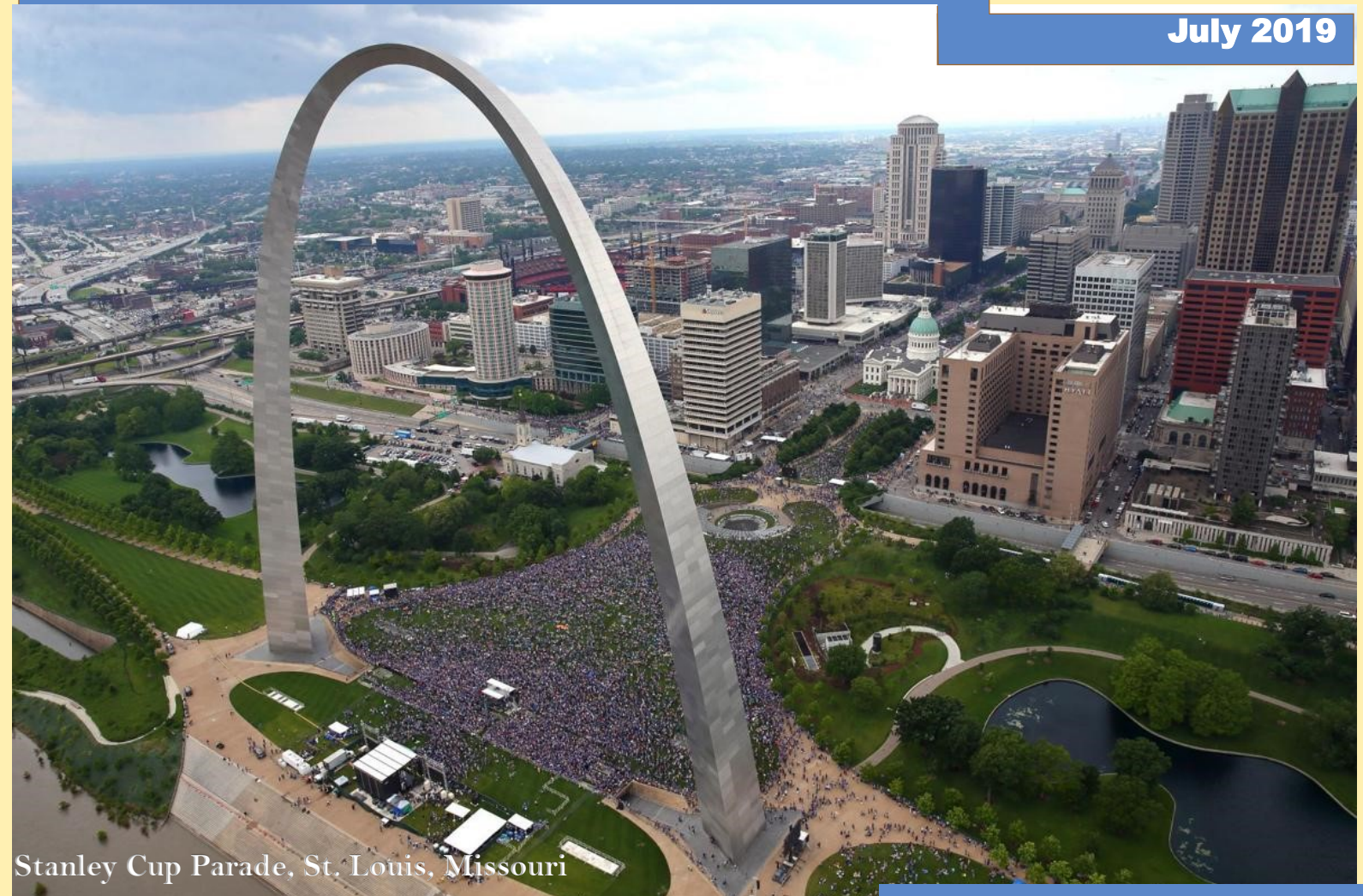


MIDTESOL MATTERS



The Mid-America TESOL Affiliate Newsletter

July 2019



Stanley Cup Parade, St. Louis, Missouri

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WELCOME from the PRESIDENT:

In this turbulent time in our field for our country and region, the recent on-site board meeting in Omaha reminded me of the important role we play—whether we are up or in the down times. Whether we are facing shrinking enrollments that threaten programs, teacher shortages which stretch us thin, shifting student populations that challenge us to retool, or new responsibilities or roles as we recreate ourselves to fit a need, MIDTESOL is here for resources, ideas, job postings, training, and all manner of professional support! We are fortunate to have such talented, committed teacher leaders on the board seeking to meet the ever-changing needs and challenges members face in our region and beyond.

