

# 2016 WITESOL Conference

≡≡≡ **Words Matter: Empowering Learners  
and Teachers (in Challenging Times)** ≡≡≡

**Saturday, November 5, 2016  
Oshkosh Convention Center  
Oshkosh, Wisconsin**



**Featured Speakers:  
Tim Boals  
and  
Deborah Crusan**



**Learn more at [witesol.com](http://witesol.com)**

**#WITESOL2016**



**@WITESOL**



## **There's Still Time to Submit a Proposal:**

***Due to a large number of requests for an extended deadline, we are giving you until September 2nd to submit a proposal for WITESOL's Fall Conference. This is the absolute latest we can extend the submission deadline. Thank you!***

WITESOL invites all professionals working with English language learners in any context to submit session proposals for the annual Fall Conference which will take place on Saturday, November 5th at the Oshkosh Convention Center. The Conference theme is: Words Matter: Empowering Learners and Teachers (in Challenging Times).

[You may submit a proposal here!](#)

**We're excited to announce that we will be highlighting two speakers at the WITESOL Conference on November 5th, in Oshkosh, Wisconsin.**



Tim Boals is executive director of WIDA. He holds a Ph.D. in curriculum from the University of Wisconsin-Madison with an emphasis in the education of English language learners (ELLs). His background includes language education, educational policy for ELLs, and Spanish language and literature. As executive director, Tim oversees operations, long range planning, research, professional learning and consortium outreach efforts. He recently co-published two books, *Formative Language Assessment for English Learners* and *Multilingual Learners and Academic Literacies: Sociocultural Contexts of Literacy Development in Adolescents*. Other recent publications include a chapter on how Latinos' school success is influenced by cultural perceptions and an AERA article on trends in language assessment. Tim frequently presents at conferences in the US and internationally on the challenges facing linguistically and culturally diverse learners. WIDA projects he is particularly excited about include WIDA's Spanish Academic Language Standards, Early Years Standards and Language Assessment Portrait, WIDA International Standards and the new digital MODEL, professional development efforts around formative assessment, and the data-

driven school improvement materials and coaching processes within the WIDA LADDER project.

Deborah Crusan is professor of TESOL/Applied Linguistics at Wright State University, Dayton, OH. At Wright State, she teaches introductory linguistics, assessment, and grammar in the MATESOL program, preparing teachers for the language classroom, and writing assessment in the English graduate program. Additionally, she teaches an L2 writing section of the required composition course. Her work has appeared in academic publications including *Across the Disciplines*, *Assessing Writing*, *The Companion to Language Assessment*, *The Encyclopedia of Applied Linguistics*, *English for Specific Purposes*, *International Journal of TESOL and Learning*, *Language Testing*, *TESOL Quarterly*, *The Norton Field Guide*, and edited collections about second language writing. Her latest article, *Writing assessment literacy: Surveying second language teachers' knowledge, beliefs, and practices with Lia Plakans and Atta Gebril* (*Assessing Writing*, 28) uncovers some of the issues in teaching training in writing assessment around the world. Her research interests include writing assessment particularly for placement of second language writers, writing teacher education, directed self-placement and its consequences for second language writers, and the politics of



## **WITESOL is now an Associate of IATEFL**

WITESOL is now an associate of IATEFL, but what does this mean for you? IATEFL stands for the International Association of Teachers of English as a Foreign Language, and is based in the United Kingdom. Although the name implies a focus on English as a *foreign language*, this is an unfortunate relic of history. IATEFL's mission has evolved over the 50 years it has been in operation so that it now works to form "... bridges between the inexperienced and experienced, the practical and the theoretical, and the many different perspectives and contexts of the [English Language Teaching] world." It has over 4000 members and works with over 100 Associates. We are the first associate from the United States.

This does not mean our affiliation with TESOL International Association has changed in any way. They remain the bedrock of our organization. Instead, we are broadening our horizons and building our own bridge across the pond to find new and interesting perspectives to learn from.

In the coming months, your WITESOL board will be working out details of how we can offer our members travel grants to attend the IATEFL conference in the UK in the years ahead. To find out more about IATEFL, you can click on the link on our [website](#), or go directly to <http://www.iatefl.org/>.

**WITESOL President Participates in 2016 TESOL  
Advocacy & Policy Summit**

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On June 19-21, 2016, WITESOL President, Lori Menning, joined approximately 75 other TESOL educators and members of TESOL International Association in Washington, D.C. for the 2016 TESOL Advocacy & Policy Summit. The program featured a full day of issue briefings and activities around education legislation and advocacy, followed by a day of visits to congressional offices on Capitol Hill. With representatives from approximately 30 US affiliates in attendance, the goals of the Summit were not only to learn more about federal policy issues impacting TESOL educators and English learners, but also to provide an interactive learning experience for participants on elements of advocacy. By the end of the event, TESOL members had visited the offices of over 100 representatives and senators.

To fully prepare for the Summit, participants needed to complete several important tasks before arriving in Washington, D.C. For example, participants needed to schedule meetings with their congressional representatives. In addition, participants reviewed background information on key policy issues so that they could begin to familiarize themselves in advance. To help make their congressional meetings more effective, participants were encouraged to bring examples from

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their own programs to illustrate the talking points they would use in their meetings.

The Summit featured a keynote from Dr. Johan Uvin, Acting Assistant Secretary for Career, Technical, and Adult Education at the U.S. Department of Education. In addition, representatives from the Office for Civil Rights and the Office of English Language Acquisition (OELA) at the U.S. Department of Education, as well as the Student & Exchange Visitor Program at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, each presented updates from their offices. The Summit also included presentations from the American Federation of Teachers, the National Education Association, and author Dr. Diane Staehr Fenner presented information from her book *Advocating for English Learners: A Guide for Educators*

Following these briefings, the Summit shifted its focus to advocacy with preparations for meetings with members of Congress. John Segota, TESOL Associate Executive Director for Public Policy and Professional Relations, invited Lori and two other veteran TESOL advocates to lead a panel presentation to share tips with their peers. As Advocacy Chair of WITESOL, this is Lori's 5<sup>th</sup> year attending the summit. She described how she has formed relationships with members of congress and how these relationships impact the affiliate and school. The panel members then answered questions of their peers who were anxiously preparing for their meetings on the Hill.

To maximize the impact of the Summit, key members of Congress serving on the education and appropriations committees in the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives were identified for meetings. This year, Lori met with staff from the offices of Senator Tammy Baldwin, Congressman Reid Ribble and Congressman Glenn Grothman. To access resources on current legislation and learn about how you can participate in advocacy efforts in your district visit the WITESOL [advocacy page](#).

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