



GREETINGS,

I hope this time in a new year finds you well and inspired as we continue our vital work in supporting English language learners and advancing equity in education. As the president of WAESOL, I want to take this opportunity to connect with the educators who dedicate their time and energy to empowering their students, often in the face of systemic challenges.

Our mission as educators goes beyond teaching English—it is about fostering connection, advocating for equity, and ensuring that every learner has the tools and confidence they need to succeed. As the 2025 President of WAESOL, I would like to share a reflection on our shared purpose and a call to action as we navigate the complexities of the current political and educational landscape.

As educators of language learners, every day you stand at the intersection of education, advocacy, and cultural exchange. You are not merely teaching vocabulary and grammar; you are equipping your students with the means to express themselves, connect with others, and pursue their goals. In doing so, you play a transformative role in the lives of countless individuals and their families.

The work of an English language educator is multifaceted. It requires not only instructional expertise but also deep empathy and cultural awareness. You often become advocates, addressing systemic barriers that your students face, from limited access to resources to navigating a new cultural context.

The current political climate has brought both challenges and opportunities to our profession. As issues related to immigration, equity in education, and multiculturalism come to the forefront, your role as a teacher extends beyond the classroom. You have the power to challenge stereotypes, promote understanding, and create inclusive environments where all students feel valued.

I encourage you to continue innovating in your teaching practices and advocating for your students. Explore ways to integrate culturally responsive pedagogy, embrace the diverse experiences your learners bring to the classroom, and stay informed about policies that impact their lives. Most importantly, remember to take care of yourselves. Your work is demanding, and your well-being is essential to sustaining the energy and compassion you bring to your students.

The broader context of our work cannot be ignored. The political landscape around immigration, education, and language policy directly impacts the lives of our students and the scope of our profession. As educators, we are uniquely positioned to advocate for policies that support equity, inclusion, and opportunity for all learners.

Advocacy begins with awareness. Stay informed about local, state, and national policies affecting education and immigration. Engage in conversations with policymakers and community leaders to ensure the needs of your students are understood and addressed. Support initiatives that increase funding for language programs, professional development for teachers, and equitable access to resources for all learners.

WAESOL is committed to being a platform for change. We are working to amplify the voices of educators, provide professional development opportunities, and collaborate with organizations that share our mission. Together, we can build a future where every learner has access to the resources and support they need to thrive.

As we move forward, I invite you to reflect on the values that guide our work. We share a belief in the transformative power of education and a commitment to fostering equity and inclusion. Whether you are teaching in a K–12 classroom, working with adult learners, or advocating for systemic change, your contributions are invaluable.

Let us continue to strengthen our community by learning from one another and sharing our stories. Participate in WAESOL events, take advantage of our professional development resources, contribute to our journal, *WAESOL Educator*, and connect with your peers. By working together, we can overcome challenges and create opportunities for growth and success.

As I move forward into a year as the President of WAESOL, I want to first, thank you for being an essential part of the WAESOL community, and to remind you that together, we are shaping a future where language is a bridge, not a barrier.

KELLI DAHMEN

2025 WAESOL PRESIDENT