

# NMTESOL NEWSLETTER

New Mexico Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages

February 2016



## 2016 Annual Membership Meeting – With Special Guests!

The NMTESOL Annual Membership Meeting on January 30th, 2016, was an interesting departure from the usual membership business. In addition to announcing board of director election results and covering the goals of the organization for 2016, we had the opportunity to host for lunch an international



Bill and Ali at the NMTESOL Annual Luncheon

delegation of 17 visitors, sponsored by the U.S. State Department. These guests are touring the country via the International Visitors Leadership Program. As part of taking a closer look at how we handle second-language education for a variety of applications, from primary to post-secondary education and beyond to a variety of professional fields, they chose to visit with us.

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Whatever our philosophy of education or of life might be, knowing more can't be worthless. Any policy in any country which endorses monolingualism as a desired outcome of the educational process can't be very enlightened.

*- Ramon Santiago*

1982 NABE President

## Vision Statement

NMTESOL envisions bringing together and supporting English language educators throughout New Mexico, strengthening instruction for English language learners at all levels, and providing leadership and advocacy for both.

## Mission Statement

- To promote networking and collaboration among NMTESOL members and colleagues.
- To provide professional development opportunities for English language teachers, tutors, and administrators.
- To represent our teaching and learning community to policy makers and the general public.

## Board of Directors:

*Bill Ancker*

**President**

*Raina Cohn*

**Vice-President**

*Penny Mortier*

**Secretary**

*Dean Sundberg*

**Treasurer**

*Melanie Mullen*

**Web Coordinator**

*Ruth Cisneros*

**Newsletter Editor**

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# Event Reviews

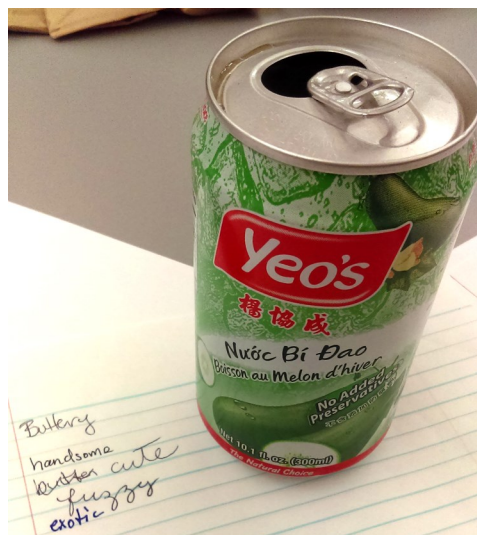
## DACC 15: NMTESOL Joins NMAEA At Doña Ana Community College



Dr. Barbara Damron, Cabinet Secretary of NM Higher Ed Department, giving her keynote address this morning. #dacc15 - @NMTESOL on Twitter

The joint effort of NMTESOL and NMAEA at the East Campus of the Dona Ana Community College yielded a weekend full of interesting sessions. The collaboration brought together teachers serving a variety of communities, and the sessions reflected the diversity. Las Cruces weather was slightly chilly but sunny, and the East Campus of DACC provided all the amenities needed, including the technology-assisted classroom needed particularly in the tech-related sessions. The conference began at the beautiful Hotel Encanto de Las Cruces on Thursday night, November 12th. The Welcome Reception allowed attendees to connect with each other over food and drink ahead of the sessions on Friday and Saturday.

Friday morning began with a keynote speech from Dr. Barbara Damron, the Cabinet Secretary of New Mexico Higher Education. Soon, attendees were signing in to sessions around the campus. One of the most remarked-on session was presented by Kathy St. John, who walked everyone in her sessions through a set of exercises intended to help learners write from their senses. We tasted, felt, and listened for our inspiration, with a focus on the use of adjectives, and associating writing with more than just putting words to paper. Kathy's session was so popular that it was reprised on the second day of the conference.



Kathy St. John's session, *Writing from the Senses*, explored unique ways to prompt writers to express themselves.



Rebecca Sherry and Penny Mortier presenting about I-BEST and getting a professional job in the us. #dacc15 - @NMTESOL on Twitter

On Saturday, the conference wrapped up after the last session at 2 PM, giving attendees the opportunity to get on the road back home long before the early sunset.

We look forward to another successful joint venture with NMAEA in the Fall of 2016, and we hope to see you there!