We are fortunate to have a depth and breadth of experience that reaches far beyond our region to all corners of the world. Each of you have seen value in joining your regional TESOL affiliate, and we thank you. For some of you, member is exactly the role you are meant to fill at this moment; for others of you, it may be time to consider taking on a different role. You do not have to have any specific previous experience—we train and support you in whatever role you take on! I cannot properly express the satisfaction and enjoyment I took from meeting in person and virtually with many of our board members last month. There is something rejuvenating about sharing a space and common goals with other like-minded professionals sharing knowledge and passion surrounding conference planning, advocacy and best practices for giving our members, students, and our field the most value and benefits as an organization we possibly can.

It is time for you to commit to be present, physically if possible—certainly present professionally, bringing what you have to the MIDTESOL table to support your colleagues. We get what we give. Be present at the upcoming conference, Bridges to Success, in Omaha, NE. Be present and step up to the call for open board and committee positions. Be present when new webinars stream online. Be present when calls for next years' Journal are publicized. Be present when legislation that affects our field is being considered, and make your voice heard in your state house. Continue to be present as you are every day and advocate for our students and communities of practice.

It is an honor to be a part of an organization that cares so passionately about the work we do and the people we work with everyday. If you are working in a context where you may be the only ESL professional and are not getting the colleague connections and support you need, reach out to me. I will personally welcome and connect with you now and hopefully at our upcoming conference to help you connect with your MIDTESOL. If you are considering the possibility of taking on a leadership role but aren't sure you are ready or know enough to decide, reach out to me and I will address any questions or concerns you may have. **YOU** are MIDTESOL. We need you; we need each other, more than ever.

See you in Omaha!
Amy Alice Chastain
President, MIDTESOL

-Amy Alice Chastain,
MIDTESOL President

ESL Programs
University of Iowa
amy-chastain@uiowa.edu



TESOL Advocacy Report



Andy with Iowa Congressman Dave
Loeb sack

Hi! My name is Andy Lewis and I got to go represent English-language teachers and students at the 2019 TESOL Advocacy and Policy Summit in Washington, D.C. I wanted to attend because I have grown more and more interested in education policy and advocacy over the last couple of years, but my advocacy experience has mainly been limited to LGBTQ+ students at MIDTESOL and TESOL conferences and fellow faculty at the University of Iowa. The 2019 MIDTESOL Advocacy Award gave me a chance to experience a new kind of advocacy and have my voice (and, by extension, our voices) heard at the national level.

I got to attend with Adrienne Johnson, a teacher-educator from Missouri and Socio-Political Concerns and Professional Standards Chair on the MIDTESOL board, and Elizabeth Ault, a fellow MIDTESOL member and K-12 ESL teacher in Kansas, and both of them held my hand throughout this process while I (slightly?) freaked out the entire time.

Last year, Elizabeth wrote about her experience for MIDTESOL Matters and did a great job! Now, I shall borrow (steal?) her format and present to you four things that I learned from my trip to the capital.

1.) Talk to those in power!

In addition to her format, I am also going to have the audacity to steal Elizabeth's first point, but it bears repeating: those in power (both locally and nationally) are bombarded with information all day long. Without you meeting with them, they will not know about what we're doing and the issues we face. More importantly, they will not know about the ways in which they can help us. One of the best ways for them to know about us and our students is to build relationships with them and discuss our issues. So e-mail, call, teleport to Washington, D.C. if you must and open dialogue with people in power about issues you care about.

2.) Knowing everything is no-one's job.

Again, there is so much going on in politics and just in people's lives that so many things fall through the cracks. We tend to think that our representatives know about all the things that affect their constituents and all the legislation passing through Congress. Turns out they don't. While in D.C., Elizabeth, Adrienne, and I talked to Midwestern representatives about the Reaching English Learners Act which, in order to address growing numbers of ELLs throughout the region, would allocate grant money for the training of English-language teachers before they encounter ELLs in their careers. An important piece of legislation, to be sure, but most of the people that I met with hadn't even heard of it. This, it seemed, wasn't weird at all. So our job is to do what we do best: educate our representatives about what is going on both at home and where they work.

That being said, while educating yourself is a great idea, you don't have to know everything in order to advocate for an issue. I teach in higher ed, but what we talked about at the summit and with our representatives was about K-12 teachers and their students. It was fascinating to learn more about a part of the field that I haven't had any experience in, but it made for a grueling couple of days, not to mention the nervousness I went into my meetings with. Adrienne and Elizabeth had to remind me on several occasions that not having an answer will not be the reason that any politician refuses to help. As with students, following up with questions and not going into this expecting yourself to be an expert is a great way to alleviate some of the pressure and make getting into advocacy a bit easier.

3.) Local and National

Three things are true. (1) People often separate the idea of "national issues" from that of "local issues." (2) While there are certain issues that affect the Midwest more than other places, the state of English-language education is a national concern. (3) Politicians are VERY concerned with getting re-elected, which makes them OVERLY concerned with local issues. This opposition of national issue vs. local focus forces advocates to see that many of these issues are both local and national, even though we tend to keep these politics separate in our minds and discussions.

TESOL Advocacy Report (cont.)

