



WITESOL Newsletter

A Congressman in My Classroom: Making Connections

Summer 2015

From WITESOL President, Lori Menning

WITESOL is committed to advocating for the rights of English Language Learners. An executive board member position is dedicated to furthering WITESOL's efforts to communicate with local and state policymakers and local government. The board member who holds Advocacy Chair receives a travel stipend to attend an annual TESOL International Advocacy Day in Washington D.C, with Grassroots activities led by John Segota, and meetings with local members of congress on Capitol Hill.

On Advocacy Day, I shared current happenings in my high school classroom, school, and district. I also invited them to visit my classroom and meet the ELLs. When it was shared that Congressman Ribble would be coming to my bilingual classroom in New London, our students felt very special. The Congressman's visit was confirmation that my voice is being heard on Capitol Hill; this collaboration is a first step. I hope other ELL and bilingual teachers will also share their stories with members of Congress. As an advocate for high school bilingual

students, it is crucial we work together to seek opportunities. My goal is for the students to see that they can be change agents. Their voices can be heard, and they can make a difference. I want my students to know that I am an advocate for them and for bilingual education, and, therefore, I model the work that they, too, can do. We can make a difference! [Read more about Lori's advocacy efforts.](#)



WITESOL President,
Lori Menning

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Call for
Proposals

Submit your proposal to present at this fall's WITESOL Conference. We have extended the proposal deadline to August 1st. [Click here to fill out the online proposal form.](#)

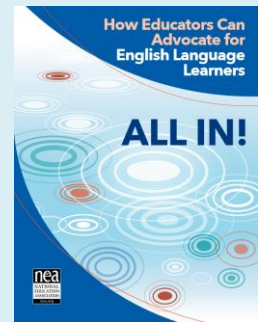
WITESOL Writing and Art Contest

Once per year, members of WITESOL may enter their students of all ages in our Art and Writing Contest. Students can win cash prizes and a grand prize is also awarded. Later this year we will be announcing the theme for 2016.

Stay tuned for more information! [Please click here for more details.](#)

A special thank you to coordinator, Threse Powell, for all of her wonderful work in organizing the contest.

NEA's "How Educators Can Advocate for ELLs"



[Click here to view this amazing, free resource!](#)

2015 WITESOL Student Writing and Art Contest Winners

Writing

Kindergarten – Second

- 1st Place – Stacey Velazquez (Kari Johnson)
- 2nd Place – Ella Yang (Threse Powell)
- 3rd Place – Carlos Quintana Gonzalez (Kari Johnson)

Third – Fifth

- 1st Place – Jennifer Hang (Threse Powell)
- 2nd Place – Nicolas Soto Guzman (Katie Myers)
- 3rd Place – Vahoua Lor (Leslee Cruz)

Sixth – Eighth

- 1st Place – Maria Martinez (Vickie Hang)
- 2nd Place – Becky Hang (Threse Powell)
- 3rd Place – Xai Xiong (Vickie Hang)

High School

- 1st Place – Ruby Fortuno (Lori Menning)
- 2nd Place – Justin Chang (Vickie Hang)
- 3rd Place – Ivan Vang (Vickie Hang)

Adult

- 1st Place – Yanxing Woo (Ami Christensen)
- 2nd Place – Jiayue Duan (Julie Adler)
- 3rd Place – Shi Fenglong (Anjie Kokan)

Art

Kindergarten - Second

- 1st Place – Leon Chaune (Molly Pollock)

Third - Fifth

- 1st Place – José Payano (Kari Johnson)

Sixth – Eighth

- 1st Place – Becky Hang (Threse Powell)

High School

- 1st Place – Marco Lopez (Lori Menning)

Adult

- 1st Place – Ayaka Niwase (Ami Christensen)

Travel Awards for TESOL International Conference

TESOL 2016
International Convention
& English Language Expo



Did you know that WITESOL annually awards two to three \$1,000 Travel Awards so its members can attend the TESOL International Convention? In 2016, TESOL International will be holding their Convention in Baltimore, MD on April 5-8, 2016. Please check <http://www.witesol.com> at the end of 2015 for an opportunity to apply for a travel award to the 2016 convention.

2015 TESOL International Convention in Toronto, Canada

--By Kate Nolin-Smith, WITESOL Member and winner of a TESOL Travel Award

The International TESOL Convention is one of the biggest events of the year. Many in the field look forward to attending it for professional development, presenting research, networking with other professionals, and enjoying the cultural experiences this type of conference facilitates.

My TESOL International 2015 experience started by researching the city and local attractions and making commitments to meet with colleagues, previous research collaborators, and other WITESOL members. The advanced efforts greatly added to my overall convention experience by allowing me to meet other WITESOL members at a social get-together in Toronto, explore areas of Toronto's multicultural city, like Little Italy and Little China, and tour the Casa Loma Castle. These fantastic personal and cultural highlights added to my conference experience, while my focus remained on the conference itself. What else did I learn? [Please click here to read more.](#)

WITESOL Conference Cultural Journeys through Language and Learning Saturday, October 24, 2015 Reeve Union, University of Wisconsin- Oshkosh

WITESOL invites all professionals working with English Language Learners in any context to submit session proposals for the annual Fall Conference that will take place on Saturday, October 24, 2015, at the Reeve Union on the campus of the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh. The theme of the conference is "Cultural Journeys through Language

and Learning." Proposals related to the theme are especially welcome but not required.

This year's keynote speaker will be award-winning journalist Sonia Nazario. Nazario is best known for her book titled "Enrique's Journey," a Honduran boy's struggle to find his mother in the U.S. To learn more about Nazario, visit her website <http://www.enrique>

sjourney.com/
[To learn more about submitting a proposal, click here.](#) The extended application deadline is August 1st.



Keynote Speaker:
Sonia Nazario

WITESOL

**Wisconsin Teachers of
English to Speakers of
Other Languages**

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WITESOL is the professional organization for Wisconsin Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages. As an affiliate of TESOL International, it represents and provides professional development and other opportunities to educators of English Language Learners and bilingual students of all levels and ages around the state of Wisconsin.

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Reasons to Be a WITESOL Member:

- Attend WITESOL training sessions, workshops, or seminars exclusively for WITESOL members
- Member exclusive information about job openings, conferences, training sessions, workshops, and more
- Reduced registration rate and costs for attending the annual WITESOL and TESOL International Convention
- Support and expertise of other ELL and bilingual educators in Wisconsin
- Participation in WITESOL's Annual Student Writing and Art Contest
- Apply for travel awards to attend TESOL's International Annual Convention

WITESOL made it easier to renew your membership with our new online form. [Sign up or renew today!](#)