



GREETINGS TO OUR WAESOL COMMUNITY,

At the time of this writing, summer transitions to fall and most of us in education are in full swing with the start of a new academic year. We at WAESOL are preparing for our annual conference, bringing together the MLL community from around the region as we have been doing for over 50 years.

While the conference is the main event and focus of the board's undertaking, we have also been actively planning and offering WAESOL Online professional development opportunities. This began as a robust professional development opportunity during the pandemic while we were all online, and we have been working to offer more frequent, impactful sessions throughout the year. Our WAESOL Online committee is very enthusiastic and committed to building up this arm of WAESOL. By offering online PD sessions, this serves as another way to create access to professional development and clock hours.

In addition to WAESOL Online, our publication, the *WAESOL Educator*—where you are finding this letter—has adapted to one issue this calendar year as the new editorial team and host for the publication make their debut. We encourage all of you to share your voices, experiences, and knowledge of pedagogy by submitting to the *Educator*. Or, lend an eye to become a reader. It undoubtedly requires a team effort to see this publication flourish, and we are grateful for your consideration.

Our 2026 board has mostly been focused on the annual conference, WAESOL Online, and the *Educator*. However, we continue to follow the seemingly always emerging policy activity as it relates to the education of multilingual learners (MLLs) on the federal level and how that affects our institutions—from K–12 and higher education to teacher training and community programs. We recognize that most, if not all, who are involved in education are concerned and likely overwhelmed by the severe cuts and changes that affect our students and communities. A goal of the 2026 WAESOL board is to share resources that communities across the region can utilize to help disseminate policy and highlight community agencies that work with MLLs.

These are a few efforts that will continue as we near winter and a new board in 2027. We continue to navigate the challenges we all face with the increased need for resources and decrease in funding that so many are facing, not only in Washington State but nationally. These are similar words I shared a few years ago for my first letter from the president during my first term, and they still ring true. A reminder that it all begins with community and finding your helpers, like Mr. Rogers taught so many children all those years ago.

I would like to thank you, our WAESOL community, in addition to our 2026 board members and our WAESOL Educator team for their contributions to making these and other goals come to fruition.

¡SÍ SE PUEDE!
ROSEMARY COLÓN
WAESOL BOARD PRESIDENT