



Vision:

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

Mission:

The mission of NMTESOL is to:

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

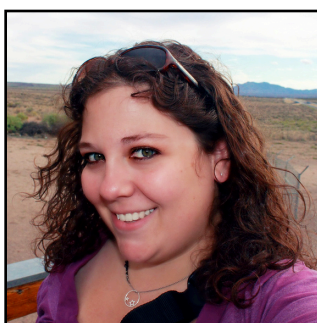
Email: nmtesol@gmail.com / Website: www.nmtesol.wordpress.com

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Board of Directors

- Bill Ancker, President
bill_ancker@yahoo.com
- Vice President, Aaron Combs
jcombs6@cnm.edu
- Carolyn Kaltenbach, Treasurer
carkal@hotmail.com
- Penny Mortier, Secretary
pmortier@cnm.edu
- Brian Shoner, Newsletter Editor
bshoner@gmail.com
- Melanie Mullen, Web Coordinator
mullenhead@gmail.com



What is your background in TESOL?

After roaming the country, working various jobs, and volunteering with many organizations, I

realized that teaching English to non-native speakers was a super fun way to earn my keep! I received my MA in TESOL/ Linguistics from the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee. While in Milwaukee, I worked with the university's pioneer ESL program, taught conversation and culture classes, volunteered tutoring refugees, and assisted native language literacy organizations.

I understand that you have studied other languages. How do you think learning other languages makes you a better teacher?

I've studied Spanish but my speaking skills are terrible. I learned Spanish in a formal classroom setting and while my reading and listening skills are effective, I didn't have many opportunities for authentic spoken

practice. There are times when I can easily understand someone but cannot communicate effectively and I feel frustrated. I see my students in similar situations. I try to provide many authentic opportunities for speaking practice.

I've also learned Japanese and Korean. I can't read a lick of Japanese though I can understand and communicate. Although my Japanese skills aren't complete, I'm glad for this experience because it helps me to understand my literacy students and the problems they face. From my experiences with language learning, I know how different teaching strategies helped form my overall language skills.

Why NMTESOL?

In Wisconsin, I was a member of WITESOL. Being part of their organization was a big benefit to me. When I moved to New Mexico, I searched for a similar organization. I have found NMTESOL to be a most amazing source for productive networking and professional development. As an admitted social media junkie, I am excited to help bring the association into the realm of social media and social networking as the Web Coordinator.

If you were having the "perfect" ESL lesson and we walked into your classroom, what would we see?

You would see students having fun interacting in various activities using many different skill sets. I'm known to be a little crazy with the types of activities I involve my students in. A "perfect" ESL lesson in my classroom would be far from dull!

What is your current position?

Currently, I am a part-time ESL instructor with Catholic Charities in Albuquerque. I enjoy all of my classes, especially the ESL and Computer Literacy class I am teaching this year. I can see how much my students are learning but I am learning even more. I also volunteer with ReadWest (a volunteer-based literacy organization in Rio Rancho) where I teach an ESL group class once a week. Also, I work with two Rio Rancho public schools by tutoring two students who are from China.



NMTESOL Spring 2012 Workshop

Saturday, April 14th 9:30am-12:30pm

Central New Mexico Community College

525 Buena Vista SE, Albuquerque

Max Salazar Building

Rooms 210 and 211

Additional details to follow.

Where Is She Now?



Follow former NMTESOL Vice President Amy Christensen's blog from Chengdu by clicking on the link below.


<http://amyinchengduchina.blogspot.com/>



Thank You Nancy!!!

The Board of Directors of NMTESOL would like to thank Nancy McKeand for her service to the association from May 2009 to December 2011. As a member of the

Board and our Web Coordinator, Nancy managed the association's electronic correspondence through the gmail account and created and maintained the blog. Her consistency in completing her responsibilities in a timely fashion make her very much appreciated, and we hope that her hard work brings her great opportunities in the future. You can keep up with Nancy at her personal blog "Random thoughts about teaching, technology, reading writing and anything else that interests me" at nmckeand.wordpress.com. (see the Board's thank you letter below)



Dear Nancy,

On behalf of all the members of NMTESOL, we want to thank you for your service to the association from May 2009 to December 2011. Your generous contribution of time and knowledge helped NMTESOL grow and reach more colleagues and attract new members around the state.

You helped move the association forward in several important ways. First, by agreeing to serve on the Board even though you lived outside the Albuquerque area, you were the impetus for switching to Skype for our monthly Board meetings and for our conference planning meetings with NMAEA. Also, by maintaining the blog and skillfully managing the gmail account, you kept the association visible and active even when we did not have many events scheduled. Despite your busy work schedule, family responsibilities, and other obligations, you've been our super reliable go-to person for NMTESOL correspondence and announcements. We'll miss you!

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to you for your dedication and hard work, and we wish you well in all your future endeavors.

Sincerely,

Bill Ancker, President

Aaron Combs, Vice President

Carolyn Kaltenbach, Treasurer

Penny Mortier, Secretary

Brian Shoner, Newsletter Editor

Melanie Mullen, Web Coordinator