

2019 Was a Great Year for NM TESOL

By Amy Christensen and Laura McIndoo

We want to thank all the members of NM TESOL who have helped to make this organization thrive again. Let's look at the numbers. We started the year with about 6 active members and we now have 75. At our spring workshop "*Love What You Do, Do What You Love*" we had 41 participants and 6 lively workshops. For our fall workshop "*Spotlight on Students*" the number of participants more than doubled to 91, and we had 24 action-packed workshops.

New Mexico now has a professional and comprehensive ESL Resource Center available for New Mexico educators and learning communities statewide. In a unique cooperative venture, private donors Catherine and Mac Lewis, NM TESOL and CNM (Central New Mexico Community College) have come together to establish the new **Professional ESL Resource Center (PERC)** on CNM's Montoya Campus. The PERC houses an extensive array of commercial and custom-developed ESL teaching materials, accumulated and created by the Lewises over more than a decade in support of Catherine's highly successful ESL work with English language learners.

Continued on p. 2



Laura McIndoo (left) and Amy Christensen, Co-Presidents of NM TESOL.

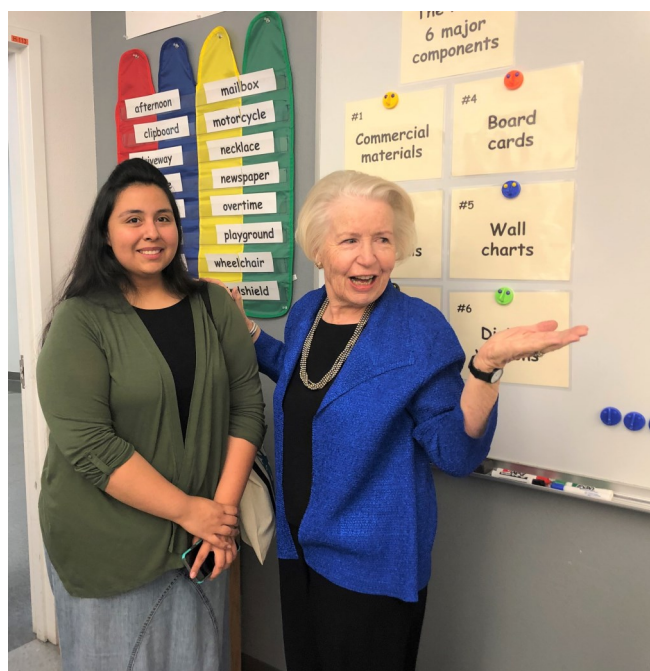
In this issue

2019 Was a Great Year for NM TESOL	p. 1-2
Highlights of the Fall Conference	p. 3-4
Join NM TESOL	p. 4
Welcome New Board Members	p. 5

The materials range from pre-K to adult and offer a broad variety of resources to help students learn, practice and improve their English skills. To check out items, merely fill out the Patron Lending Agreement available in the PERC. The hours of the PERC will be posted on our website: nmtesol.org. We are currently looking for a small cadre of volunteers who might be interested in helping us staff the PERC. If you have a couple of hours free once a month in the evenings or on Saturdays, we would love to train you to be an official PERC check-out volunteer.

Cheers to 2020!

Please remember: you are valued for what you do with our ESL population in New Mexico. Your influence on education is meaningful to many. Maybe Henry Adam says it best: "A teacher affects eternity; he [or she] can never tell where his influence stops."



Catherine Lewis (right) showing teaching materials in the PERC.



Attendees of the interactive presentation on *Dictogloss* by faculty from the Universidad Central del Ecuador.

Highlights of the 2019 NM TESOL Conference

The theme of the fall conference was **Spotlight on Students**. Over 90 conference attendees participated in 24 sessions during the two-day conference. The highlights of the conference included the Grand Opening of the Professional ESL Resource Center (PERC). Attendees had an opportunity to attend dynamic sessions and to network with fellow ESL practitioners around the state.

