

*AZTESOL News is our official publication full of teaching tips, conference news, legislative updates, reviews of books/journals/websites/apps, and articles on all manner of topics relevant to ESL teachers in every setting.*

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# AZTESOL Newsletter

*Spring, 2021*



## **ADVOCATE**

Arizona's English language professionals network and develop their knowledge to better advocate for English Learners.

## **NETWORK**

AZTESOL provides professional networking opportunities for educators teaching English to speakers of other languages.

## **DEVELOP**

Opportunities for continued professional learning, access to grants, awards, and resources to better serve students.

# President's Message

Dear AZTESOL members,

Through these challenging professional times, AZTESOL continues to be a voice for teachers of students of other languages through advocacy, networking, and professional development. We continue to provide information on upcoming bills and policies that affect the practices and resources of our teachers. I encourage you to read the synthesis of the current politics in our State written in this letter by our Advocacy Chair, Kate Van Roekel. Most of all, I encourage you to be actively engaged in letting your representatives know your beliefs on what is best for our diverse students.

As all educators, we continue to adjust to the new contexts and perspectives too. Our AZTESOL networking and Regional Mini-conferences look different this year. Because of social distancing, all our workshops and meetings have been online and will continue to be at least until the end of the year. This long-distance platform allows greater opportunities for you to participate in all of the offered workshops and to network with teachers all over Arizona and beyond no matter where you are in our State. These workshops are our way to facilitate relevant and pertinent professional development and also our way to structure opportunities to hear each other's classroom experiences, those that are hard and those that are celebratory. We believe that in our stories we find inspiration and lessons to be learned. Stay tuned as we continue to plan and deliver dynamic workshops by reading our letters or by visiting our [AZTESOL](#) site.

Similarly important, don't forget to save the date for our upcoming State Conference, *Language Teaching and Learning: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion*. Our conference will be held on the weekend of October 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> through Zoom. You will soon receive more updates on how to send your proposals and on the logistics of your registration. We certainly hope to see you there again. Invite your colleagues as well so you can have richer professional conversations after our conference.

On behalf of AZTESOL, we hope you have a positive transition to in person teaching and learning. We know that teachers always rise above any challenge turning these into powerful social movements. Why would this be the exception?

Best regards,

Alma M. Sandigo, Ed. D.

AZTESOL President

*Sandra*



# Advocacy Report

Kate Van Roekel, Advocacy Chair

The AZ Legislature continues its push to defund public education. There are many anti-public education bills on the move in the legislature that defund Arizona's public schools (including charter schools) and devalue teachers. Learn about the bills [here](#). The vast majority of Arizona's K-12 EL students are in public schools, and further defunding of these public schools will hit our EL's particularly hard. Please stay tuned to AZ TESOL's social media pages for action alerts (follow us on Twitter [@AZTESOL](#) and [friend us on Facebook](#)).

SCR1020 is a bill that would allow Arizonans to vote on the repeal of Arizona's English-Only law (Proposition 203). SCR1020 has passed the Senate and is scheduled to be heard in the House Education Committee on Tuesday, March 23. If it passes out of committee, it will then be voted on by the full House. The bill has broad bipartisan support, but we may need to pressure our representatives in the house. Please stay tuned for action alerts!

Arizona schools, community colleges, and universities will receive \$2.5 billion under the American Rescue Act. This is great news! Learn more [here](#).



## AZTESOL 2021

The AZTESOL 2021 Conference is scheduled for October 2021. Stay tuned for more information to come!

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# Professional Development



## ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

The Office of Language Acquisition Services within the Arizona Department of Education offers various opportunities for teachers of English learners to further their knowledge in supporting their students. Visit the link below to find upcoming sessions.

[OELAS Professional Learning Opportunities](#)

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# Article Submission

## [Distance Learning in the Time of COVID-19](#)

by Dr. Liza Martinez

Dr. Martinez has had the privilege to teach ESL and EFL in Texas, Mexico, Saudi Arabia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (Africa), and Arizona. For the past 18 years, she has taught ESL full-time at Arizona Western College in South Yuma County.



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