

TEXTBOOKS PURCHASED FOR ALL C<sub>3</sub> STUDENTS FOR THEIR FIRST FOUR GRANT CLASSES




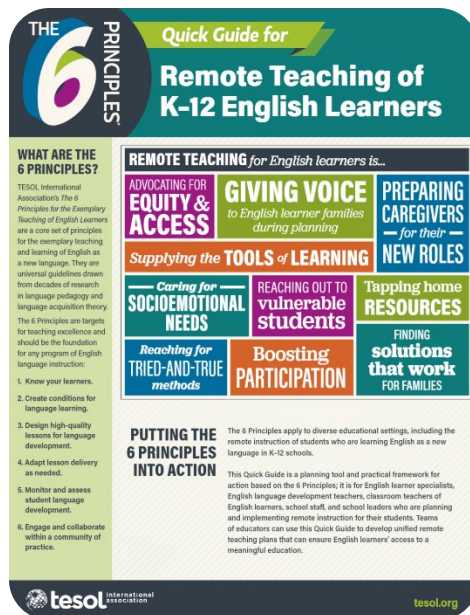
SEPTEMBER 2020

Welcome to our new iELT-Ozarks Project newsletter. We publish a newsletter twice annually. Here you can find updates on our program and learn what is happening with the students, faculty, and staff at Missouri State University.

**OELA**  
Office of English Language Acquisition

The iELT-Ozarks Project is a National Professional Development (NPD) grant funded by the U.S. Department of Education Office of English Language Acquisition (OELA).

 Be our Facebook friend to stay up-to-date with the iELT-Ozarks Project. We often feature student highlights as well as relevant materials and stories from the TESOL field. You can friend IELT Ozarks and follow our page Engagement with English Learners' Families.



## New 6P Quick Guide Coming!

In mid-September, TESOL Press is releasing the new *Quick Guide for Remote Teaching of K-12 English Learners* as a part of *The 6 Principles* series. This new publication, authored by our grant director, Dr. Andrea Hellman, is a planning tool for educator teams.



**Family Engagement Projects**  
All cohort members create and implement family engagement projects in their schools as part of the course curriculum for the iELT-Ozarks Project. Page 3



**Cohort 3 Begins!**  
Our third and final grant-funded cohort of the iELT-Ozarks Project has just begun coursework to earn their MO K-12 ELL Endorsements. Page 3

# Cohort 2 Updates

Cohort 2 of the iELT-Ozarks Project includes twenty-nine K-12 in-service teachers from McDonald County R-1, Monett R-1, Neosho R-5, and Springfield R-XII public school districts. Here is a look at what the second cohort has been up to recently:

- The majority of the cohort has now completed the following core TESOL classes: Second Language Acquisition, Sociolinguistics, Grammatical Analysis, Linguistic Theory, Methods in TESOL, and Materials and Assessment in TESOL.
- 28 cohort 2 members have earned their Graduate Certificates in TESOL from MSU.
- Ten additional students are on track to graduate in fall 2020 and meet the requirements to earn the Missouri K-12 ELL Endorsement.
- Nine of the fall graduating students are also completing their Master of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies (MSIS) program in English Language Teaching and Literacy Education. They will earn this in conjunction with the Missouri K-12 ELL Endorsement from DESE and the TESOL Graduate Certificate from MSU.\*

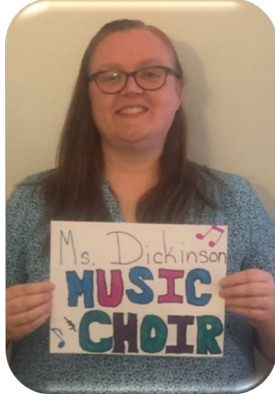
## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR COHORT 2 UPCOMING FALL 2020 GRADUATES

- **Taylor Bond**, Neosho Junior High, Neosho R-5\*
- **Alicia Dickinson**, South Elementary, Neosho R-5\*
- **Amanda Hedgpeth**, Monett Intermediate, Monett R-1
- **Gretchen Hughes**, Neosho High, Neosho R-5\*
- **Tiffany Neal**, Mark Twain Elementary, Springfield R-XII\*

- **Sara Pierce**, McDonald County High, McDonald County R-1\*
- **Tegan Rand**, Monett Elementary, Monett R-1\*
- **Jaime Rutherford**, Monett Elementary, Monett R-1\*
- **Kya Thomas**, Noel Elementary, McDonald County R-1\*
- **Samantha Whited**, Noel Elementary, McDonald County R-1\*



Bond



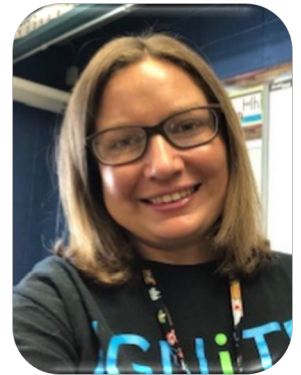
Dickinson



Hedgpeth



Hughes



Neal



Pierce



Rand



Rutherford



Thomas



Whited

"While I have gained so much knowledge about best practices in teaching diverse learners, I feel the greatest part of this program was the support of the instructors and the whole iELT Ozark team. When I encountered dilemmas and felt difficulties in my own teaching practice, I had a team of experts with great advice. In the courses, there were rigorous assignments and detailed discussions but it also felt a lot like a teacher support group. I am so thankful that this program was presented to me as an opportunity and that I had the privilege of being a part."

