

# Letter from the President

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Greetings WAESOL friends,

This is a time of “change.” Teachers and learners are facing numerous challenges and choices in different areas. Increased access to language-learning technology, availability of free or low-cost domestic language-learning resources and programs, more and more linguistically diverse K-12 classrooms, uncertainties caused by shifting immigration policies, low enrollments and teacher lay-offs, and many other factors are contributing to this “change.” To overcome these challenges, many of us are being forced to re-evaluate our skills, capabilities, knowledge, and approaches.

Although change brings many challenges, this is also a time of hope. A time for us, teachers, to acknowledge the positive impact that our work can have on people’s lives. Teaching is a demanding job requiring commitment, passion, patience, and understanding. But, as the saying goes, hard work pays off. The nation recently recognized a hard working teacher for her significant achievements in educating immigrant and refugee students. Mandy Manning of Joel E. Ferris High School in Spokane, Washington received the “2018 National Teacher of the Year” recognition for her outstanding accomplishments as a teacher. This has inspired so many teachers and students throughout the nation and in our state. We are all proud of her and the work she does. Congratulations, Mandy!

The WAESOL Board is dedicated to providing the WAESOL community with opportunities for exploring new paths, unpacking one’s potential, sharing knowledge and experience, and interacting with peer educators. Along these lines, and in the light of the current changes, the Board has selected “Shifting Tides: Preparing for A Changing Tomorrow” as the theme of the 2018 WAESOL Conference which is being held on Saturday,

October 27th at Renton Technical College in Renton, Washington. We are now accepting proposals. Please consider submitting a proposal or registering for the WAESOL Conference to take advantage of this excellent professional development opportunity.

To promote professional development, conference participation, and acts of volunteerism, innovation, and creativity in teaching, each year WAESOL offers a number of scholarships, grants, and awards. It is always encouraging to know that the recipients of these grants and awards put the awarded funds to great use. In this issue of the *WAESOL Educator*, we are sharing a couple of reports by the winners of last year's grants and awards explaining how they spent the funds they received. We are delighted to see our small contributions make big changes. This year's "Call for Grants & Awards Nominations and Applications" will go out soon. Please check our website to see what WAESOL has to offer this year.

We would love to hear from you whether it is through Conference participation, contributing to the *WAESOL Educator*, or by posting a simple message on our Facebook or Twitter accounts. Sharing stories about our professional challenges and achievements is valuable and essential to our collective growth. Please stay in touch.

Lastly, I'd like to extend my gratitude to Dr. Martha Savage, 2017 Past President, for her years of voluntary service on the WAESOL Board of Directors, and to the following dedicated 2017 Board members for their exemplary contribution to WAESOL operations: Laura Soracco, Anikke Trier, and Eva Combs.

Special thanks to our hard working Publication Committee for spending months preparing this wonderful read.

Kind regards,

Nasrin Nazemi  
2018 WAESOL President