

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



DEAR WAESOL COMMUNITY,

At the time of this writing, summer will be in full swing with some reflecting on the previous school year, some in the middle of summer instruction, or some gearing up for the next term. At WAESOL, we are ramping up the planning for our annual conference this fall which falls on the first weekend of November this year. This also begins the celebration of 50 years as a TESOL affiliate and coming together as educators of speakers of other languages in Washington. We are grateful to all who have contributed to WAESOL over the past 50 years.

While the conference is the main event and focus of the board's undertaking, we are also offering WAESOL Online professional development opportunities as well as following the latest policy activity as it relates to the education of multilingual learners on the federal level, all the while working on publishing this latest issue of the WAESOL Educator. We are grateful for the foundation laid by our previous WAESOL Educator editor, Bridget Green, which the board's Educator committee has utilized to prepare this latest issue.

In my first letter as president in the last Educator issue, I expressed the goals that the 2024 board hopes to achieve. In addition to our goals for the 2024 conference, we also hope to continue and expand our advocacy efforts on the federal and state levels. We will continue to follow the guidance of TESOL and share those updates with you. Appropriations for FY2025 have just passed, however, we remain in communication with our congressional representatives and senators as it is imperative in keeping education and specifically multilingual/ESOL education in the conversation when discussions of funding arise. More updates about current policy and advocacy efforts will be shared at the conference.

As we look forward to the conference on November 1-2, we are pleased to share that Voice of Witness education specialist and program coordinator, Jessica Fagen, will be our 2024 keynote. Voice of Witness is a non-profit that uses oral history as a medium to share and amplify the voices of many of the communities we work with as educators. This will be an opportunity to engage with the ways that we as educators may use storytelling and oral histories in the classroom across the contexts within which we teach. We can also view this as an opportunity to engage further with our communities.

As you continue your summer or begin to plan for fall, we hope your plan includes meeting us in Renton, WA for the WAESOL conference. It will be a time of reflection and celebration and community. It will also be a time to look forward to how YOU can be a part of shaping WAESOL for the future. See you in Renton!

¡SI SE PUEDE!

ROSEMARY COLÓN

2024 WAESOL BOARD PRESIDENT

Land Acknowledgment

Washington Association for the Education of Speakers of Other Languages (WAESOL) recognizes and honors our many diverse Indigenous and Native Peoples in the Pacific Northwest, in the United States, and globally—past, present, and future. We acknowledge that the arrival of the English language impacted the traditional languages and cultures of the Native, Indigenous, and First Nations Peoples and we celebrate the work to reclaim or maintain their languages and cultures. We stand in solidarity with the Native, Indigenous, and First Nations Peoples and respect their sovereignty, cultural heritage, and lives. May we all take a moment to honor the Indigenous tribes and Indigenous lands that we reside on and pay our deepest respects.

