



# Perspectives

Sunshine State TESOL of Florida  
Newsletter

Issue 15 August/September 2021

Dr. Arlene Costello, President; Ms. Carla Huck, Newsletter team

Join Us! SITESOL is proud to present:



To register, please click the link below.

<https://tinyurl.com/ja5s37t7>

**COUNTDOWN: LESS THAN 60 DAYS  
TO SITESOL OF FLORIDA'S  
FIRST EVER HYBRID  
ANNUAL STATE CONFERENCE!  
OCTOBER 28 – 30, 2021**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT**  
<https://tinyurl.com/4bspdk54>

**SITESOL Features the Following Events!**

#### **SITESOL Gets Social**

**Friday, October 29, 2021 at 8:30 am and 5:30 pm**  
Welcome/Awards Ceremony/Hors d'oeuvres  
**Featured Speaker:** Chane Eplin, FLDOE SALA  
**Guest Speaker at the Awards Ceremony:**  
Addison Davis, Hillsborough Supt. of Schools

#### **SITESOL Showcases the Profession In-person and Virtual Presentations 8:30am-4:00pm**

**Friday, October 29<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, October 30<sup>th</sup>**  
**Keynote Speaker for Saturday, October 30<sup>th</sup>:**  
Grazie Maria Mendoza Chirinos, Education Specialist  
for the US Government at USAID Honduras, former  
President of Honduras TESOL, and TESOL International  
Board Member

#### **Break-out strands**

K-12 ESOL, Technology, Teacher Education, Adult  
Education, Dual Language, Advocacy, IEP/EAP, EFL

**Register Now and Make Plans to Attend the 2021 First Ever  
SITESOL Hybrid State Conference.**

Mark your calendars for these various important dates to remember.

Submission of awards, recognitions and scholarship applications ends on  
September 15th. To apply, follow this link:

<https://sunshinestatetesol.wildapricot.org/Programs>

Early bird registration closes on September.30th.

To register <https://tinyurl.com/ja5s37t7>.

Reserve your hotel room at the Westshore Grand Hotel in Tampa, FL.  
<https://sunshinestatetesol.wildapricot.org/Hotel>  
Special discounted rates are available for conference attendees only until  
September 28th.

Rest assured the safety of our SSTESOL members and the whole Florida ESOL community is our first priority. We are already working with the conference hotel to organize good social distancing and hygiene practices.

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## **You Don't Want to Miss SSTESOL's Conference Speakers. We hope to see you at the conference site at the Westshore Grand Hotel, Tampa, FL.**

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Keynote Speaker  
Saturday, October 30, 2021

### **Grazzia Maria Mendoza, M.Ed.,M.A.**

Grazzia Maria Mendoza is a TESOL International Association Board Member where she serves as Chair Finance Committee Member. She is the founder, former President, and current advisor for HELTA Honduras TESOL. She was also former President of Regional TESOL Group for CA & CB now Latin America and Caribbean TESOL At present, she is an education



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**Featured Speakers**  
**Friday, October 29, 2021**

**Chane Eplin**  
**(top photo)**

Chane Eplin has served Florida's English Learners for over three decades as a teacher, administrator, professor, consultant, tutor and friend. He currently serves as Bureau Chief in the Florida Department of Education, Bureau of Student Achievement through Language Acquisition where his goal is to make a difference in the lives of Florida's ELLs and their families. He believes that if teachers provide the appropriate education and tools to ELLs, they will increase both their language skills and their academic achievement in content areas.

**Addison Davis**  
**(bottom photo)**  
**Guest Speaker**

**Awards Program and Reception**

Addison Davis is the Superintendent of Schools for Hillsborough County Public Schools where he took office in March 2020. He believes in putting students' best interests at the heart of all decision-making, goal-based management, and building a school system that embraces the entire community. Addison Davis was born and raised in northeast Florida and has a master's degree in Educational Leadership from Jacksonville University. He and his lovely wife Natalie have two daughters, Madisyn and Kaitlyn.

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**SSTESOL President's Interview  
with Edwidge Bryant, Ph.D.  
Member-At-Large 2021-2023  
at the SSTESOL's Induction of  
New Member-At-Large**

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Dr. Arlene Costello:  
What are your hopes and aspirations for the organization?

Dr. Edwidge Bryant:  
My hopes and aspirations for SSTESOL are to include as a possible

specialist for the US Government at USAID Honduras supporting the Honduran Ministry of Education in the development of quality of education programs, education in crisis and conflict and continuous professional development.