Knowing about an issue more globally is great, but getting our representatives in Congress to enact the change that will help the nation requires us to know about our local community and how we're being affected by larger trends. Recognizing the national in the local is extremely helpful when thinking about advocacy. It gives us facts and (more importantly, depending on who you talk to) it gives us stories. Both of these things can show how politicians' constituents are directly affected by broader concerns, which, in turn, can influence how they legislate. The sooner we talk about national issues as local concerns, the sooner we can be more effective in our activism and advocacy.

4.) Everyone is very nice!

Every one of the politicians you meet with will be polite to your face. I know that that sounds disingenuous, but let it be the thing that helps you get through any nervousness so that you can talk about what you came to talk about. I do not agree (often vehemently) with many of Iowa's representatives and, because I, like many a Midwesterner, am conflict-averse, I often felt very nervous going into meetings with people who haven't had the best of track records with regard to English learners. However, once Adrienne reminded me that politicians often get into power by being nice to the people who elect them, I let that soothe me into realizing that most meetings (though, certainly not all) would be lacking in conflict. Remember: You don't live there! In fact, you're leaving! I kept telling myself that, no matter how the meetings went, I would be on a plane back to the Midwest by the end of the day. Worrying about what I was there to worry about, rather than about how I would be received, helped me remember my purpose and improved experience when talking with officials and staffers.

To conclude, I would like to leave you with a paraphrased inspirational quote. On her podcast "Professor Blastoff," Tig Notaro said: "Nothing matters... but, like, in a positive way." She explained that if you let yourself believe, even for a second, that nothing matters, then there's no reason *not* to do something. If you think advocating for our students and each other is important, go do it. Nothing matters anyway, so why not get out there and speak about things you feel are important? 'Cause no-one else will do it for you... well, I mean, I guess except for those of us who attend the TESOL Advocacy and Policy Summit next year, but I think you get my point. Advocating for changes for the betterment of our students and ourselves at the summit was a rewarding experience and something I will try to continue to do into the future.



L to R: Elizabeth Ault, Andy Lewis, & Adrienne Johnson

Strategizing over a meal before going to Capitol Hill



#MIDTESOL19 Preview

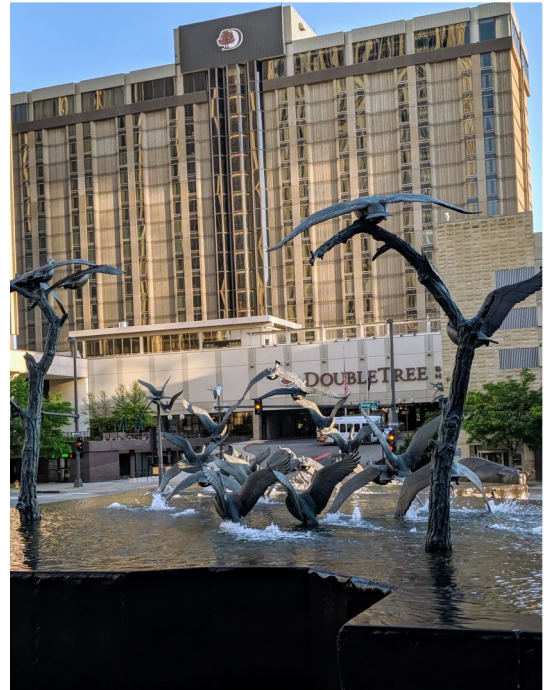
When: Friday & Saturday, Sept. 27 & 28, 2019

Where: DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel
1616 Dodge Street, Omaha, Nebraska 68102

What: Attend sessions, share insights, meet colleagues, network, and support one another in the profession

Early Bird Registration Deadline:
Saturday, Sept. 7, 2019

Visit <https://midtesol.org/past-conferences/midtesol-conference-2019/> and click “REGISTER” for more details about the conference and to sign up.



DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel viewed from Flying Geese sculpture park



Joslyn Art Museum Entrance
by [akasped](#) licensed under CC-by-2.0

El Museo Latino



Animals at Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium



Local Attractions

- ◆ Joslyn Art Museum
- ◆ El Museo Latino
- ◆ Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium
- ◆ Old Market Neighborhood
- ◆ Durham Western Heritage Museum
- ◆ Orpheum Theater
- ◆ Holland Performing Arts Center
- ◆ Bob Kerrey Pedestrian Bridge

School Visits at #MIDTESOL19

by Susan Mayberger, 2019 MIDTESOL Conference Chair

susan.mayberger@gmail.com

The #MIDTESOL19 Conference: **Bridges to Success** will be held in Omaha, Nebraska on September 27 – 28. There will be school visits on Thursday, September 26th which is a feature that provides another way to develop as an EL professional. I know that we learn a great deal about how others are implementing best practices when we can see our colleagues doing that in their classrooms with their ELs. This year the school visits are being organized by Katy Cattlett and Gulnora Isaeva from the Omaha Public Schools.

