



### 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](mailto:nmtesol@gmail.com) / Website: [www.nmtesol.org](http://www.nmtesol.org)

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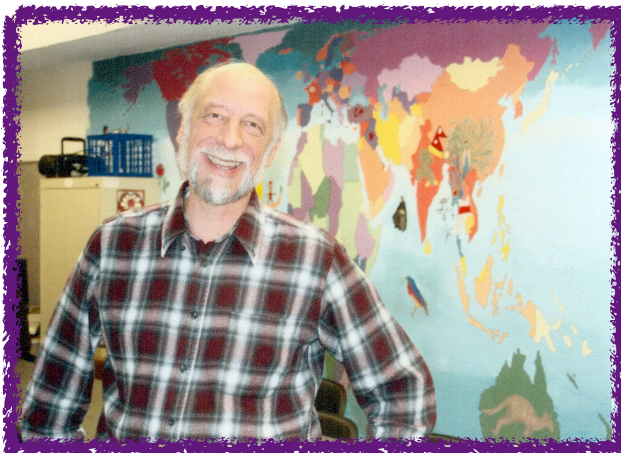
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### Contributions Welcome

If you or somebody you know would like to contribute an article to the newsletter, you can contact the editor at the following address.

[mullenhead@gmail.com](mailto:mullenhead@gmail.com)



*What is your background in TESOL?*

I actually came into ESL through the back door. In 1974, I graduated from California State University, Fullerton with a degree in Anthropology and Elementary Education. I had very little interest in English instruction, but a tremendous enthusiasm for ethnology and Navajo language and culture in particular. I began 18 years of teaching elementary school on the Navajo Nation in 1975. During this time, I strongly endorsed the value of Navajo language, culture and history in the classroom. As a result, I learned quite a bit of Navajo, and used it regularly in instruction. Concurrently, I began studying in the Navajo Bilingual Education Program, which included an English as a Second Language component, at Northern Arizona University. I received my master's degree in 1990 while studying in the doctorate program of Educational Linguistics at the University of New Mexico, Albuquerque. In 1994, dismayed with the slow erosion of traditional Navajo culture and language and disillusioned with the lack of progress in implementing bilingual education, I left the Navajo and teaching, worked on a book and eked out a living in the private sector in Phoenix and Albuquerque.

In 2005, I discovered that my training in ESL was more marketable than my training in Navajo bilingual education. I applied and was selected for an adjunct position as ESL Instructor at Pikes Peak Community College in Colorado Springs, where I had moved to be with Mom after Dad died in 2001. As many know, this is a particularly rough way to make a living, so after Mom passed away, I determined I'd return to Albuquerque and try my chances there. Miraculously and to my elation, I was hired as a full-time ESL instructor by Catholic Charities, where I teach now.

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

I think the first thing you'd see and hear would be something appearing close to utter chaos. Students would be milling about, all grins and laughter and energy, talking to each other in English, as well as native languages, while I would be milling about explaining, encouraging and guiding them to use the particular skills that I had introduced. Silence is deadly. It usually means your students haven't a clue what you expect them to do, or how to do it, and they are either perturbed or terrified.

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

I've studied Spanish and I've taken on Navajo. Spanish is comfortably familiar in its grammar, but I can tell you Navajo is vastly different from English or Spanish on every level. You can't help, while banging your head against the desk in desperation, to appreciate and sympathize with the struggles your students must have learning our seemingly impossible language. In addition, understanding the various ways that languages construct and express ideas forces you to see English in a more objective light. With these sensitivities, you can't help but be a better teacher.

*Why NMTESOL?*

It's always a pleasure to have the professional and social opportunity to share ideas and concerns with others in the profession. Frankly, in spite of the occasional extra work that being a member and treasurer of New Mexico TESOL brings, I've had fun and I look forward to seeing the organization grow and prosper.



Dear NMTESOL,

It has been a great pleasure working with all of you to improve our profession in our lovely land of enchantment. I am now leaving New Mexico to live in Nicaragua where I will be teaching English as a foreign language at the high school level as a Peace Corps volunteer. I am very proud to have served with this organization, and in my travels I will use my NMTESOL business cards to spread the word of our work and wonderful community, though I shall not continue as editor of our Newsletter. I hope to see you all again when I return.

Much professional love,

Brian Shoner, NMTESOL Newsletter Editor

# WANTED

NMTESOL Newsletter Editor

No Degree or Newsletter Experience Required

The Newsletter Editor is expected to produce 3 Newsletters per year (Fall, Winter and Spring)

If you are interested in contributing this service to our own non profit, please contact our president Bill Ancker at

[nmtesol@gmail.com](mailto:nmtesol@gmail.com).



# NMAEA + NMTESOL

## 2012 Conference

“Honoring our Past, Creating Our Future”

October 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>

Santa Fe, NM

New Mexico Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages  
and

New Mexico Adult Education Association  
invite you to our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual state conference!

Join us for 2 days of professional development for ESOL and Adult Education/GED instructors and educational support staff. Instructors, administrators, tutors, data technicians, and all other friends and colleagues are welcome.

The conference will begin the evening of Thursday, October 25<sup>th</sup> at the New Mexico History Museum on the Plaza in downtown Santa Fe with a reception and keynote by Dr. Frances Levine, director of the museum. Attendees will have the chance to “honor our past” with free access to the museum during portions of the reception.

The Friday portion will consist of three concurrent sessions, a second keynote, lunch, and opportunities for networking. These sessions and events will take place at Santa Fe Community College.

Conference registration is \$75 for attendees and \$25 for presenters. Included in the fee are a reception with a frito pie bar and admission to the museum on Thursday, and a continental breakfast and catered lunch on Friday. Conference registration includes membership in the cosponsoring associations NMAEA and NMTESOL.

This will be a great opportunity for professional development  
and networking at a modest fee. We hope you can join us!

Registration, Call for Presenters, and More Information:

[www.nmaea.net](http://www.nmaea.net) OR [www.nmtesol.org](http://www.nmtesol.org)

