2018 Advocacy Conference

Oxford
Conference Center

Oxford, Mississippi
AMTESOL was founded in 1982, and membership is open to everyone interested in and/or involved in the teaching and administration of programs in English as a second or foreign language. In Mississippi we have members from various intensive English programs and public school systems in places such as Gulfport, Jackson, Hattiesburg, Starkville, and Oxford. In Alabama our members include ESL professionals from all over the state such as Mobile, Montgomery, Tuscaloosa, Huntsville, Birmingham, Gadsden, and numerous places in-between.

AMTESOL strives to serve the needs of intensive program teachers, administrators, graduate students, and K-12 teachers in the field of ESL. Historically speaking, AMTESOL provided one of the few opportunities for ESL professionals in Alabama and Mississippi to receive local support, professional development, and opportunities to share ideas and experience. Today, AMTESOL strives to continue this service in combination with support programs that may already be in place. Over the years, members of AMTESOL have emphasized that one of the greatest benefits of membership is the connections made in the field of ESL, many of which have endured for years.

**AMTESOL’s Mission:**

- To collect and disseminate useful information about teaching English as a second language.
- To provide opportunities for interaction among ESL professionals.
- To identify and address TESOL problems of local, regional, and national concern.
- To stimulate professional development within the TESOL institutions of the area.
- To promote and actively support programs in local communities that will improve the teaching of English as a second language at all levels of education.
- To advocate for the recognition of the specialized nature of the TESOL profession on the local, state, and national levels.
Greetings!

On behalf of the AMTESOL Board of Directors, I would like to welcome you to the first AMTESOL Advocacy Conference in Oxford, Mississippi. Margaret Mead once said, “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has,” and those words seem appropriate for our conference this year. Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedules to join us in discussion about this urgent topic: Advocacy for English learners. This advocacy conference is just the beginning of AMTESOL’s concerted efforts to engage and support our members in their ongoing advocacy work with English learners, their families, and the communities in which we live and teach.

Advocacy is a hot-button term right now. What does it really mean? In a general sense, it means action on another’s behalf. Some might say that the very act of teaching English to immigrants, providing them with the tools they need to navigate in their new schools and communities is an act of advocacy. Yet, as any of us here know, the role of the ESOL/ESL teacher is so much more than that. Acts of advocacy both large and small infuse the work of the TESOL professional. From K12 schools to higher education, from IEPs to community English classes, we meet our students, engage and build relationships with them, and time and again step beyond the role of ‘teacher of English’ to enact some kind of change. And, throughout the process we are changed as well.

We hope this advocacy conference will engage all of us in the issues, offer space for us to explore our advocacy work, and open collaborative avenues across contexts to advocate for our students. I would like to thank all of the volunteers who have contributed to the details of the conference, creating an event featuring poster presentations of ongoing advocacy work, excellent speakers, and dynamic workshops.

Again, welcome to Oxford, MS. We look forward to meeting you and talking about the work you are doing in your communities.

Sincerely,

Jamie Harrison
AMTESOL President, 2018
2018 AMTESOL ADVOCACY CONFERENCE
OCTOBER 12–13, 2018
OXFORD CONFERENCE CENTER
OXFORD, MISSISSIPPI

Friday, October 12th
2:00 – 6:00 p.m. Onsite Conference Registration & Packet Pickup, Lobby
4:00 – 6:00 p.m. Poster Presentations, Terrace Hallway
6:30 – 7:30 p.m. Dinner, Magnolia Room

Attendance strongly encouraged – See below for door prizes!
7:30 – 8:30 p.m. Keynote Speaker Jeffra Flaitz, Ph.D., Magnolia Room

Refugees 101: Just the Facts

Saturday, October 13th
7:00 – 9:00 a.m. Conference Registration, Lobby
7:00 – 8:00 a.m. Continental Breakfast, Lobby
8:00 – 8:45 a.m. General Meeting, Auditorium
9:00 – 9:45 a.m. Keynote Speaker David Cutler, M.A., Auditorium

What is Advocacy? Lessons in Successful (and Unsuccessful) Advocacy Strategies

9:45 – 10:15 a.m. Midmorning break, Lobby
10:30 – 11:30 a.m. Hands-On Workshops, Magnolia A, Magnolia B, and Oak Room
11:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. Panel Discussion – Conference Wrap-up, Auditorium

TownePlace Suites Marriott is located across the street from the Oxford Conference Center.

WIN ONE OF FOUR $1,000 STIPENDS!