Here are your four options for September 26th:

Option 1: Omaha Central High School and the Teen Literacy Center located at the Career Center – High School English Learner Programs

Omaha Central High School serves over 200 current English Learners. The EL programming offers specialized courses based on student language proficiency levels. The Teen Literacy Center is a unique program designed to support the academic and social-emotional needs of students with limited or interrupted formal education who are ages of 14 to 21.

Option 2: Omaha South High School and Marris Middle School – Secondary Dual Language and EL Program

Omaha South High Magnet School and R.M. Marris Magnet Middle School offer secondary dual language programs. Each school serves more than 600 dual language students. This includes more recently arrived Spanish speaking English learners. Omaha South High Magnet was named International Spanish Academy of the Year in 2017 by the Ministry of Education of Spain. This high school program is also featured in Thomas and Collier's latest book on Secondary Dual Language.

Option 3: Gomez Heritage Elementary and Norris Middle School - Elementary/Middle Dual Language and EL Program

Gomez-Heritage Elementary and Norris Middle School offer elementary and middle school dual language programs. The Omaha Public Schools dual language program is a 50/50 program that was established in 2000. It has grown to serve more than 3400 students in 10 schools. Newly arrived Spanish speaking students participate in the program at all levels. Dual language students have the option to continue the program through the 12th grade.

Option 4: Walnut Hill Elementary and Yates Educational Community Partnership – Refugee and Parental Involvement Program, including Pre-K and Family Literacy Focus

Visitors to Walnut Hill Elementary will have the opportunity to visit a K-6 elementary school serving a large population of refugee students. The Yates Educational Community Partnership provides parental involvement and early childhood programming.

School visits will begin with a brief overview of the selected tour at the Doubletree hotel at 8:00 a.m. Participants will return to the hotel by 12:30 p.m. and have the afternoon to meet with colleagues or visit some of the local attractions. School visits are only \$39.00, and there are limited spaces.

Local attractions include Joslyn Art Museum, the world-class Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium, El Museo Latino, the Durham Western Heritage Museum, the Orpheum Theater, and the Holland Performing Arts Center. The beauty of Omaha is that from conference hotel you can walk to many fine restaurants and cultural sites during your stay. The hotel also provides a free shuttle service to many area locations.

You can register for the conference and the school visits at <https://midtesol.org/past-conferences/midtesol-conference-2019/>. We are all looking forward to seeing you at #MIDTESOL19 in Omaha, Nebraska.

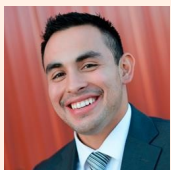
Dr. Janet Zadina to Provide Keynote at #MIDTESOL19

by Susan Mayberger, 2019 MIDTESOL Conference Chair
susan.mayberger@gmail.com



The 2019 MIDTESOL Conference will be held in Omaha, Nebraska on September 27 – 28. There will be school visits on Thursday, September 26th. The theme for this year's conference is "**Bridges to Success.**"

The keynote speaker for the luncheon on Friday, September 27 will be Dr. Janet Zadina. Dr. Zadina has a PhD in Education and a Postdoctoral Fellowship in Cognitive Neuroscience. She has presented internationally, at TESOL and NABE and is the author of several books. Her presentations are always engaging and include research that supports best practices. She will also be a featured speaker on Saturday morning covering the impact of trauma on learning.



Juan Cangas will be the luncheon speaker on Saturday, September 28. He is a nationally known youth motivational speaker. Juan is an authority in youth leadership development with years of experience inspiring immigrant and refugee students. He co-founded the THRIVE Leadership Club in the Omaha Public Schools.

Additional featured presenters include Yvonne and David Freeman, Ruby Takanishi and Jane Hill. The Freemans are the authors of numerous books including *Dual Language Essentials for Teachers and Administrators*, *ESL Teaching: Principles for Success and Grammar and Syntax in Context*, *Essential Linguistics: What Teachers Need to Know to Teach ESL, Reading, Spelling, and Grammar*, *Between Worlds: Access to Second Language Acquisition 3rd edition (2011)*, *Academic Language for English Language Learners and Struggling Readers (2009)*. Ruby Takanishi is the Chair of the National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine's report "*Promoting the Educational Success of Children and Youth Learning English.*" She is part of the Education Policy Division of New America. Jane Hill is with Mid-Continent Research for Education and Learning in Denver, Colorado, and has done extensive writing and training on best instructional strategies for English Learners.

The Omaha area has had an influx of immigrant and refugee students and there are several schools close to the convention site where registered participants can visit EL programming at elementary, middle and secondary schools, Dual Language (English/Spanish) programming at all levels and a community-based program teaching English to adults and Family Literacy classes to parents with young children (see details on preceding page).

Congratulations to MIDTESOL's 2019 Student Essay Contest Winners!

