

UNIVERSIDAD NACIONAL AUTONOMA DE MEXICO EN SAN ANTONIO



Seventeenth Biennial ESL Conference  
Saturday, September 23, 2017

# Engaging Language Learners

**8:30 – 9:00 BREAKFAST AND WELCOME**

**9:00 – 10:00 KEYNOTE** Dr. Linda Muñoz, Past President, TexTESOL  
Region 3

## ***Communicating across Divisions: The Role of ESL Faculty in Higher Education***

### **Auditorium**

Linda Muñoz has been in the professional field of TESOL since 1983 and has taught in the Middle East, Washington State, and Texas. She has been active in two state TESOL affiliates since 1995. In the past few years, she has been Vice President, President, and past president of TexTESOL 3. Linda holds an MA in TESL/TEFL from UT Austin and a Ph.D. in Adult, Professional, and Community Education from Texas State University. Currently, she works in the Division of College Readiness and Success at the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

**10:15 – 11:00 FIRST BREAKOUT SESSION**

- Jaime Leal, ELL Specialist, NEISD

### ***Working Memory and ELLs***

In this highly engaging presentation, participants would experience the power of working memory capacity and how important it is for learning math, reading, concepts, and even daily activities.

DEMONSTRATION

- June Pugh, ESL Instructor, UTSA

### ***Accommodations and their Effect on English Language Learners Test Scores***

There has been concern about the low state standardized test scores of English Language Learners in comparison to their English-speaking peers. This presentation addresses the question whether the usage of accommodations by English Language Learners help improve their test scores.

PAPER

- Ariadne de Villa, Assistant Professor, Texas Lutheran University  
***Critical Thinking in Language Acquisition and Teaching***

This presentation focuses on current theoretical research in second language education and on how the Language Awareness Approach, specifically, is key to successful L2 teaching. LAA methodology provides students the tools to internalize the L2 for the long term.

DEMONSTRATION

- Carole Franki, Instructor, Defense Language Institute  
***Off the Wall: Activities for Reinforcing Reading Fluency and Vocabulary***

Looking for engaging reading- and vocabulary-building activities? Attendees will participate in four motivating and collaborative multilevel activities that get students out of their seats and practicing target vocabulary and reading skills. These fun student-centered activities change the classroom dynamic by promoting an interactive learning environment. WORKSHOP

## 11:15 – 12:00 SECOND BREAKOUT SESSION

- Ahmet Aksoy, Northeast Lakeview College and Dianella Cantu, Graduate Student, University of Miami

### ***Using Communication Accommodation Theory to Enhance Learning***

This demonstration aims to present Howard Giles' Communication Accommodation Theory and how it can be applied to building a shared learning environment to improve speech, language, and cultural understanding.

DEMONSTRATION

- Misty Ferguson and Jesus Santos, PhD students, Bilingual Bicultural Studies, UTSA

### ***Look Who's Talking Now: Students and Structured Talk in ESL Classrooms***

Students' non-conforming and translanguaged responses are the subject of this discourse analytical study. By looking closely at what actually happens during structured classroom talk, we discover ways our students are learning, demonstrating knowledge, and enacting identities on their own terms.

PAPER

- Alpha Martinez- Suarez, PhD student, UTSA and Narda Martinez, ATE Presidential Scholar, Bilingual Bicultural Student and Researcher, UTSA  
***The Many Benefits of Intergenerational Reading with ESL Newcomers***

This presentation will demonstrate the effective use of intergenerational reading as a tool for parent-student-teacher engagement. This research-based technique will look to highlight the importance of intergenerational instructional approach for benefiting students' literacy efforts and parent-teacher involvement and engagement as well.

DEMONSTRATION

- Curt Reese, ESL Instructor, University of Texas at Austin  
***Using Authentic Texts to Help Low Level Learners with Functional Literacy***

Textbooks do not always address the functional literacy needs of low level learners. In this session, I present five lessons created from authentic texts that students need in their daily lives and show the reading subskills that each lesson targets.

DEMONSTRATION

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### **12:00 – 1:00 LUNCH**

Be sure to check out our exhibitors' tables!