**Featured SSTESOL Chapter**

**Congratulations, Central  
Florida (CF)TESOL**

By: Robyn Socha, Acting CFTESOL President, and Dr. Arlene Costello, SSPCF)TESOL Chapter launched its virtual reorganization meeting on August 4, 2021 after a few years of dormancy. Through the efforts of the new acting President, Robyn Socha, a new set of extraordinary Board members representing different higher education institutions and the public schools in Orange County, Florida was formed. The new members of the Board are immensely excited, enthusiastic and are looking forward to serve the community and this professional organization. They are eager to provide leadership in the areas of leadership, equity, relationships between K12 and higher education institutions, collaboration with K12 educators, and offer expertise in English language teaching and learning. CFTESOL and SSTESOL proudly announce the acting CFTESOL Board members:

Robyn Socha – acting president Full Sail University

Carol Davila – acting vice president University of Central Florida

Nissa Hopkins – acting secretary, Valencia College

Jaqueline Gomez – acting treasurer representing k-12

Tess Mattingly – acting social media, Seminole State College

Denise Hernandez – Website Designer, Full Sail University

goal for this coming year, a focus on the progress of English learners in the State of Florida. A major study needs to be conducted to inform the members of the successes or lack thereof of our English learners in acquiring the skills of reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Such information will allow us to identify districts and schools in need of assistance and/or resources. Additionally, such data would determine if our ESOL teaching training programs must be revised/reformed to better meet the needs of our English learners/emergent bilinguals.

In addition to the above, I have selected two areas of focus: transformative education and translanguaging. To engage in transformative education means to develop students' curiosity, creativity, and to allow them to question. This process of inquiry ignites a sense of empowerment in students that allows them to feel fully engaged in the world. However, to be fully engaged, requires the ability to think critically in one's native language or in a language(s) chosen by an individual.

Translanguaging celebrates the linguistic repertoire that all students bring to the classroom by describing language as a rich resource that provides access to various ways of thinking and reading the world.

Dr. Arlene Costello:

What can SSTESOL do to help you realize your expectations?

Dr. Edwidge Bryant:

I hope that SSTESOL can take a leadership role in assisting teachers to create language rich classrooms that encourage the use of many different languages with a focus on deep critical thinking and inquiry.

Currently, CFTESOL Board members are engaged in writing a new Constitution and By Laws and launching its website and social media. More information on their plans for 2021-2022 will be forthcoming.



## Program and Curriculum Resources

### Teaching tools and resources from ESL Library: flashcards

The ESL Library, SSTESOL's Partner in Education, features 3,000 flash cards designed for English language teachers (ELTs). ESL Library's flashcards are effective teaching and learning tools with colorful and clear images to teach and elicit vocabulary and grammar concepts. To download and print the flashcards you need for your class, visit this site,

**[https://esllibrary.com/flashcard\\_genres/5/flashcard\\_categories/64](https://esllibrary.com/flashcard_genres/5/flashcard_categories/64)**.

You may also find a list of multicultural and global holidays for September that are full of relevant content. For example, September is the start of Hispanic Heritage Month. September 8<sup>th</sup> is International Literacy Day and on September 12<sup>th</sup>, we celebrate Grandparents Day in the U.S. For a full list of fun and academic curriculum resources, visit ESL Library **Lesson Plan Calendar**

Remember, one of your SSTESOL's member benefits is a two-month



complimentary membership to ESL Library. Contact [sstesol@gmail.com](mailto:sstesol@gmail.com) and ask for the special code to access your ESL Library membership.

## Make a Positive Impact at SSTESOL Awards, Recognitions, and Scholarship Programs: Donate



Dear SSTESOL members and colleagues in TESOL,

Greetings!

As we begin the Fall season and look forward to reconnect with SSTESOL community, we are filled

with pride and appreciation for your support again as a donor or sponsor in order to continue our efforts in supporting educators who provide quality education to English learners and their families.

As we are recovering slowly from the pandemic, SSTESOL is doing everything possible to continue launching programs and initiatives that promote and support leadership and advocacy in language policy issues and access to professional development, research and practice. The ultimate goal is the success of English learners and ESOL programs. With your donation, we could continue to support the:

- Scholarship Programs
- Teacher Project Mini Grants, Conference Grants, and Outstanding ESOL Educator and Institution recognition programs

To contribute, go to <https://sunshinestatetesol.wildapricot.org/Donate> and follow the prompt. You will receive a receipt for your tax-deductible contribution immediately. Make sure you follow Sunshine State TESOL's activities on Facebook and "like" our posts. Thank you for your continued support to enrich education and opportunities for educators K12 and beyond! Your response will be appreciated.

Kind regards,

*Firoza Rasul*

Chair, SSTESOL Donors and Sponsors Committee

Members: Christine Baucum and Arlene Costello

Contact SSTESOL at [sstesol@gmail.com](mailto:sstesol@gmail.com). Follow and like us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/ssstesol.florida>



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*Thank You*