Adult Program Essays:

1st Place \$100: Lenny Escarlet Montano Claire, University of Missouri—Center for English Language Learning (read Lenny's essay on the following pages)

2nd Place \$50: Pamela Montano Claire, University of Missouri—Center for English Language Learning

3rd Place \$25: Yeon Jae Lee, University of Missouri—Center for English Language Learning

Sponsoring Teacher: Mary Browning



L to R: Lenny Escarlet Montano Claire, Pamela Monaton Claire, & Yeon Jae Lee

K-12 Winners



L to R: Lumiere Bisimwa & Denis Mwandjalulu

1st Place \$100: Lumiere Bisimwa, Liberty High School, North Liberty, IA (read Lumiere's essay on the following pages)

Sponsoring Teacher: Daniel Lekin

2nd Place \$50: Wendy Corzo, Topeka West High School, Topeka, KS

Sponsoring Teacher: Elissa Jones

3rd Place \$25: Denis Mwandjalulu, Liberty High School, North Liberty, IA

Sponsoring Teacher: Daniel Lekin



Wendy Corzo

MIDTESOL 2019 Best Adult Program Essay

Lenny Escarlet Montano Claire

University of Missouri—Center for English Language Learning

Adult Program Essay

Sponsoring Teacher: Mary Browning

What is a Challenge That I Overcame in the Path to Finding Success?

How Did This Challenge Make Me a More Successful Person?

Being an excellent social communicator is one of my biggest dreams that I have. However, I know that achieving this goal requires a lot of dedication, patience and much love on what I want to do. This decision I had to make to be a social communicator was not easy in my life because I used to do everything my parents wanted for me, but finally I decided to follow my dreams.

I remember when I was in kindergarten and elementary school I suffered a bit of bullying. This stage is supposed to be the most beautiful in people's lives because children do not think about problems or stress, but for me it was not like that. My twin sister and I were born with a disease called speech retardation, which makes it almost impossible for children to talk and socialize, but this disease is cured if parents detect it early. My mother realized that we had this disease when my brother who was one year old was saying his first words, but we who were two years old still could not speak. At two and a half years old, my mother started taking us to the Phono audiologist so we could start communicating with our surroundings little by little.

In that period of our childhood my mother always made us repeat a word many times when we were in her car or at home. For example, we could not say words that have "y" and double "l" because we couldn't recognize the sound when people tried to talk to us. It was hard for us because we almost did not play with other children, for nobody understood what we wanted to say, but I knew I had my twin sister to support each other. In the kindergarten and elementary school, we still

could not communicate well with people, but my mom always helped us with our speech. For instance, she used to teach us a lot of vocabulary and reading with some games, and also she built a small “study house” of wood for us, where we would have a lot of didactic games and a big green board to learn faster some difficult words. This “game house” how we used to call, is one of our unique memories that we still have in my house. Our speech got better in middle school and high school, but we were always afraid of being very sociable because we preferred that people would not criticize us for how we expressed ourselves. Although we never suffered from a physical bullying or verbal aggression, we always preferred to not catch the attention of people to not make them laugh of us. I think this feeling of fear that we had towards people helped us to have more confidence in ourselves, makes us stronger and be closer to each other.

After graduating from high school, my parents always advised us the best for our future, but this time it was a decision that only we personally had to make. I told my parents that I wanted to study social communication, but they told me this career was not the correct for my future. Inside of me, I was completely sure that I would be able to overcome any obstacle, as I did when I was a child with my speaking. In spring I enrolled in the communication career at NUR University in Bolivia with a full scholarship. In my last two years I worked as a presenter and journalist of the channel of my university. This job changed me totally because it helped me to be more fun and more sociable person, express my ideas without fear and participate in social events, where I met people who helped me get more involved with my career. Moreover, in the fall of the last year I graduated with honors. From that moment on, I knew that I was capable of anything in my life because I broke that fear that was my weakness all those years to become a self-confident person. Also, I strongly believed that thanks to that illness I knew how to recognize what I really wanted for my future.

MIDTESOL 2019 Best K-12 Program Essay

Lumiere Bisimwa

Liberty High School, North Liberty, IA

Grade 11

Sponsoring Teacher: Daniel Lekin

Live and Learn

Have you thought of some challenges that you overcome in the path to finding success? The people who are the most successful often have had many challenges in their lives. I am an immigrant American who escaped war and this challenge made me a successful person. How did this challenge make me a more successful person? I am a first generation immigrant from Uganda. My family is originally from Congo but they escaped due to a war and took refuge in Uganda. All my life I have held the identity of a refugee and someone who doesn't know where to call home. I grew up in Uganda Refugee camp and lived there for 10 years, in 2016 my family was resettled by UNHCR with hopes of starting a new life in America. As an immigrant, I had to fight through the challenges of getting accustomed to a new place, its traditions and even the language. With time, I was able to slowly learn while also fighting to keep my identity, I was a refugee for over half of my life, that identity has shaped my mind and the person I am to day. The biggest situation that affected and still is affected Uganda was health care, the quality and access was poor which resulted to people dying from preventable causes. Consequently, this is what makes me think of choosing Public Health. I strongly believe that the focus on prevention of diseases is necessary to ensure a healthy society.

