



# Perspectives

Sunshine State TESOL of Florida  
Newsletter

Issue 11 January-February 2021 Dr. Arlene Costello, President



## Happy Valentine's Day: February 14

Love is in the air.

SSTESOL loves its members and this day of Love.

You'll love the resources and articles in this issue. **Check them out.**



### Breaking News

#### Meet Dr. Miguel Cardona: Was an English Learner and now, a Nominee for U.S. Secretary of Education

Dr. Cardona's profile as an English Learner (EL) who mastered the English language and went on to earn his Master's in Bilingual Bicultural Education and a Doctorate Degree in Educational Leadership at the University of Connecticut has earned him the admiration of educators. Dr. Cardona was a 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, principal, superintendent, professor, and Connecticut Commissioner of Education. Soon, he is slated to be the nation's leader in education where his focus has always been to ensure that each child reaches his or her own full potential. He strongly promotes support for native language or first language while learning a new language.

## The First Virtual Advocacy and Policy Education Training Series -

**December 12, 19, 2020 and January 9, 2021**

Visit the Advocacy tab for more news and information on Advocacy tools and resources. <https://sunshinestatetesol.wildapricot.org/page-1075506>



### What Advocacy Training Participants Said About the Advocacy Training Series

\*\*\*\*\*

"Although I have been involved with PBTESOL and participate in many community activities for my ELs, I did

## A CALL FOR LEADERSHIP AND MEMBER INVOLVEMENT



**Contributors to Perspectives, SSTESOL's Newsletter.** The SSTESOL Board would like to provide an opportunity to showcase you and your work in your own contexts because your voice matters. We are seeking your contributions to share with TESOL professionals of all levels from around the state in order to enhance our field. We would like to learn from your successes and challenges. We would love to hear from you. Therefore, consider submitting an article for the next issue of Perspectives, SSTESOL newsletter. If you have questions, please send an email to [ssstesol@gmail.org](mailto:ssstesol@gmail.org).

**SSTESOL Professional Development Committee.** Would you like to help shape and implement SSTESOL's Professional Development Plan for teachers of English Learners and other personnel in the state of Florida for 2021? If training development, design and delivery is your expertise, then, we need you! Please send an email indicating your interest in this leadership opportunity to SSTESOL President at [ssstesol@gmail.org](mailto:ssstesol@gmail.org). Please include your name, email address, and describe your involvement in TESOL activities. The PD Committee welcomes members who are willing to contribute to the efforts of the SSTESOL in providing assistance to the TESOL community in Florida.

---

**Featured ESOL Student**  
Johanna Naranjo  
Teacher: Ms. Joan Hazzard, ESOL  
Levels 6 & 7  
Palm Beach County, FL

not really know how to go about advocating for them. Well, today I learned how to do that. So, because I have gained this knowledge, I must now do something with it. "

"I learned the steps to start an advocacy process in my district. I also discovered that Susan Valdez (FL Representative) and Annette Taddeo (FL Senator) have advocated for issues affecting English learners in our state. I am now aware that sometimes there is no need to create new policies when the current ones can be amended."

Training was relevant to most respondents' needs. Training met ALL expectations. Improvement suggestions:: Not enough time to discuss. Too many things to do in 1.5 hours

On the quality of presenters, Presenters were highly rated 10 with 10 being the highest. Respondents would absolutely recommend the training to their colleagues

---

## SSTESOL Upcoming Events

**February 6, 2021 from 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM**

**First Annual Virtual; Conference Emerald Coast TESOL**

Theme: TESOL in a Virtual World  
Guest speakers including Dr. Kim LeDuff from the University of West Florida, Dr. Tim Smith from Escambia County School District, and Dr. Marshall who is a nationally renowned speaker and author. For more information, please contact Dr. Amany Habib, ECTESOL President, at [ahabib@uwf.edu](mailto:ahabib@uwf.edu).

**February 20, 2021 @ 3:00-4:00 PM EST**

**Quarterly Live Conversation with Local SSTESOL Chapter Presidents**



Oh my Hope  
by JOHANNA NARANJO

You are gone, you have abandoned me  
I feel uncertain because you are no  
longer with me  
It will be guilty of the poverty of  
love  
That invades the hearts of those  
hungry to subdue.  
Are moments of inequality,  
but I have to look for you  
Oh, what a sadness overwhelms me,  
but I have to find you  
This hate in the air is devastating  
me  
I can't breathe  
Oh, mother, I see you smile at me  
Feed my spirit to continue my search  
I hear heartbreaking screams  
The cry of the people for justice and  
peace  
Oh, mother, I think it's one of  
my dreams  
But it's scary there.  
In the middle of broken glasses,  
protests, and fear of getting sick  
Oh there you are  
Thanks, unity  
To preserve my hope.  
Oh my hope doesn't go away from me  
I beg you to come back to me  
I'll promise not to let you go  
Without you  
Oh! my hope  
it's impossible to live  
you bring out the better of me.

Contributed by: Pamela Jo Wilson  
Palm Beach TESOL Chapter

and SSTESOL of Florida President

The purpose of this quarterly live conversation with local chapter Presidents is to brainstorm on ways to support and strengthen local chapters and work together to achieve 90% of our goals in professional development, membership development, and advocacy as well as ways to provide support of socio-emotional, physical and mental health needs of majority of educators of English Learners in this extraordinary time.

