

Professional Development Grant

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Thank you, WAESOL, for the opportunity to attend the American Educational Research Association's (AERA) annual conference in New York City April 2018. It was an amazing experience! I attended multiple poster and round-table sessions during my time there. I attended one round-table session where the presenter shared an experience working with biology and chemistry departments at her secondary school to help English learners (EL) do better in those classrooms. Her difficulties reminded me of how I find more literature related to writing in chemistry than biology, and now I realize that there must be something inherent within the individual disciplines driving the difference. It helped affirm a suspicion that I have held since I began researching into the writing of ELs in biology courses that developing writing is less of a priority within that discipline. I attended a structured poster session where I had the chance to talk with another researcher doing similar work with lab reports at the secondary level with whom I hope to connect to develop future collaboration. I presented my own study at a round-table and responded to questions from the audience about how building science vocabulary benefits English learner reading comprehension and test performance. I also had the chance to meet with different publishers and was able to make a connection with a publisher representative with whom I needed to secure permission for use of an image published in one of their books for a journal article. Overall, my time at AERA was amazing and productive for my future career as I was able to network with people from all over the world interested in education. Thank you for this chance I would not have been able to afford the trip without the grant money.

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