

Message from

# WAESOL President

By Dr. Caroline Payant

**Dear WAESOL community,**

Each year, language learners and language educators faced unexpected and complex situations. This year is no exception. Our language learners are experiencing greater difficulty in accessing resources to reside in our state to enjoy educational opportunities that we offer. Our language teachers are also experiencing uncertainty in keeping their teaching positions, renewing their work visas, and obtaining financial resources to receive professional development. Times like these require even more effort and dedication from those who are in a position to speak up and create learning opportunities. Despite this unnerving political climate, rest assured that we, at WAESOL, are working hard to encourage and support our language learners, their families, and you, their teachers. Our communities can only grow if the voices and rights of all learners are protected.

There are some specific activities that we are promoting that we hope will help protect our learners and their teachers' rights. To converse with our members of Congress, two dedicated board members will be attending the TESOL Advocacy and Policy Summit in DC this summer. Michelle Roth and Joan Johnston Nelson, our local board members, will be the voices of our learners who are facing complex linguistic and cultural challenges. It is our role and responsibility to stand up for others and pave the way for improved educational opportunities for internationals. They will share their experience in our second annual issue of the WAESOL Educator, stay tuned!

To grow professionally, WAESOL hosts an annual convention for current and future language educators. This annual event joins educators from the entire state of Washington and nearby communities. We see great value and importance in creating a physical space for us to share, revisit, and create pedagogical ideas/materials that are responsive to learners' needs. Our learners' needs are complex and conversations that unfold at this conference have long-lasting impacts. Be sure to visit our site to learn more about opportunities that can ensure your participation.

Finally, communication is of extreme importance and our working board has been working diligently on sharing what we all do. Under the leadership of Laura Soracco and her team, we are proud to share the first issue of the WAESOL Educator. This first issue represents the voices of authors from all walks of life. In reading this issue, we trust that you will gain new insights to revamp your own practices.

WAESOL is a growing community of dedicated and caring professionals. We understand that our learners, their families, and their teachers are facing a difficult time. We know that we have a great responsibility and we can assure you that we are committed to ensuring equal opportunities for our learners and to helping all learners feel supported and cared for while in the US.

*Thank you for being part of this wonderful community and happy readings!*

**Caroline**



Dedicated to the professional development of language teachers and to the dissemination of ideas and knowledge, Dr. Caroline Payant actively volunteers with various TESOL affiliates (WAESOL: 2012-present; TESOL Team Leader: 2017; Palouse Language and Culture Symposium: 2014-2017).

Her work on teacher training and multilingual acquisition can be found in journals such as TESOL Journal, Foreign Language Annals, TESL Canada, BC TEAL, Canadian Modern Language Review.