As a 2018 Advocacy Conference attendee, you will be included in a drawing to win one of four $1,000 stipends toward the 2019 TESOL International Convention in Atlanta, Georgia the week of March 12-16! Two winners from Alabama and two winners from Mississippi will be chosen! You must be present at both days of the conference to win.

https://www.amtesol.org/conference2018
OXFORD CONFERENCE CENTER
OXFORD, MISSISSIPPI
Oxford Conference Center

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CEU information is available at the registration desk.

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KEYNOTE SPEAKERS AND WORKSHOP PRESENTERS

JEFFRA FLAITZ, PH.D.

Dr. Flaitz spent 25 years teaching at the university level before leaving academia to work in the public schools and later in the field of refugee resettlement. She is the author of a new e-book, *Refugee Students: What Every ESL Teacher Needs to Know*, published by University of Michigan Press.

DAVID CUTLER, M.A.

Mr. Cutler is the Policy and Communications Manager at TESOL International Association. He received his bachelor's in social studies education from Ithaca College and his master's degree in public administration from Cornell University. His work at TESOL includes monitoring and responding to policies that impact English language teachers and learners, organizing the annual TESOL Advocacy and Policy Summit, and managing the association's communications initiatives. David's previous work experiences have included the District of Columbia Public Schools, American Federation of Teachers, and New York State Assembly. @TESOLpolicyguy

WORKSHOP PRESENTER

DIANE CARTER, M.A.

Diane Carter has recently retired from teaching ESL K-12 for over 25 years and now consults in K-12. With M.A. degrees in English, ESL, speech, and drama she has written curricula and presented teacher-training workshops both in the U.S. and abroad. Diane taught university undergraduate courses in speech and communication, ESL and other university classes, and workplace ELLs. During her K-12 ESL teaching career she advocated for her students, helped them achieve academic success and obtain financial aid for higher education. As TESOL 2010 Convention Program Chairperson, she piloted the successful K-12 Dream Day for mainstream teachers and administrators. She was recently a member of TESOL’s Board of Directors and Associate Convention Program Chair for TESOL’s 50th anniversary in 2016.

https://www.amtesol.org/conference2018
Friday, October 12th  
Jeffra Flaitz, Ph.D.  
Keynote Address  

Refugees 101: Just the Facts  

There is no question that ESL teachers and other school personnel are facing new challenges as a result of the dramatic increase in the enrollment of refugee students. Their arrival has tested our linguistic chops thanks to the wide array of non-Indo-European languages they speak, and we are confronted as well by the growing recognition that refugee English Language Learners (ELLs) are different from non-refugee ELLs not only in terms of the degree and type of personal trauma they may have experienced but also in terms of the degree to which they may have had access to formal education. Added to this mix is a general uncertainty – fueled by inaccurate, incomplete, or provocative narratives – about who refugees are, why they are here, whether they stress our resources and threaten our security, and how significant are their contributions to our community. Why accept misinformation and myth when reliably sourced information is so readily available? This presentation focuses on essential facts as the foundation for working with refugee populations.

Saturday, October 13th  
David Cutler, M.A.  
Keynote Address  

What is Advocacy? Lessons in Successful (and Unsuccessful) Advocacy Strategies  

Recently, the word "advocacy" has been thrown around a lot, used on a daily basis, across all contexts of education, with the TESOL field being no exception. What exactly does “advocacy” mean though? Why is it so important and what does effective advocacy look like? As the number of English learners continues to soar across the nation, in addition to the demand for qualified English language professionals, exploring meaningful advocacy strategies and techniques will become even more crucial to the success of our students. This session will explore the meaning and importance of advocating for our ELs, colleagues, and the TESOL profession, as well as some important lessons learned, as we rise to meet the numerous challenges of educating English learners.

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Thank you!

https://www.amtesol.org/conference2018
Friday, October 12th

4:00-6:00 p.m. | Poster Presentations | Terrace Hallway

Accidental Advocate: Principles to Guide You in the Moment
Anyone can be an advocate, but you have to be prepared when the opportunity arises. From what to how to why (and where and when), we look at ways to approach the sometimes unapproachable when you become the Accidental Advocate.

Presenters: Andrea Word, Ed.D., is a teacher educator and linguist with over 20 years of experience in educational linguistics across P-16 contexts. Yalitza LaFontaine, M.A., serves as the North Region Organizer for Alabama Coalition for Immigrant Justice. andrea.word@uah.edu

Advocacy 3
How does advocacy apply to you? If you want to help a student, an intern, or a fellow educator, we offer our approach for advocating for these secondary, post-secondary groups.