Second, successful people often have so many challenges in their lives. I always know that successful people know that caring about what other people think is a waste of time and energy. When successful people feel good about something that they've done, they don't let anyone's opinions

take that away from them. For example, when I first came to America language was one of the most challenging thing I experienced. I never let anyone push me back I could speak what I know and wait for correction, I wouldn't care about what other thought about my accent or bad English till when I came to realize how to pronounce words. One thing that led me to success was the fact that people would laugh at me, that gave the strength to learn English by force and fast. Furthermore, fear is also one of the challenge successful people experience but fear is nothing more than a lingering emotion that's fueled by our imagination. Fear is a choice. Successful people know this better than anyone does, so they flip fear on its head. They are addicted to the euphoric feeling they get from conquering their fears. I remember my first year in America how scared I was I thought that was the end of my life because I wasn't able to do anything by myself even talking to others I couldn't because of fear. Don't ever hold back in life just because you feel scared.

Finally, in the future, I see myself working with an organization that helps people in the third world countries. I remember feeling inspired when UN volunteers would come from the US and had inspirational speeches about how assistance is needed and the awareness of third world countries' behavioral health. I felt moved and pushed from those experiences, but I never truly knew what that meant because I was just a little refugee kid with no hope of ever getting out of the camp. Now that I am in a situation that I never imagined , I feel responsible for all the hopeless children like me. Public Health, in conclusion, is a way for me to help a community of people and hope for a positive outcome. I want to use my degree to give back to the people in need what the organizations gave to me. Sure there's more than just one way to do it, but in my heart , I feel like this is the only way for me to do it and by getting started right away with my goals will get me endless experiences and opportunity.

Nebraska



State Update: Nebraska

by Kaylene Powell

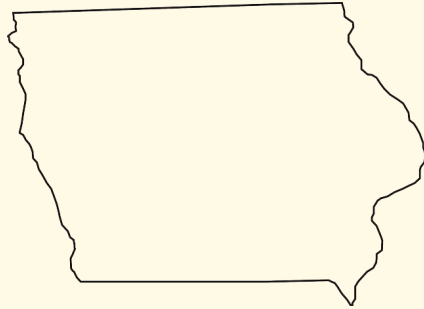
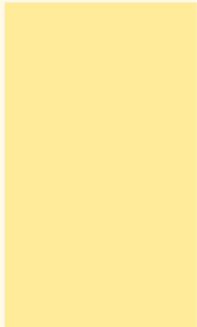
Greetings from a state with bipolar weather patterns. While our state tourist slogan is “Nebraska: honestly, it’s not for everyone,” we DO look forward to hosting you at MIDTESOL’s upcoming annual conference in Omaha at the end of September. *Life* in Nebraska may not be for everyone, but a brief visit with all EL colleagues should be informative, uplifting, and professionally advantageous. To all MIDTESOL members: please keep spreading the word to colleagues, administrators, and community members—because we’d love to see more people from each of our region’s states this fall! If you are a MIDTESOL member from Nebraska, please reach out to me at kaylene.powell@bellevue.edu with any concerns, questions, or ideas you’d like to share. Thanks to those who have been in contact; I have enjoyed our interactions.

Recent News from Nebraska...

Here’s a shout out to MIDTESOL member Janet Lowe. Her response to my inquiry about pertinent issues in ELL education started one ball rolling. And the end result was a well-presented and well-received webinar by the wonderful Dr. Catherine Collier on topics of ELLs and learning disabilities/special ed testing. Even if you weren’t able to join us, a recording of that webinar is still available through _____. Thanks to Janet for raising the question and suggesting the topic, and many extended thanks to Dr. Collier for sharing her expertise with us. This also goes to show how reaching out to a MIDTESOL state rep or special interest group leader can reap positive results—not only for you but also for your colleagues.

I was able to field several questions from members in my state this spring regarding the submission of proposals for upcoming conference presentations. The questions were good ones, also helping the board to be mindful of keeping the submission process as clear and uncomplicated as possible. I was excited to see other members of my state putting forth some good suggestions for presentation input. All in all, we are projecting a strong number of NE attendees at the conference (a big deal given our historically lower numbers). It will be great to see previous and current members returning, and we are ready to welcome the many new folks who join us.

MIDTESOL member, and former NE Member-at-Large, Dr. Jill Fox has taken an active role in promoting Higher-Ed program networking in Eastern Nebraska (and a bit into Western Iowa) from late fall on through this spring. We have been able to compare progress, challenges, and solutions in higher-ed across our state. Though only four colleagues could attend each of our informative meetings over the past several months, the growing amount of interest shown in such cooperation and idea sharing between program administrators from several institutions in our area is encouraging. I appreciate the good intentions of these men and women, and I hope such open communication can continue to occur in the months ahead.



