

## Project Funding Grant Report from Leah Schubert

The 2018 WAESOL Project Funding Grant received by Leah Schubert on behalf of a faculty group at Cascadia College was used to help compensate faculty for conducting a research project and presenting its results at TESOL 2019 in Atlanta, Georgia. The title of the TESOL presentation was *To Stay or Not to Stay: Student Perspectives on Retention*, presented by Sofia Marshak, Jessica Weimer, and Leah Schubert. Stemming from a Faculty Learning Circle literature review on retention and student satisfaction in Intensive English Programs and for international students generally, the researchers sought to identify supports and barriers to student success and satisfaction. Using student focus groups, the researchers discovered common themes, including the importance of relationships, teacher practices, confidence, and basic adulting skills. The research project was also partly funded by Cascadia College professional development funds as a Community of Learning, Inquiry, and Practice.



*(left to right) Cascadia College faculty Leah Schubert, Sofia Marshak, Kristina Kellermann, and Jessica Weimer*