilingual Education (N126)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Computer-Assisted Language Learning (N135)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Elementary Education (N128)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>English as a Foreign Language (N137)</td>
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<td>Higher Education (N132)</td>
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<td>International Teaching Assistants (N129)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Materials Writers (N133)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Secondary Schools (N127)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Teacher Education (N230a)</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:45 pm–8:15 pm</td>
<td>Applied Linguistics (N136)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>English for Specific Purposes (((N137)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Intensive English Programs (((N131)</td>
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<td>Intercultural Communications (N127)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Nonnative English Speakers in TESOL (N126)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Program Administration (N129)</td>
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<td>Refugee Concerns (N133)</td>
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<td>Second Language Writing (N135)</td>
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<td>Social Responsibility (N132)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Speech, Pronunciation, Listening (N230a)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Video and Digital Production (N128)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

At these meetings, you may have an opportunity to share what’s on your mind, discuss emerging trends and research needs, network and often each meeting is followed by a social event where you can continue to build friendships and connections that, from my experience, last for years to come!

On behalf of your MIDTESOL board, we look forward to seeing you there!

Amy Alice Chastain, MIDTESOL Vice President
Congratulations to MIDTESOLers who are presenters at this year’s TESOL International Convention!

If you are presenting at #TESOL18 in Chicago, please fill out the following form by March 20 so we can help spread the word about your presentation: https://goo.gl/forms/wxKNahXSLicZ3Hfi2
MIDTESOL Gathering at TESOL 2018

We will host an exciting MIDTESOL member welcoming event on Tuesday night following the opening plenary, 7:30-10pm, to facilitate members connecting with others at the beginning of the conference, especially those that may be traveling to TESOL on their own.

LOCATION

ACEBOUNCE
230 N Clark St, Chicago, IL 60601
events@prattstreetalehouse.com
http://www.prattstreetalehouse.com/menu/

The venue booked for this event, Ace Bounce, will provide both food and fun as it is billed as a high-end restaurant ping-pong lounge. We will have an ample supply of appetizers and pizzas and a designated “Games Guru” to encourage collegial play and to give awards at the end of the night. So make plans to attend and meet up with colleagues from your region to kick off the conference!

AceBounce is north of the McCormickPlace Convention Center; Uber over, or take the greenline. When you get to AceBounce, ask for MIDTESOL or the organizer, Amy Chastain to locate our party. We hope to see you at ACEBOUNCE!

If you have any additional questions, please contact the organizer for this event, Amy Chastain, the current Vice President of MIDTESOL. You can email her at amy-chastain@uiowa.edu
Chicago Preparation:

Chicago Tourism website:
https://www.choosechicago.com/

Top locations in Chicago

-Millennium Park
-The Art Institute of Chicago
-CIBC Theater
-American Writer’s Museum
-Museum of Contemporary Art

There are many other venues of interest – the art & history museums, zoo, aquarium, walks along the waterfront, and of course our primary reason for traveling, the fantastic workshops, tea times, networking events, and talks at the convention.

Enjoy TESOL 2018!
Download TESOL’s 2018 Convention Mobile App or use the Desktop Itinerary Planner. Search for sessions, connect with attendees, organize your schedule, and give session feedback in real-time!

Go to the mobile site for BlackBerry and Microsoft devices

Show your #TESOL18 pride!

Download one of the “I’m Attending” images to share on your social media accounts and let your friends and colleagues know you’ll be in Chicago!

DON’T FORGET TO USE #TESOL18 AND #MYTESOL18 TO ENGAGE

- Join the TESOL 2018 Convention & English Language Expo Facebook Event
- Keep up with the action by searching #TESOL18 on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram
- Use #TESOL18 and #myTESOL18 when posting photos, videos, and convention memories
- Follow us!
What exactly is “advocacy”? Can I be an advocate?