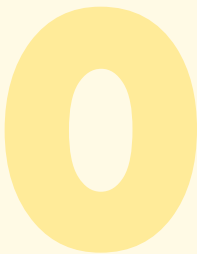
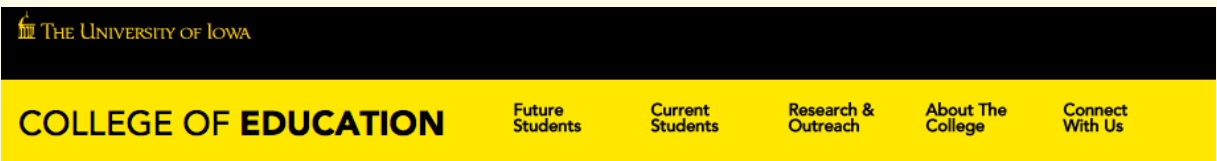
State Update: Iowa

by Edwin Ubeda

Here is some information about an upcoming LatinX conference that will take place at the University of Iowa this coming fall.

Save the date for the 3rd Latinx Excellence Conference at the University of Iowa on Saturday, October 12, 2019. We also will be having a community mixer the evening before on October 11, 2019 at Hotel Vetro. More details coming soon!

Visit the [conference website](#) for the latest information.

THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Future Students | Current Students | Research & Outreach | About The College | Connect With Us

Latinx Excellence in the Midwest Conference - 2019

[Home](#) » [News & Events](#) » [Upcoming Events](#)

Saturday, October 12, 2019.

Save the date.

Call of proposals

Call for proposals due: July 19, 2019 - 11:59 p.m.

[Proposal details](#)

[Submit your proposal online](#)

Event details (under construction)

Schedule

8:00 - 8:45 a.m.	Registration Continental breakfast
8:45 - 9:15 a.m.	Welcome remarks Overview of schedule
9:15 - 9:45 a.m.	Opening speaker - Juan Garcia Dismiss for sessions
10:00 - 11:30 a.m.	Session One - panels Break for lunch





**Call for
Submissions to
MIDTESOL Journal**

Your Invitation to Submit to the *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 shelley.fairbairn@drake.edu with the subject line: **MIDTESOL Journal_LastName_Three First Words of Title.**
- 2) In the text of your email, include your contact information, a short bio, and institutional affiliation.
- 3) There must be an abstract of no more than 150 words in your manuscript.
- 4) All submissions should be in English.
- 5) Submissions should be in correct American Psychological Association (APA), 6th Edition format.
- 6) Make sure all words are font 12, Times New Roman (including header).
- 7) The article title should be font 16, bold. If it runs over onto a second line, single space the title.
- 8) Authors' names must not be included anywhere in the manuscript.

Editor's Social Media Highlights

Top Tweets:



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

 **MIDTESOL** @MIDTESOL · Apr 26
We're live via @zoom_us webinar with #AskDrCollier askdrcollier.com #ELLChat docs.google.com/document/d/1ig...



Separating Difference & Disability

Dr. Catherine Collier
Crosscultural Developmental Education Services
www.crosscultured.com


 **MIDTESOL** @MIDTESOL · Apr 25
What #strengths would you add to the list for #AdultLiteracy learners? @cmccr



COMMON STRENGTHS OF ESL LITERACY LEARNERS

Shift your thinking → *different* approach to learning

- Well-developed memory skills (no note-taking)
- Acquisition vs. learning
- May have well-developed oral skills
- Professional expertise and practical skills

 **MIDTESOL**
@MIDTESOL

Wanted: #MIDTESOL member profiles! Tell us about your EL experience. Reply or DM us if you're in & we'll send you some info.

12:27 PM · Jul 10, 2019 · TweetDeck

Top Facebook & Instagram Posts

MIDTESOL
Published by Terry Miller Barakat [?] · May 31 · 🌐

MIDTESOL member Cali Pettijohn's advanced listening class experienced local culture in a hands-on way.
<https://blogs.missouristate.edu/internatio.../.../eli-listening/>



BLOGS.MISSOURISTATE.EDU
Listening Class Ends Session at Urban Roots - International Bears

Facebook



midtesol
DoubleTree by Hilton Omaha Downtown

midtesol MIDTESOL board members are in Omaha, continuing to prepare for the upcoming conference in September! #MIDTESOL2019

7w

tcampcot Missing Dr. Laubengayer 🙏

7w 1 like Reply

roberta_morgan_ Such a great group! I know you're planning a great conference! 🙌

7w 1 like Reply

Liked by carolynheacock and 17 others

JUNE 8



midtesol

midtesol Happy teacher appreciation week, everyone! If you haven't already, you can add a twibbon to your social media (Facebook or Twitter accounts) or you can download the "I love English teaching" graphic from @tesol_assn to show your support of international education! #englishlanguageteaching

Liked by bindefrizz and 12 others

MAY 6

Add a comment... Post

Instagram



JOIN THE MIDTESOL BOARD!

