

2023 TESOL ANNUAL REPORT

President's Letter

Dear Fellow TESOLers:

Looking back at 2023 on both personal and professional levels, I am struck by worldwide events that have continued to be unsettling and distressing; however, seeing what a global association such as TESOL can do — and what it has accomplished — fills me with hope. Beginning with all that TESOL International Association accomplished during its fiscal year 2023, which runs from 1 November 2022 to 31 October 2023, I cannot help but feel optimistic and have faith in what our advocacy-based association can accomplish for multilingual learners of English and everyone connected to their educators going forward.

When the year began, we were evaluating our decision to host TESOL 2024 in Florida, a U.S. state that has become infamous for enacting controversial legislation. I am proud of how the TESOL board of directors responded to these concerns after listening to and incorporating multiple voices; they came to a unified decision to keep the convention in Florida and to ensure that it meets both the professional and personal needs of its attendees and the advocacy mission of TESOL. One of the first deliverables from these conversations is the [white paper](#) on discrimination in education. I would like to thank [everyone](#) who contributed to writing this white paper and compiling the comprehensive list of references that accompanies it.

During the year, the board took on several other initiatives: a review of our communities of practice governance restructure, an examination of the language and terms we use within the association, and a review of our diversity, equity, inclusion, and access efforts. During our October meeting, the board received initial reports and recommendations from the groups responsible for each initiative and began considering our next steps. You will hear more about each of these efforts in 2024. I am grateful to everyone who participated in these efforts.

Another project I am proud to see completed is TESOL's new [research directions](#). Though technically released after this fiscal year ended, much of the work was done in this fiscal year, and I would be remiss if I didn't highlight this important work. I applaud the Research Professional Council's research directions [working group members](#) for their efforts.

The board also launched an [election review task force](#), charged with conducting an extensive review of TESOL's nominating and elections processes. The task force will make recommendations to the board in 2024,



including how TESOL can increase accessibility to TESOL leadership roles and diversify the leadership pipeline.

It has been a busy and satisfying year as your TESOL board president. I am proud to have served with [these dedicated individuals](#) on the TESOL board of directors this year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Shelley Taylor".

Shelley Taylor
TESOL President 2023-2024