Adrienne Johnson, Socio-Political Concerns and Professional Standards Chair

So often, advocacy work is represented by angry people shouting, marching, and otherwise engaging in confrontation. Throughout history vocal, angry, and persistent calls for change have been needed to garner attention for important issues, but I fear that they might discourage the quieter voices amongst us from also speaking up to support the issues which fuel our passion as educators.

I often ask new teachers why they have chosen to become teachers. The adjectives with which they most often respond include words of hope and positivity, such as “help,” “support,” “give,” “care,” “joy,” and “love.” These bright-eyed new teachers enter this most admirable of professions to serve and support others. In a world that can sometimes seem harsh, unfair, and frustrating, these messages are refreshing and powerful. They also inspire me to use every resource I have at my disposal to help and support them, to give back to the profession, to care for their needs, to share their joy, and to honor their love of their students. I believe that we can harness these dreams and emotions to also inspire others to act, including our elected officials.

Thus, I invite you all, as my fellow English language educators and colleagues, to consider the many ways, big and small, in which we can advocate for our most vulnerable student populations. If you have the strength, passion, and courage to attend rallies and marches, I admire and support you. If your personality is not a good fit for these actions, though, do not limit yourself to accepting unjust, inhumane, or harmful practices in our schools and communities – there are still many small, but effective steps you can take to support teachers, students, and English learners every day.

Here are just a few “Pillars of Advocacy” I have been working to integrate into my own life:

1. **Stay informed** – follow news and policy updates from reputable sources
2. **Do your research** – be ready to support statements with examples and/or statistics
3. **Connect with others** – your voice is stronger when it is part of a larger group
4. **Share your students’ stories** – help others to know them as you do
5. **Contact your elected officials** – via email, phone, mail, or in person
6. **Get involved** – join committees, attend board meetings, seek leadership opportunities
7. **Teach others** – help colleagues and neighbors grow their understanding about ELs
8. **Empower ELs and their families** – give them the skills and knowledge to self-advocate
9. **Be positive and compassionate** – aim to create partnerships and mutual understanding
10. **Be open to discussion** – respectful disagreements are a starting point, not an ending point

How do you advocate for your profession, your colleagues, and your students? I urge you to set a goal to practice at least one of these regularly because, after all, we are stronger together.

“I am no longer accepting the things I cannot change. I am changing the things I cannot accept.” - Angela Davis

To stay informed, check out the [MIDTESOL Advocacy & Leadership page](http://www.midtesol.org/advocacy), follow MIDTESOL and/or Adrienne Johnson on Twitter, and follow MIDTESOL on Facebook.
Missouri ELL students have been busy taking the ACCESS 2.0 annual assessment. The test window began January 8th and closes on March 2nd. Officials from around the state have been conducting random Quality Assurance visits to ensure the fidelity of the test administration.

On March 26th WIDA will be hosting an Intro to Standards Workshop from their licensed content which is through a division of WIDA called WCEPS (Wisconsin Center for Educational Products and Services). On March 27-28th they will be hosting Purposeful Lesson Planning. These will take place at Education Plus at the Woodson Office in St. Louis in the Green Room. The first link below describes the foundational workshops and the second link is where you register for St. Louis. Please register through the WCEPS site!!

https://www.wceps.org/widapl#/workshops

https://www.wceps.org/widapl#/events

St. Louis is hosting a regional MIDTESOL spring social on April 24 from 3:30-7:30. There will be networking, sharing of experiences from the Chicago TESOL, and classroom management tips from a Time to Teach consultant. This will be held at Education Plus in St. Louis at the Woodson Office. McGraw Hill will be bringing the latest ELL products. Contact Missouri rep Marlow Barton at bartonmarlow@gmail.com for more details.

The Seal of Biliteracy has arrived and trainings were delivered regionally around the state beginning in early January. DESE’s website has instructions for districts.

ELD Collaborative happens March 8 at the Hawthorne Bank Community Room in Jefferson City. This event will focus on program evaluation, the “Castañeda test,” and how to welcome and support immigrants in our schools. Drs. Emily Crawford, Stephanie Potochnick, and other colleagues from Columbia, Missouri will discuss creating ethical communities in difficult political times.