Presenters: Dr. Ryan Cate Gibson, Ph.D. in Reading/Literacy, has taught in the Intensive Language and Culture Program at the University of Alabama in Huntsville for nine years. Kerrin Hayes Ramachandran, M.A. in English Language and Linguistics, teaches ESL students in the Intensive Language and Culture Program at The University of Alabama in Huntsville. Evdoxia Tsimika-Chronis, M.A. in the Art of Teaching from Boston University, currently works in two programs at the University of Alabama in Huntsville, the Intensive Language and Culture Program and EAPP. ryan.cate.gibson@uah.edu

Advocating for English Learners in Alabama’s Black Belt
Teachers advocate for English learners in the Black Belt by collaboratively e-mentoring with the ELs’ teachers. Through this EdS course project, E-mentors recommend EL best practices to e-mentees. Traversing 160 miles, this advocacy program is part of GEAR UP Alabama.

Presenter: Susan Spezzini, Ph.D., is Professor of ESL education at the University of Alabama at Birmingham and directs professional development grants. spezzini@uab.edu

Advocating for first-year undergraduate ESL students through service-learning
This presentation reports findings of the qualitative research that explored teacher collaboration for advocating for the language and cross-cultural learning of first-year undergraduate ESL students through service-learning. It highlights key features of the advocacy efforts through service-learning.

Presenter: Sunyung Song, Ph.D., is an assistant professor of Education at Athens State University and focuses on preparing teacher candidates to teach ELLs. culno1@gmail.com

https://www.amtesol.org/conference2018
Bringing the World into the Classroom –
The Importance of Global Education
"Bringing the World into the Classroom" shows the role of global education in a child's success. Building empathy, respecting diverse perspectives, collaborating inter-culturally, and solving global issues are skills that students will need in order to be fully engaged in an interconnected world. This presentation will highlight the need for, the implementation of, and the reasons for advocating for global education.

Presenter: Hannah Rodgers, M.A.Ed., teaches 6th Grade Earth Science, English as a Second Language, and Introduction to Theatre at Pelham Park Middle School in Pelham, Alabama. This is her 21st year as an educator. She is part of the Class of 2018 National Education Association Global Learning Fellowship. mrogers@pelhamcityschools.org

Community English Classes as Advocacy for Immigrant Families
The Literacy Council provides free English classes to adults in Central Alabama. Classes are offered at various dates, locations and times so that the needs of families within the communities can be met. This work within our community has given us the chance to better advocate for the parents, children, and their families.

Presenter: Patricia Merritt, Ed.S. and ESL certified, teaches high school Spanish and is a doctoral student at The University of Alabama at Birmingham. pmerritt@jefcoed.com

Democracy Voices, Votes, and Visions
Developing EL students into better citizens by being both knowledgeable and active in determining the future of our democracy.

Presenters: Joni Sue Bair, M.A.Ed. in Elementary Education and ESOL, has taught from pre-K to High School and is currently the ESL Coach at Decatur High School, Austin Jr. High and the EXCEL Center. Joni Sue is a member of Delta Kappa Gamma Society International. Nancy Turbyfill, M.A.Ed. in Secondary Language Arts and certified in ESOL, teaches in Decatur City School's EXCEL Center as a content teacher instructing sheltered instruction in English Language Arts and Reading to grades 9-12. Kelly Elmore, M.A. is a sheltered instruction teacher in social studies and history to EL students in grades 6-12. She teaches EL students to advocate for themselves by teaching them about the past, present and introducing the government process in the YMCA's Youth Government programs. kelly.elmore@dcs.k12/al.us joni.bair@dcs.k12.al.us

International Students and Advocacy – Risks and Rewards
Provides teachers with basic knowledge of international students’ rights to participate in free speech and the associated risks. These issues are explored as well as how students benefit from connecting with new speech communities through advocacy.

Presenters: Geoffrey Goodman, M.A., taught at Seoul National University and Chung-Ang University, Seoul before working at Auburn Global at Auburn University. Kelly Nielsen, M.A., taught at Koc University in Istanbul, Turkey and a high school in Indonesia before working at Auburn Global at Auburn University. geoffreygood@gmail.com

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Language Access Provided for ELL Students and Parents
PAMIT and ITAA advocate for language access for limited English proficient persons in their respective states and aboard. Our mission is to increase professionalism and heighten the standards of those who engage in the practice of interpretation and translation.

