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Photo Available

TESOL and National Geographic Learning Honor the
2025 TESOL Teacher of the Year

Alexandria, Va. (April 14, 2025) – TESOL International Association (TESOL) is pleased to announce Osman Solmaz as the recipient of the 2025 TESOL Teacher of the Year Award. The award, presented by National Geographic Learning, honors exceptional English language teaching at all levels. Solmaz was recognized in Long Beach, California, during the 2025 TESOL International Convention & Expo, March 18-21.

Osman Solmaz is an associate professor at Dicle University, Türkiye. A Fulbright alumnus, he earned his doctorate from the University of Arizona. Throughout his career, he has conducted professional development workshops worldwide, published extensively in respected academic journals, and made significant contributions to both local and global English language teaching initiatives. Beyond the classroom, he has served as vice dean at the Faculty of Education, focusing on student affairs, and currently heads the university's International Office, playing a key role in the institution's internationalization efforts.

As an example of Solmaz's innovative teaching, he introduced in his undergraduate course, Literature and Language Teaching, a project based on fictional linguistic landscapes. Inspired by Frank Herbert's Dune series, Solmaz created tasks for his students to engage with the fictional linguistic landscapes of the "Duniverse" (reference to the Dune movies). Students created fictional street signs, designed tattoos for characters, reimagined song lyrics, curated social media profiles, and developed lesson plans for English

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language classrooms—all centered around the world of Dune. His forthcoming monograph, "Fictional Linguistic Landscapes: Merging Fan Practices and Linguistic Landscapes for Language Classrooms," will be published later this year.

"I am deeply honored and humbly grateful to be named the TESOL Teacher of the Year. I share this recognition with my students, who teach me as much as I teach them, and with my own teachers, as well as the global community of educators who inspire us to keep learning and pushing the boundaries of language teaching," said Solmaz.

As recipient of the TESOL Teacher of the Year Award, Solmaz receives a one-year membership in TESOL International Association, a selection of TESOL publications, a complimentary registration for the 2025 TESOL International Convention & Expo, and a cash award of $1,000. The Teacher of the Year award recipient is also offered a session as an invited speaker at the TESOL convention; the title of Solmaz's session was "Developing Social Media Literacies Through Multiliteracies in ELT."

About TESOL International Association

TESOL International Association is the trusted global community for knowledge and expertise in English language teaching. TESOL advances the professional expertise in English language teaching to speakers of other languages in multilingual contexts worldwide through professional learning, research, standards, and advocacy. In principle and in practice, TESOL values professionalism, respect, integrity, and lifelong learning and seeks diverse and inclusive participation within the field of English language teaching. TESOL promotes equitable representation, engagement, and broad access to professional opportunities for all and works to eliminate any kind of discrimination. TESOL is a professional community of more than 8,000 English language professionals representing more than 100 countries. For more information, please visit www.tesol.org.

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