Therese (Terry) Toman, ESL Instructor (Central NM CC)

I thoroughly enjoyed attending the NM TESOL conference. I loved the Introduction to PERC session. It was fabulous. The presenter was very well prepared and included a participant scavenger hunt that definitely enhanced the participants' understanding of the location and use of materials. It was followed by two-minute presentations by each group of participants. Very enlightening and helpful. I also enjoyed the NMPED session and appreciate receiving the Instructional Framework booklet. My favorite *session* was the luncheon presentation by the students. The readings of their writings were phenomenal and really touched my heart. I also want to thank whoever was responsible for giving each of us the book of students' poetry. I will definitely treasure it.

Below are examples of the feedback received from attendees on the conference evaluation forms.

What I liked best was:

- ♦ Networking and talking with other educators;
- ♦ The variety of sessions,
- ♦ The engaging sessions;
- ♦ Small and friendly – everyone was approachable;
- ♦ The poetry reading;
- ♦ Being a student in the sessions that actually force us to take on that role and learn from it;
- ♦ Every session I attended was very high quality;
- ♦ Thank you for putting on this event!
- ♦ The presenters were so dynamic, and I got lots of ideas!
- Everything was amazing!
- ♦ The PERC is fantastic – I can't wait to use it!



The PERC houses a wide range of teaching resources available for checkout.



Attendees enjoyed access to 24 conference sessions.

Highlights of the 2019 NM TESOL Conference

Continued from p. 3

Dafyd Rawlings, ESL Program Coordinator (Santa Fe CC)

My favorite session at the NM TESOL conference was Amy Christensen's morning session ***You've got to Move It, Move it!*** It was quite useful in terms of showing how distinct language activities can be fun, artistic AND rigorous.

From Amy's session, I got even more ideas for how to keep a classroom lively, engaged, and in activated mode. She gave us several different exercises to use that I think are applicable to different proficiency levels and domain/skill practice.



Having fun: Dafyd Rawlings (left) and Sara Fry from Santa Fe CC

Thank you presenters and attendees for making the 2019 NM TESOL Conference a memorable event for all!



It's easy to become a member of NM TESOL!

Benefits of becoming a member:

- ♦ Professional development opportunities
- ♦ Online resources
- ♦ Networking events.

Complete the [NM TESOL Membership Application](#) and send it to us.

There are several options for paying: MasterCard, Visa, PayPal, or Check. See the form for more complete information. **Contact us at nmtesol@gmail.com**

Welcome New Board Members of NM TESOL

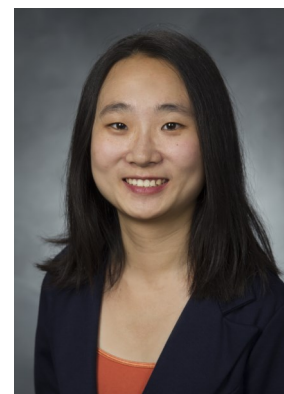
Julie Maestas Pierce, Membership Coordinator

Julie grew up near the Navajo reservation in the Four Corners area where her mom still lives. She is the mother of four grown children, and she has three adorable dogs. Julie loves traveling, spending time with my family, and being outdoors. Julie has worked with English language learners her entire career. Currently, she is the ELD coordinator at a Title I school in Rio Rancho. Julie recently completed her doctorate in organizational leadership; her research focused on English learners and the involvement of their parents. Teaching these students and supporting their families are her calling. She is also an adjunct professor at Grand Canyon University teaching ESL courses to beginning teachers. This is her 20th year of teaching and she feels blessed to do what she loves every day--work with English learners!



Judy Ma, Website Coordinator

Judy is a responsible, passionate professional with a master's degree in TESOL and three years of teaching experience at an Intensive English Program. She has served as Adult Ed Interest Session Co-Chair with I-TESOL and organized a mini-conference. She is also familiar with educational research methods and assessment, and her goal is to improve classroom practices based on research. Her service as Web Coordinator will benefit the NM TESOL community.



NM TESOL brings together and supports English language educators throughout New Mexico, strengthening instruction for English language learners at all levels, and providing leadership and advocacy for both.



The mission of NM TESOL is to:

- ♦ promote networking and collaboration among NM TESOL 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.

Keep in touch with us at <https://nmtesol.org/>
or follow the updates on the [NM TESOL Facebook page](#).