**February 25, 2021 @ 6:30-8:00 PM EST**

**An Inspiring and Informative Panel Discussion of District ESOL Directors (Virtual and Free) Hosted by: Bay Area Regional TESOL (BART)**

Date: Thursday, February 25, 2021 at 6:30-7:30 PM on ZOOM followed by attendee Q&A and social time until 8:00 PM

Contributed by: Dr. Lillien Tunceren, Interim BART President

BART will host a panel discussion on Zoom with ESOL Directors from Pinellas, Hillsborough and Manatee Counties. Dr. Tony Erben at the University of Tampa will serve as moderator. This event is free but you are encouraged to become a BART and SSTESOL of Florida member. Details and link to register will be forthcoming. For questions, please contact BART Interim President, Dr. Li-Lee Tunceren at [Tunceren.lillien@spcollege.edu](mailto:Tunceren.lillien@spcollege.edu).

**SWFL TESOL Third Annual Conference**

**April 17, 2021 from 9:00 am - 2:00 pm.**

**Sign-in and welcome will begin at 8:30 – 9:00 am.**

Invited speakers include Carol Salva, Matt Miller, David Cutler and Dr. Arlene

**ACCESS FOR ELs 2.0 - Testing window has been extended until May 28, 2021**  
**Annual English language proficiency test**

In a letter from Jason Oliva of the Florida Department of Education Chancellor for Public Schools, it was emphasized that FLDOE highly recommends that all ELL students participate in the ACCESS test. According to Mr. Jacob Oliva, **“Even so, the decision to participate ultimately rests with the parents of guardians. FLDOE will fully respect the decisions that families make should they choose not to send their children to take this assessment.”**

**YOUR PART**

Please inform parents of ELs and other educators who may not know of the choice that is available to parents of ELs during this time of health uncertainty. For more information regarding the ACCESS for ELs assessments, please advise parents of ELs to call their ESOL teacher. **Thank you for doing your part and for being an advocate for ELs and their families.** For a full copy of the Chancellor for Public Education letter, please click here. <https://sunshinestatetesol.wildapricot.org/page-107546>

\*\*\*\*\*

con't....Resources

**Lunar New Year**  
**Level: Intermediate**

On February 12<sup>th</sup>, Chinese nationals will celebrate the Year of the Ox. ESL Library has published brand new lessons for you here to teach intermediate EL students, including Chinese Zodiac and idiomatic expressions [View Lesson...](#)

**Valentine's Day**

Costello  
Raffles and prizes await conference participants. For more information, please visit <https://sites.google.com/view/southwestfloridatesol/conferences/conference-2021?authuser=0>.



**Curriculum Resources for February from SSTESOL's Partner in Education, the ESL Library**

Because of your membership to SSTESOL of Florida, the ESL Library, SSTESOL's Partner in Education, offers enrichment and supplementary instructional resources in [Holidays](#) and [Historic Events](#).. You may click here for their full list of their activities for February. [Lesson Plan Calendar](#). To request your two-month complimentary subscription, please email [sstesol.org](mailto:sstesol.org) and ask for the login code.

**Black History Month**

The theme for this year's Black History Month is The Black Family: Representation, Identity and Diversity. Find teaching resources for the Story of Black History Month in the [Holidays](#) and [Historic Events](#) and in [View Lesson...](#) Have fun browsing

**Waitangi Day**  
**Level: Intermediate**

Learn another culture, especially indigenous cultures, the Waitangi Day. This is a New Zealand holiday that is celebrated on February 6<sup>th</sup>. With multiple vocabulary reviews,

## Level: Beginner

February is full of fun holidays.

February 14, Love will fill the air on Valentine's Day. Teach beginning English Learners vocabulary words, or use Discussion Starters to teach Speaking for English Learners. You may view the entire collection here [collection](#). For more. [View Lesson...](#)

comprehension and digital tasks, it will be interesting to view the lessons here.

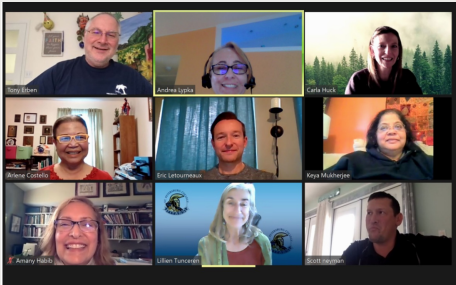
[View Lesson...](#)

## Mardi Gras

### Level: Low and High Intermediate

Despite the pandemic, ELs can still enjoy Mardi Gras on February 16<sup>th</sup> through poetry and writing lessons that are applicable to [low-intermediate](#) levels.

## A Message from the SSTESOL Board



### Leading and Moving Forward Together 2021: SSTESOL Board at Work for You!

It's 2021 – the beginning of a new decade. Just as you were engaged in teacher planning and professional learning for the second or spring semester, each year in January, the SSTESOL Board also holds its annual retreat. As unique as it was last year, 2020, and due to the continuous health and safety threat of COVID 19, Zoom was more than pleased to host the first SSTESOL virtual Board Retreat on January

30, 2021 from 1:00-5:00 pm EST. Lunch was on our own, traffic was light, and it was a short commute. (To be continued in the next issue.) Meantime, please visit these sites. For more information on the 2020-2021 President's report, please access it here <https://sunshinestatetesol.wildapricot.org/page-1075394>

You'll find the SSTESOL's Professional Development Plan here:

<https://sunshinestatetesol.wildapricot.org/Professional-Learning>