**Presenter:** Darren Reed is a trilingual community interpreter. He is co-founder and president of PAMIT. info@pamit.org

6:30-7:30 p.m. | Dinner at Hotel | Magnolia Room

7:30-8:30 p.m. | Keynote Speaker | Magnolia Room
Jeffra Flaitz, Ph.D. | *Refugees 101: Just the Facts*
Saturday, October 13th

7:00-8:00 a.m. | Continental Breakfast | Lobby

8:00-8:45 a.m. | AMTESOL General Meeting | Auditorium

This meeting is open to all conference attendees. Registration for the conference includes membership so all conference attendees are automatically AMTESOL members. Attend the General Meeting for door prizes. Also, CEU certificates will be distributed.

9:00-9:45 a.m. | Keynote Speaker | Auditorium

David Cutler, M.A. | What is Advocacy? Lessons in Successful (and Unsuccessful) Advocacy Strategies

9:45-10:15 a.m. | Mid-morning Break | Lobby

10:30-11:30 a.m. | Choose from one of three Hands-on Workshops:

**Workshop A | Diane Carter | Magnolia A**

*In the Groove: Establishing Rapport with School Personnel to Benefit ELLs*

Do you want to have a good time at work and enhance the atmosphere at your school for your ELLs? Teachers are notorious for having established groups that are difficult to break into if you're not "one of them." One of the biggest complaints of ESL teachers is that other faculty members treat them as "assistants" rather than as colleagues. This presentation will recommend ways you can become an integral part of the group and get mainstream teachers and administrators to both respect your expertise and listen to your ideas about ways to help your ELLs become successful students.

**Workshop B | Jeffra Flaitz | Magnolia B**

*Refugees 101: Classroom Applications*

Your journey to become a more empowered participant in the education of refugees rests, at least in part, on converting information - reliable, accurate, abundant, and specific - into action be it instructional, interactional, supervisory, or managerial. We will begin by identifying a set of basic truths or principles about refugees, founded on information previously shared in the presenter’s keynote address. Then we will explore why these principles are important to you as a member of your school community. The majority of our time, however, will be dedicated to examining (and generating) actions that you can take to serve your refugee population with greater efficacy.

**Workshop C | David Cutler | Oak Room**

*Building Advocacy Skills across Contexts*

Good advocacy skills are built on content knowledge and lots of practice. In this workshop, participants will work with colleagues through several exercises to better understand their capacity to advocate and to start thinking about how they can begin planning their future advocacy strategies.

https://www.amtesol.org/conference2018
11:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m. | Panel Discussion and closing comments | Auditorium

Panel Members: Diane Carter is a retired ESL K-12 teacher and currently a K-12 Consultant. David Cutler is the Policy and Communications Manager at TESOL International Association. Jeffra Flaitz is the author of Refugee Students: What Every ESL Teacher Needs to Know, published by University of Michigan Press. Nancy Blanco, Ph.D. candidate and PLTW Director of School Engagement in Alabama, EL Teacher, Advocate for culturally and linguistically diverse students and families. Elizabeth House, M.A. is an ESL Instructional Coach for Decatur City Schools in Alabama.

2018 AMTESOL Conference Volunteers

Conference Co-Chairs: Dinorah Sapp and Tracey Koslowski
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Thank you for attending AMTESOL 2018 Advocacy Conference!

AMTESOL’s next conference will be January 24-25, 2020 in Auburn, Alabama.
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Elizabeth Claire's Easy English NEWS

Volume 106 Number 15
June 2018

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If you choose to manage your conference hours with AMTESOL, then you must do the following:

1) Register in Chalkable for every day that you attend. Register no later than Wednesday, October 17, 2018.
2) Submit your completed certificate of attendance at the AMTESOL conference counter before you leave the conference. There are no signature pages, only a self-reporting certificate of attendance that will be used to total the number of hours each day. This is an honor system. You must be registered for the conference on the days you record your attendance. Only record the sessions you attend.
3) Both steps must be completed to receive credit. Hours will be submitted for posting by November 2018.

Log into Chalkable (STI PD) and search for PD Title No: UABRIC01230

Click List at right corner to open the PD Title and register for PD Hours. (Do ALLOW pop-ups or you will not be able to see the options.)

https://www.amtesol.org/conference2018
Certificate of Attendance
AMTESOL Advocacy Conference
Oxford Conference Center
Oxford, Mississippi

Participant: __________________________ Email: __________________________

Total Hours: _____ School District: __________________________ City/State: __________________________

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Thank you for attending the 2018 AMTESOL Advocacy Conference. Your presence helped ensure the success of the conference.
AMTESOL 2018 ADVOCACY CONFERENCE

Location: Oxford Conference Center
Date(s): October 12-13, 2018
Instructor(s): Dr. Jeffra Flaitz, David Cutler, and Diana Carter

0.5 CEUs

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