

## President's Letter Winter 2013/2014

December 16, 2013

Dear NYS TESOL Members, Colleagues, and Friends:

As I begin another term as president, I reflect back on some substantial changes NYS TESOL has experienced over the past two years. Most recently, our wonderful 2013 Annual Fall Conference broke its highest number of registrants! I just re-read my Fall 2013 letter and realize that all the changes I had written about are happening, or have already happened, as I write this letter now. Change is not easy, either on the personal or the organizational level. Yet, change is the only constant, the one thing that we can count on. Once we accept that change will happen, we are more likely to embrace it and seek out the positive offerings it has.

Another change I point out is that you are reading our first-ever online newsletter comprising both *Idiom* and *Dialogue*. No more paper, as we move into the 21st century. Very soon, you will see our new website, which updates the NYS TESOL look, giving us a much-needed "make-over." This year's election used an online-only ballot, and we had more members vote than ever before! The first issue of the *NYS TESOL Journal*, our first ever peer-reviewed journal, was launched online on January 1st, 2014. So, change has been a constant these past few years.

I am humbled and proud to say that I have had multiple opportunities to meet in person with Angelica Infante-Green, our new associate commissioner of the NYSED OBE, and am excited to represent NYS TESOL in the initiatives and conversations at the NYSED level. Angelica is a woman of her word, approachable, and ready to make a difference for ELLs across the state. She is a true leader who listens with intent and is unusually honest for someone at her level of leadership.

**Communication** remains my first and foremost goal this year as president. The same letters in the word *silent* are in the word *listen*. We must be silent so we may listen to others' voices. My second goal is **Advocacy** for our ELLs, their families, teachers, teacher-trainers, and the programs that support them to reach the necessary levels of college and career readiness. This leads into my third goal, which is **Collaboration**. For our voices to be heard, we must communicate and collaborate with members, non-members, legislators, administrators, and other professional organizations. My fourth goal is **Membership Growth**, because if every individual concerned with the education of New York State's ELLs joined NYS TESOL, we would be that much more powerful. Finally, my fifth goal is sharing a **Common Mission** that all our members can easily state and in turn share with others.

As the final weeks of this semester approach, I extend heartfelt thanks for all you do every day for our ELLs and their families. May 2014 promise to be a year of increased collaboration, shared alliances, and greater trust amongst all stakeholders. My very warm wishes to all of you and your families for a wonderful holiday season and a healthy, happy and peaceful New Year.

Yours in NYS TESOL,  
Susanne Marcus