

Letter from the President

Dear WAESOL friends and family,

While the year 2020 brought many personal and professional challenges to students, teachers, and families across the nation and around the globe, WAESOL also experienced some successes and a number of firsts. To begin with, WAESOL launched its first ever series of online trainings via WAESOL Online in the spring of 2020. These professional development opportunities for teachers continued throughout the summer and fall as well, and were not only well attended, but also expanded the scope of our WAESOL family to include those outside the Northwest region. We are excited to announce that our [WAESOL Online](#) offerings will continue into the spring, starting in January with Using H5P to Develop Interactive, Language-rich Activities on January 16 and Designing Lessons and Working with Community Partners to Provide Meaningful STEM Experiences for English Learners on January 23.

Additionally, though we could not offer our annual conference in-person during the fall of 2020, we were able to offer the conference through an online platform for the first time. The conference format included not one but three excellent keynote speakers, a variety of sessions by individuals from around the nation, networking rooms for colleagues to meet and discuss, and even an online room to discuss curriculum and materials with vendors.

As we look toward 2021, our message is one of hope and encouragement to each of you. We are excited by the eager and willing work ethic of our 2021 WAESOL board, which includes a group of returning members as well as some new faces. We are also grateful for our membership and all of our WAESOL friends who continued to support us through a difficult year, and we invite each of you to embark on an exciting new journey of teaching and learning in the new year. We will continue to offer WAESOL Online sessions in the new year, and we look forward to seeing you at our next annual conference in October.

Wishing you an exciting and happy New Year

Naomi Hagen

Your 2021 WAESOL Board President

Naomi Hagen is a dedicated teaching professional with over 20 years of experience including teaching, administration, and teacher training, and she has served as a WAESOL board officer for the past five years. She holds an MATESL degree from Gonzaga University as well as teaching credentials in California and Washington with endorsements in Elementary Education, English, and English Language Development. She has worked with multilingual learners in the United States from pre-school to university, and her international teaching experience includes the Democratic Republic of Congo, Zambia, and Colombia. She currently works for Spokane Public Schools as the ELD, Title III, K-12 TOSA and adjuncts in the ESL endorsement programs at Whitworth and Gonzaga Universities. You can contact Naomi at naomi@waesol.org.

