

# LETTER FROM THE PAST PRESIDENT



**DEAR WAESOL PROFESSIONALS,**

This past year certainly had its own share of challenges as we attempted to move past pandemic mode and into whatever this new landscape is. However, the positive vibes shared at the 2023 WAESOL Conference certainly provided reason to celebrate and be hopeful for the future of the organization.

One goal for this year was to increase membership and attendance at the conference as well as find ways to better serve the needs of the organization. We certainly met at least a need for community through the organization; what was also impressive is the number of submissions we received for both conference presentations and nominations for board membership. It is great to see more people seeking to be active in the workings of the organization, and I hope those who applied for either a presentation or office but didn't get the chance this year will submit again next year or at the 2024 Spokane Regional Conference. We need the variety of new and seasoned voices engaging in dialogue about the myriad topics relevant to the profession.

For those of you who are interested in getting more involved, I encourage you to inquire about possible committee membership. For example, if you are a social media guru, I encourage you to contact [me](#) or [another board member](#) to get involved in spreading the word about upcoming events,

initiatives, and opportunities. If you enjoy reading articles with a copy editor's eye, the WAESOL Educator most certainly needs readers and members to join the editorial committee. An initiative started during the pandemic that we want to revitalize is WAESOL Online, so if you have an interest in presenting workshops or know of someone who does or even just want to facilitate workshops, this is a crucial need for this coming year. There are so many opportunities to serve that are important and don't require an election to fill the roles. We also welcome your ideas for how to better meet the needs of our members whether via email or as part of a face-to-face conversation.

I look forward to another year of helping build both the organization and our profession as past president. Since this is a member-run organization, we need all of us to be involved in the process to succeed. I encourage you to reach out to any of the board members to share your ideas and interests. Let's continue progressing as an extended team of professionals.

My best to you all in this coming year.

Sincerely,

**DAVID R. MARTIN, PHD** (*he/him*)  
**2024 PAST-PRESIDENT**

5 Ways  
to Get  
Involved  
with  
WAESOL