Cambio de Colores (Change of Colors) is a multistate conference about integration of immigrants in new destinations. In Kansas City, June 6-8, people from various fields who work with Latinos and immigrant communities will share research and best practices that facilitate integration.

In 2017, MODLAN co-founders, Kim Song (PI, University of Missouri-St. Louis) and Lisa Dorner (Co-PI, University of Missouri-Columbia), along with Sujin Kim (Co-PI) started a state-wide project called Strengthening Equity and Excellence for Teachers of English Learners (SEE-TEL.org). They are working with the school districts of Columbia, Kansas City, Carthage and Bayless.

Webster University is working with three districts in the St. Louis area: St. Louis Public Schools, Parkway, and Ritenour. Co-project directors DJ Kaiser and Yin Lam Lee-Johnson call their project: Increasing Teacher Capacity through Communities of Practice to Serve English Learners.
Hi! I’m Sue Almén-Whittaker. I am one of the new co-chairs of the MIDTESOL Educational Technology interest section. I have been teaching ESL at The University of Iowa since 1999, with a 6-year break to work in instructional technology in the central IT department at the same university. I returned to teaching almost two years ago, and I am happy to be back. Technology has changed quite a bit since I left ESL in 2010, and it is exciting to get to use the new tools that have come out to help support and foster learning for our students.

I teach a lot of oral and listening skill classes, so video and audio are important to me. I’ve been using Audacity for audio creation and editing for years. Audacity is a freeware program for Windows, Mac and Linux (https://sourceforge.net/projects/audacity/), which is regularly updated. It allows you to add, remove, and mix tracks; insert silence, and normalize (adjust) recording levels. By default, you can output .wav files, but with an additional free plugin linked to from the SourceForge site you can export out MP3s, which is what I do. Audacity has a lot more tools that I rarely or never use, but for quick audio creation and editing it is highly recommended. You can search YouTube for numerous videos on how to use it for specific purposes.

Hello! My name is Jeanne Beck, the other co-chair for the EdTech Interest Section. I currently teach ESL and technology courses at California Middle School in California, Missouri, which is about 20 minutes west of Jefferson City. My school went 1:1 with Chromebooks this year and got a 3D printer, so we’ve been doing some exciting things with them in class! This is my third year teaching in Missouri, but I also have experience teaching English overseas. After college, I taught in Japan for three years on the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Program in Nagano Prefecture and also taught English undergraduate, graduate, and teacher training courses at Hankuk University of Foreign Studies in Seoul, South Korea.

This past month has been all about preparing my students for the WIDA ACCESS test. This is my first year in my current position, so when I saw my students’ WIDA scores from previous years I was surprised that they ranked really low in speaking, especially because most can talk your ear off! To help them practice recording their voices I’ve posted several questions a week in Flipgrid, a video recording website for classroom discussion. Flipgrid has a bunch of cool features. As a teacher you set the question, set parameters like maximum length of time, and students can use their Chromebooks or other electronic device to record their responses. Each time I made the questions a little more challenging, requiring longer responses, more details, and finally gave students only one shot to record their response - no pauses or redos! Overall I’m confident their scores this year will more accurately report their speaking abilities.

Find out more about MIDTESOL’s Interest Sections at: http://midtesol.org/midtesol-interest-sections/
Are you interested in getting involved with an IS?

Here’s what to do:

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

2. Choose Interest Sections to get involved with:

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

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

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

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

Our Mission

The mission of Mid-America Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages is to foster excellence in English language learning in Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska to people whose native language is a language other than English while respecting their individual language rights. (stayed the same) As a regional affiliate of TESOL and a professional organization, MIDTESOL:

- Supports those involved with English language teaching, teacher education, administration and management, curriculum and materials design, and research
- Provides leadership and direction through the Dissemination and exchange of information and resources
- Encourages access to the standards for English language instruction, professional preparation, and employment

Contact Us

Reach us with any questions about MIDTESOL
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