



WORLD QUARTERLY

Summer/Autumn 2016

A Brief Report on TESOL Advocacy & Policy Summit 2016

JEANNE-MARIE WRIGHT

Joan Johnston-Nelson and I represented WAESOL at the TESOL Advocacy & Policy Summit in Alexandria, Virginia, June 19-21. The Summit was a professional development opportunity for educators to learn about U.S. Federal Education issues and advocate for policies that support English learners and the field of English language education.

We attended sessions on the new ESSA law (Every Student Succeeds Act) and how it would impact our current ELL programs, as well as information on the Immigration Policies and Laws. The sessions presented information for educators K-12 as well as higher education. In addition to learning about the latest policies and laws that would affect our ELL programs, we learned how to advocate for our English learners and to prepare for our visits to meet with our legislators on Capitol Hill.

On the last day of the summit, Joan and I met with Senator Patty Murray's administrative assistant as well as Congresswoman Jaime Huerrera Beutler's assistant. In both of these meetings, we discussed the new ESSA laws and shared information with them regarding our ELL programs and demographics in

Washington State. We also shared information about some of the latest educational bills and asked for their support.

As a result of these contacts and the information provided for us through the Summit, Joan and I will continue to communicate with our legislators and to advocate for our ELL students and programs throughout the state.