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### **1:00 – 1:45 THIRD BREAKOUT SESSION**

- Dr. Monica Neshyba, Clinical Assistant Professor, Texas A&M University and Dr. Kisha Bryan, Assistant Professor, Tennessee State University  
***Faculty Reflections: A Collaborative Autoethnography of an International Field Experience***

In this session, female university professors of color will discuss their experiences facilitating an international field experience teaching English in a rural elementary school, problematize themselves in practice situations, and reframe their beliefs and practices.

PAPER

- Dr. Jui-Teng, Dr. Rafael Lara-Alecio, Dr. Fuhui Tong, Dr. Beverly Irby, and Dr. Hector Rivera, Texas A&M University  
***Using Evidence-based Instructional Strategies to Enhance ELLs Reading Comprehension***

The purposes of this presentation are two-fold: (a) identify the effects of four instructional strategies- leveled questions, interactive read aloud, scaffolding, and graphic organizers- on ELLs' reading comprehension and (b) discuss how to best use these four strategies in the classroom.

PAPER

- Carla Greszler-Gomez, World Languages Program Coordinator, Northwest Vista College

### ***Building Communicative Confidence through Critical Thinking: Strategies for the Foreign Language Classroom***

As language learners, our capacity to think critically impacts our interpersonal communication. This presentation discusses how critical thinking enables language learners to interpret and negotiate meaning in real-life situations and identifies strategies to help students build communicative confidence.

DEMONSTRATION

- Elsa Perez, Professor, Universidad Autonoma de Tamaulipas

***Flip Classroom in Second Language Learning***

This presentation is about a teaching-learning system in which students learn new content online, usually at home, and what used to be homework is now done in class with the teacher offering more personalized guidance and interaction with students, instead of lecturing.

WORKSHOP

- **Criste Tonra, Senior Instructor, UNAM- San Antonio**

***Expanding the Classroom: Interview with a Native English Speaker***

Do your ESL students progress slowly because they rarely interact with English speakers outside the classroom? Take advantage of the authentic language resources around us by asking students for more native English speaker interaction. Expand the ESL classroom with an Interview with a Native English Speaker exercise. The presentation includes modifications for different student populations and levels, interview topics and integration of skills.

WORKSHOP

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**2:00 – 2:45 Fourth Breakout Session**

- **Adriane Geronimo, Teacher, Midland Senior High School  
Newcomer Academy**

***Engaging and Assessing Learners through Technology***

Keeping English language learners engaged throughout instructional time can be challenging. This demonstration shares two free and easy-to-access technology-based techniques, Socrative and Plickers, for successfully gathering formative assessment data while keeping learners involved and maximizing instructional time.

DEMONSTRATION

- **Alice Llanos, Language Consultant, Rice University and Amy Tate,  
Language Consultant, Rice University**

***Communication and Collaborate: Incorporating Peer Feedback into Speaking Activities***

When students give each other feedback on speaking tasks, they talk, listen, and learn more, but they need clear criteria to do it right. Learn about the benefits of peer feedback, engage in activities and discover how to adapt them.

DEMONSTRATION

- **Carla Greszler-Gomez, World Languages Coordinator, Northwest Vista College**  
**Online Content and Technology Integration in the Foreign Language Classroom**

This presentation identifies technology integration practices that support language acquisition by building linguistic and cultural proficiency. These strategies facilitate interpersonal communication, promote cultural awareness and critical thinking through exposure to authentic cultural materials, and encourage language production at all levels.  
DEMONSTRATION

- **Stephanie Regalado, English Dept. Assistant Chair, UNAM- San Antonio**  
***Creating Space to Incorporate Speaking Activities into the Curriculum***

The presentation offers a look at creative ways to turn classroom curriculum into effective activities to target spoken English. The activities presented are designed to give students more opportunity to practice speaking in class.

DEMONSTRATION

- **Danny Meadows, English Department Chair, UNAM- San Antonio**  
***Job Seekers: How and Where to Find a Career in TESOL***

In this info-session, participants will be introduced to electronic resources where job positions are most often found. The discussion will include tips for CV building, interviewing, and factors to consider before teaching abroad.

WORKSHOP

## **2:45- 3:15 Farewell and Door Prizes**

### **Atrium**

Please complete and submit your **evaluation form**;  
its stub is your **door prize ticket**. Good luck!

Pick up your **certificate of attendance**.

**Front door**