

WAESOL Professional Development Grant Recipient Report

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As a doctoral candidate in the Language, Literacy, and Technology PhD program at Washington State University, I would like to applying to the WAESOL Professional Development grant to attend and present (two pending proposals acceptance) at the American Educational Research Association's (AERA) annual conference in April 2019 in Toronto, Canada. Attending AERA will give me a chance to network with scholars interested in researching ways to support English language learners (ELLs), especially in English public speaking (EPS).

As critical thinking, creativity, and most pertinent to our study, communication are major 21st century skills needed for success in education, life, and work, EPS, integrating multiple disciplines, including second language acquisition (SLA), linguistics, rhetoric, communication, and psychology, is increasingly important for ELLs/EFL learners for future careers. Having a better understanding of ELLs' EPS self-efficacy levels would inform a better pedagogical support in college ESL/ EFL curriculum, in terms of speaking, writing, and communication abilities.

My two AERA conference proposals this year focus on: a) model comparison for the bifactor versus second-order models to establish a better fitting ESP self-efficacy construct structure conceptualization, and b). the effect of individual differences and pedagogical implications on English public speaking self-efficacy development with college students, respectively.

Browsing AERA 2018 program, I noticed several sessions that

related to English speaking and ELs/EFL learners. Thus, I anticipate that attending AERA 2019 would give me a rare opportunity to meet colleagues within my field of inquiry to learn about their work, get feedback on my research agenda, and, possibly, lay foundations for future collaborations.

The grant money will cover the costs of AERA membership (\$55 graduate student), conference registration (\$95), and housing in Toronto for the 5-day conference. Budget priced hotel rooms in Toronto could potentially run between \$150 – 300 per night during the dates of the AERA conference (April 5 to 9, 2019). Attending AERA would allow me to network with other researchers to gain ideas and insights on how to better prepare for my future career as a researcher and educator. Having this grant will give me a greater chance of affording the conference and the chance to learn what other scholars are doing to support the ELLs' speaking abilities.

**To apply for the Professional Development Grant
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