APPLICATION DEADLINE EXTENDED TO AUGUST 7

MIDTESOL serves an important function for promoting the ESL students and professionals in our region.

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 ESL professionals?

MIDTESOL invites you to apply for one of our elected board positions that will be open in late October 2019. We are also seeking candidates for appointed positions. See the information below to get a more detailed description of what each position entails in terms of timeline and responsibilities.

If you would like to contribute your skills and expertise to any of these positions, please submit a statement of interest, your current C.V./resume, and a short autobiography by **Wednesday, August 7, 2019**, to Vicki Anderson at vicki.anderson@cune.edu. Interested parties must be or become MIDTESOL members.

Elected Board Positions

Vice President

Do you want to become a key leader in MIDTESOL? We are seeking the next MIDTESOL vice president, a position which will transition to the role of President, then Past President over a three year period. This progression ensures a successful transition for MIDTESOL and encourages continuity with organization goals and our relationship to TESOL International. This is an officer position and a voting member on the MIDTESOL board. [Click here for full details.](#)

Secretary

Do you want to become a key leader in MIDTESOL? The MIDTESOL Board is seeking candidates for the position of Secretary. This position is responsible for providing support to organization leadership by ensuring the smooth functioning of meetings by recording the minutes of all meetings of the organization and communicating those minutes to executive board members in a timely manner. This is a two-year officer position and a voting member on the MIDTESOL board. [Click here for full details.](#)

Member-at-Large for Missouri

Do you want to become a MIDTESOL leader representing the interests of Missouri? We are seeking the next MIDTESOL Member-at-Large: Missouri Representative, a position which is responsible for representing the geographic area of Missouri on the MIDTESOL Board. This is a two-year position and is a voting member on the MIDTESOL board. [Click here for full details.](#)

Member-at-Large for Kansas

Do you want to become a MIDTESOL leader representing the interests of Kansas? 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. This is a two-year position and is a voting member on the MIDTESOL board. [Click here for full details.](#)

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APPLICATION DEADLINE EXTENDED TO AUGUST 7

Appointed Board Positions

Future Program Chair

Do you want to become a key leader in developing future MIDTESOL conferences? The MIDTESOL Board is seeking candidates for the position of Future Program Chair. The Future Program Chair provides support to the current Conference Program Chair. After gaining valuable experience, the individual will serve as Program Chair. This progression ensures a successful transition in the complexity of organizing a multi-state professional organization conference. [Click here for full details.](#)

Future Conference Chair

Do you want to become a key leader in developing future MIDTESOL conferences? The MIDTESOL Board is seeking candidates for the position of Future Conference Chair. The Future Conference Chair provides support to the current Conference Chair. After gaining this valuable experience, the individual will serve as Conference Chair in the second year. This progression ensures a successful transition in the complexity of organizing a multi-state professional organization conference. Upon transitioning to Conference Chair, this person will become a voting member on the MIDTESOL board. [Click here for full details.](#)

Co-Editor, *MIDTESOL Matters*

Do you want to become a leader in communicating news and events to MIDTESOL members? We are seeking the next *MIDTESOL Matters* Co-Editor, a position which is responsible for collaboratively publishing MIDTESOL's electronic newsletter three times each year. This is a 3-year term commitment. [Click here for full details.](#)



2017 MIDTESOL Board

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/



Follow us on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/

Follow us on Twitter:

<https://twitter.com/>



Check out our latest Instagram posts:

<https://instagram.com/midtesol/>

Get involved or keep up-to-date with *MIDTESOL Weekly*

Features: <http://midtesol.org/category/weekly-feature/>

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](https://www.midtesol.org) site, or at <https://www.cvent.com/Events/ContactPortal/Login.aspx?cwstub=19255e93-37d9-4d38-ac7d-2ac8779a50d1>

The screenshot shows the MIDTESOL Membership Website profile page. At the top, there is a navigation bar with "Follow" and "Logout" options. The main content area features the MIDTESOL logo, which consists of a stylized globe with the text "MidAmerica Teachers of English" above it and "to Speakers of Other Languages" below it. Below the logo, the text "MIDTESOL" is prominently displayed. To the left, there is a sidebar menu with options: "Information", "My Profile", "My Events", "Member Directory", "Conference Proceedings", and "MIDTESOL Member Benefits". The "Information" section is currently selected. The main content area displays "MIDTESOL Membership Website" and includes buttons for "Edit", "Purchase Membership", and "Change Password". Below these buttons, there is a message: "Please take a moment to update any out of date information." At the bottom of the page, there is a section titled "Personal Information".

2. Choose Interest Sections to get involved with:

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

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

An orange arrow points from the text "Sign up to get information from our newest interest section, Program Administrators (PAIS)!" to the "Program Administrators Interest Section" checkbox.

3. Click "Update" and 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

Visit us on the web at www.midtesol.org