

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



NEW YEAR GREETINGS TO ALL,

The start to 2024 brings a fresh WAESOL board and opportunity to engage further with our membership and greater Washington state community. As a board in 2023 we facilitated a promising second in-person conference since pandemic virtual offerings, supported the overhaul of how you are viewing this very WAESOL Educator, and advocated on a federal level connecting with all federal legislative offices in the state. These are some of the efforts that will continue into this year as we navigate challenges we all face with the increased need for resources and the decrease of funding, not only in Washington state but nationally. I would like to thank our 2023 board members and our WAESOL Educator team for their contributions to making these and other goals come to fruition.

Looking ahead to 2024, as a WAESOL team we hope to reestablish more opportunities for professional development, maintain and grow our advocacy efforts, and fortify our relationships with membership. Beyond the annual conference, hosting one or two meaningful, online opportunities for professional development and clock hours is a priority. By meaningful, I mean that we aim to bring relevant topics our membership is enthusiastic about and can put into practice. Part of supporting

more professional development opportunities involves our advocacy efforts to maintain and increase federal support for teacher training and professional development opportunities. Interacting with all the Washington state federal legislative offices provides room to engage and maintain conversations about all things TESOL, support for you as educators, and for our students and EL communities. None of this happens without you, the WAESOL community, of course. Encouraging discourse and utilizing all our tools, like email, social media, and the WAESOL Educator, as consistent mediums of communication will be essential.

I look forward to working with this 2024 board and being part of the collaborative efforts to facilitate an impactful annual conference in the fall as well as increasing our advocacy efforts on the federal and state level. I thank the outgoing 2023 board members for their contributions and welcome the new 2024 board members as we look forward.

¡Sí se puede!

ROSEMARY COLÓN
2024 WAESOL BOARD PRESIDENT

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Washington Association for the Education of Speakers of Other Languages