# Farewell

NMTESOL lost our Vice President Colin Large in the fall, but he moved on to bigger and better things. When informed that he was not selected to be the permanent director of the Center for English Language Programs (CELP) at New Mexico State University, he quickly got hired as the Associate Director of the Center for English Language and Orientation Programs (CELOP) at Boston University. In his own words, "I decided to go to Boston because Vanna let me buy another vowel."

Colin joined the NMTESOL Board after the annual membership meeting in January 2014. He made a number of trips from Las Cruces to Albuquerque for various NMTESOL events, including our spring workshops at CNM and various meetings. For his biggest contribution to the association, however, he could stay at home. Colin organized our first Roadshow Workshop at NMSU in May 2015 (see the Summer 2015 newsletter for more details). That was a particularly memorable event because 40 Ecuadorian teachers of English who were studying at NMSU then were able to attend the workshop too.

When leaving NMTESOL, Colin offered these thoughts to his New Mexican colleagues: "I would encourage the membership to get involved with the leadership of the association. In general, teachers have a difficult time assuming leadership roles – the field is to a certain degree an egalitarian field. However, it is really important that the members get involved. Without that involvement, it is very difficult to improve the field. One of the best avenues for professional development is through peer education. We all have something to learn from one another."

The Board and membership of NMTESOL wish Colin and his family the best in Boston!



Raina Cohn  
NMTESOL 2016 Vice President

*My name is Lorraine Cohn but I go by my nickname "Raina." I was born and raised in Albuquerque, NM. You can call me a late bloomer as I returned to college in my mid-30s. I have a daughter who struggled in school and it's because of her that I went back to school and became an educator.*

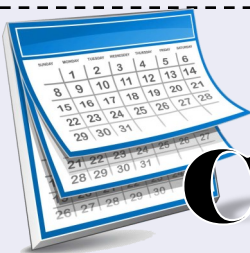
*In the summer of 2013, I received my TESOL endorsement through the University of New Mexico. I also trained to teach "Foundations" to my APS students. I taught ESL low-level learners while working in several elementary schools in APS. I have taught K, 1st, and 2nd grades and for 1 year I taught 8th grade social studies at Ernie Pyle Middle School.*

*I currently work at Youth Development Incorporated of New Mexico in the Youth Build Program. I teach between 22-25 students who are between the ages of 16-24. I have the students in the classroom with me for 6 months and in that time I work with them to complete their HSE credential. I love working with my students in my program. I currently have 20 students who have earned either their GED/HSE in the past 12 months since the program started in January 2015. The strategies I learned to work with 2nd language learners and students who are struggling learners have helped to make me a better educator whether working with elementary age or older students. I love to see the "light bulb" come on when they finally master a concept they were struggling with.*

*I didn't know about the NMTESOL association until I attend the conference in Las Cruces in 2015. I was so excited to attend the conference and meet other educators who had the same passion for teaching that I have.*

*In the role of Vice President, I want to help other educators throughout the state with workshops and to provide a network for those who live in rural New Mexico to have the same opportunity larger community members have. Our organization wants to stay connected to TESOL educators throughout the state of New Mexico. I want to help build a strong network through our newsletter, e-mails, and workshops to meet the needs of educators in our state.*

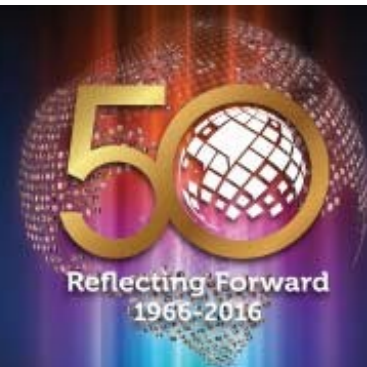
# and Hello



# SPRING 2016

## Calendar & Details

**TESOL 2016** International Convention  
& English Language Expo  
5-8 APRIL 2016 • BALTIMORE, MARYLAND, USA



Check out TESOL International's 2016 Convention Brochure [here](#). More information about this year's conference can be found at the [conference website](#).

### 2016: A Noteworthy Year for TESOL Around the World *By Bill Ancker*

2016 is a noteworthy year for TESOL International Association for 2 reasons. The first reason is that the association is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> birthday! It is auspicious for any organization or union to reach the golden anniversary, but the TESOL profession and the TESOL International Association must pause, because the second reason this is a noteworthy year is a sad one.

The person we could call the "father" of TESOL passed away without seeing the celebration. Dr. James E. Alatis died in February 2015. He led the association from 1966 to 1987 as it grew from 300 members in the USA to 12,000 worldwide, plus many thousands more members of national and regional affiliate associations. That is remarkable growth in numbers and geography! He provided inspiration and organization to acknowledge our efforts and pool our talents into an international network.

