

Letter from 44th Annual Conference Chair

Dear members of NYS TESOL,

This year's Conference theme was "Empowering ELLs: Equity, Engagement, Enrichment." And what a perfect place to get inspired to empower our students—at the 44th Annual NYS TESOL Conference! We joined to share research and creative lesson plans, to network, and to share our experiences so we could return to the classroom to better engage and enrich our students.

The Conference was the result of months of preparation by many generous volunteers. We appreciate and thank them for their time and dedication. Thank you, too, to our terrific presenters. We were proud to have over 140 concurrent sessions this year. New to our program were virtual presentations, which were posted on the NYS TESOL website during the Conference weekend.

We were honored to have four outstanding plenary speakers: Angelica Infante, associate commissioner for bilingual education and foreign language studies at NYS Education Department; Dr. Helaine W. Marshall, director of language education programs and associate professor of education, Long Island University-Hudson; Connie Perdreau, director of Haggerty English Language at SUNY New Paltz and past president of NAESA: Association of International Educators; and Dr. Carol Numrich, senior lecturer at Columbia University and textbook author.

Finally, special appreciation to all who attended. We came from different locations and we have varying roles in TESOL, but we all share the common purpose of empowering our students with the gift of language.

I sincerely thank you all for a successful conference, and look forward to seeing you in White Plains in 2015!

Yours,
Sarah E. Elia
Chair, 44th Annual NYS TESOL Conference