

# LETTER FROM THE OUTGOING PRESIDENT

## Greetings,

*Ayni* is a Quechuan word for reciprocity meaning “Today for you, tomorrow for me.” *Ayni* is the depth that connects Andean indigenous cultures; it recognizes that everything in our world is connected. It’s about the circle of giving and the mutual exchange of humanity and our connection to our mother Earth; it is the language of our hearts. As we navigate the worlds in which we interact, at home, in our neighborhood, and in our classrooms, *ayni* gives us the foundation to center and remember to create or give from our hearts and reminds us why that matters. Throughout this past year, as an indigenous person whose roots are Inka Quechuan ancestry, my father having traveled here from Ayacucho, Peru and my mother’s family having immigrated here after generations of Scottish and English backgrounds, I’ve always felt this sense that what matters most is that we continue to connect with our hearts. My *mestiza*-ness takes me to various places and allows me to see life from different angles. As an ESL instructor, I try to interact in *ayni*: letting it drive how my teaching shapes our future language learners’ lives; it allows me to work in spaces of sharing and instructing to uplift others around me. I’m not perfect but my hope is we grow and embrace one another.

This past year in WAESOL has been a great one. We have had the good fortune to have a renowned author, presenter, teacher, and researcher, Deborah Short, come to our annual Conference to share her knowledge of language acquisition and foundational pedagogy to our TESOL field that teachers often reference as we make our lesson plans and work through curricula with our multilingual learners. We also learned more about how to successfully transition to the new K-12 WIDA curriculum from Tom Salsbury, Francene Watson, Jim Johnson, and Scott Anderson. Two speakers who were especially exciting and who we hope to hear more from in the future—Laura Lynn and Kayla Guyett from the Office of Public Instruction—helped us to understand more about the [Tribal Sovereignty Curriculum](#) available online that may be used in our classrooms. What a great variety of sources that we can take with us into our classrooms! WAESOL appreciates all those who presented, volunteered, and participated in our special day of teaching reciprocity.

The WAESOL Board also worked on our Land Acknowledgment this year, consulting with different leaders to better understand this complex issue, including that having a Land Acknowledgment is a necessary step towards greater recognition of the enduring relationship that exists between Indigenous Peoples and their traditional territories; it brings respect to our Native American communities and brings us back to a central reference that we can grow and learn from, integrating awareness and respect of the Native American community that through time and lack of education we may have forgotten. Land acknowledgments help us to relearn and rebuild while recognizing the inherent colonizing factors of the existing system.

I hope WAESOL continues to provide a multicultural platform that represents our many and varied communities and that benefits not only our educators, but also our students, creating opportunities for leadership and connection, *ayni*, for us all. I believe each year we strive for a world that connects us to one another, and that we teach in love to uplift and empower our students, and I thank you for your dedication and time spent being a part of that world.

*Many blessings,*

**Christina Mitma Momono**

*She/Her*

**2022 WAESOL President**



**CHRISTINA MITMA MOMONO** has been teaching at the Community Colleges of Spokane and Gonzaga University for 15 years working with international, immigrant, and refugee students. She is currently full time in the ABE ESL Division at Spokane Community College.