Did you know that New Mexico TESOL is one of those affiliates of TESOL International Association?

[Continued on page 5](#)

### UPCOMING

The 6th NMTESOL Spring Workshop is coming up in Alb.!

Keep an eye out for our emails with more information. You can also check out [NMTESOL.org](http://NMTESOL.org) for details on upcoming events.

IN APRIL

## Wanted:

We're looking for a host in an area of New Mexico where we have not held a conference or workshop before. We would like to hold a one-day workshop in the late spring. If you can provide a space for a regional meeting and would like to host NMTESOL, please email [info@nmtesol.org](mailto:info@nmtesol.org).

## Continued from page 1

The meeting took place in the event space at Sadie's of New Mexico on 4th Street in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Over the course of the luncheon, members had the opportunity to get to know our guests and reconnect with other members. After Bill formally called the lunch meeting to order, we participated in an ice-breaker activity which provided some general-knowledge facts about the state of New Mexico. If you'd like download the ice-breaker activity, you can find it on [NMTESOL.org](http://NMTESOL.org).

Having the honor of hosting these professionals from around the world works as the perfect endcap to the busiest year yet for NMTESOL. We hosted three events in 2015, the most that NMTESOL has in its existence. We are looking forward to keeping this momentum going in 2016. Our first event will be the Spring Workshop. Keep an eye on your email in the next few weeks for registration and call for presenters. We are also currently looking for the location for our next Roadshow. Because New Mexico is so big, we see as part of our responsibility to come to you, wherever you are.

Along with expanding our offerings across the physical state, we also want to open up new opportunities online. During the meeting, Bill and our latest addition as Membership Liason, Amy Wetterau Zhupikov, announced the New Mexico TESOL Online Journal. The goal is to offer a peer-reviewed publishing opportunity to students and professionals alike, and expand the sphere of influence in the field of language education.

Overall, our luncheon was a great success. We look forward to another great year of supporting you!

Check out more photos from the luncheon on [page 6](#).

### Have Roadshow, Will Travel

Do you want NMTESOL to hold a workshop in your town? We are currently looking for the site for our 2016 Roadshow. Last year we provided a day full of sessions at NMSU, and this year we want to come to you!

If you want to host our Roadshow, please let us know! Contact us at [info@nmtesol.org](mailto:info@nmtesol.org), with the subject 'Roadshow.'

See you on the road!



## Continued from page 4

To remind us of the leadership and contributions of Dr. James E. Alatis, TESOL International Association posted [this article about him](#).

When I worked in Washington DC at the US State Department, I had the privilege of interviewing Dr. Alatis for *English Teaching Forum* journal. The interview, originally published in 2004, is [available here](#).

It was reprinted in 2012, as part of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the *Forum*, with a new introduction. [Read it here](#).

### Submit Your News

Do you have news to share with the NMTESOL community? Send it in! We are currently accepting contributions relating to:

Events ♦ Professional development ♦ Job openings ♦ Scholarships ♦  
Photos of New Mexico to share in the newsletter

Submit stories or photos to [editor@nmtesol.org](mailto:editor@nmtesol.org). Include as much info as possible, a preferred contact method, and any related logos and/or images.



Photo by Ruth Cisneros



# 2016 Annual Membership Meeting Photo Album

Photos by Ruth Cisneros



President Bill Ancker opening the luncheon.



Web Coordinator Melanie Mullen with two members of the IVLP.



NMTESOL and IVLP members participating in an ice-breaker activity.



Cathy Varney sharing the story of Groundhog Day with the membership and our guests.



Membership liason Amy Wetterau Zhupikov and 2016 Vice President Raina Cohn.



Freddy Benjamin Sepulveda Tapia is our first member based in Bolivia! Thank you for joining NMTESOL.

Thanks for joining us!

Have a wonderful 2016!





Piedra Lisa Trailhead, February 2016. Photo by Ruth Cisneros

## Contact Us

We want to hear from you. We welcome your comments, questions, suggestions, and most of all, submissions!

For newsletter-related items, please email:

[Editor@nmtesol.org](mailto:Editor@nmtesol.org)

For memberships and organization-related enquiries, please email:

[Info@nmtesol.org](mailto:Info@nmtesol.org)

*Have you received our newsletter from one of our members and would like to join NMTESOL? [Click here for info.](#)*

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