– Sara Pierce, McDonald County High School English Teacher in McDonald County R-1 and fall 2020 graduate (cohort 2)

# Implementing Family Engagement Projects

As part of the iELT-Ozarks Project grant, all cohort students implement a family engagement project in their schools. Students work on their project proposals over multiple semesters, collecting data and analyzing the gaps in their school programs to plan a project that will engage ELLs and their families. This project is carried out in Practicum, which eleven of our cohort 2 participants completed in spring 2020.



Cohort 2 completer Hagin-Schaefer leads a discussion on testing tips.  
Photo credit: Heather LeCureux, iELT-Ozarks Project Practicum Supervisor

The photos highlighted here depict Miranda Hagin-Schaefer's event at Hickory Hills Elementary and Middle School in Springfield R-XII from early March 2020. She invited families to come to the school for a coffee house-themed evening to prepare students and families for standardized MAP testing. In addition, students were able to take home multicultural and bilingual books. Hagin-Schaefer designed a station for families to record encouraging messages for their EL students to view before they take their tests.



Left: A family member records an encouraging message on an EL's iPad.  
Right: Table of bilingual and multicultural books available for families to have.  
Photo credit: Heather LeCureux, iELT-Ozarks Project Practicum Supervisor

In her reflection on the process of carrying out this project during her practicum course, Hagin-Schaefer wrote, "The family engagement project allowed me to look at the needs within our school from a different lens. I was able to see through my students' eyes the ways we were not meeting their needs. We have school-wide events, but how many times were our ELs neglected in the planning? Our students loved helping decorate for our coffee house event. They loved inviting their parents to see what we were working on to prepare for MAP testing. They loved showcasing how we used technology. They were shocked at how many picture books were written in their native languages. They were thrilled to take home a book that they could read to themselves and younger siblings. The event truly helped me to see what they needed me to do to better engage them in the learning process at school. It helped me to see how I could make parents comfortable in our schools. I would definitely like to plan more events for the coming school year!"

# Cohort 3 Updates

Cohort 3, the final grant-funded cohort of the iELT-Ozarks Project, started TESOL coursework in fall 2020, although some students completed special education and/or reading courses for the MO K-12 ELL Endorsement early in summer 2020.

We have enrolled 28 applicants to this cohort, who come from our four partner districts, with a few additional seats reserved for teachers from other high-need areas of Missouri. Admitted applicants teach in the following 13 Missouri school districts: East Newton R-VI, Marion C. Early R-V, McDonald County R-1, Monett R-1, Neosho R-5, Ozark R-VI, Park Hill R-V, Reeds Spring R-IV, Sedalia 200, Springfield R-XII, Webb City R-7, Wheaton R-III, and Willow Springs R-IV. Cohort 3 participants teach various grade levels and content areas, ranging from kindergarten through twelfth grade. Besides classroom teachers, the cohort is also comprised of other areas, such as SPED teachers, EL Specialists, and art teachers.

The iELT-Ozarks Project hosted a virtual kickoff orientation this year allowing students to get to meet one another safely and interact with peers, faculty, staff, alumni, and Project Advisory Board members.



Photos taken during our Zoom kickoff orientation of cohort 3 students, cohort 1 alumni, and iELT-Ozarks Project faculty and staff.

Students in cohort 3 are currently taking ENG 688: Sociolinguistics and will begin ENG 695: Second Language Acquisition in October 2020.

**UP NEXT FOR THE IELT TEAM AND COHORT STUDENTS**

**October 2020 – Virtual MIDTESOL**



# iELT-Ozarks Team Spotlight

Greetings! I am Heather LeCureux, one of the Practicum Supervisors for the iELT-Ozarks Project. I have the privilege of visiting teachers in the program to provide them with ideas and feedback on how to best serve ELs in their classrooms.

I was born and raised in Traverse City, Michigan, a town with little diversity. While pursuing a B.A. in English and Education, I was fortunate to work for Girl Scouts of Michigan, planning and teaching inner-city and migrant enrichment programs in the Grand Rapids region. This opportunity opened my eyes to the beauty and hardships of learning additional languages, especially English.

After a move to Colorado, I taught Kindergarten and third grade while completing my M.Ed. in Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Education at the University of Northern Colorado. I then continued as an EL specialist. Since then, I have worked with ELs of every proficiency level, as well as with various EL family engagement efforts. I also attended a cultural immersion trip to Guatemala with my school district, enhancing my Spanish skills and gaining a better understanding of schooling outside the United States.

I am passionate about getting multilingual books into the hands of families and promoting first-language literacy. In Colorado, I served on the board of a non-profit organization that encouraged reading aloud, where I promoted getting bilingual books into the hands of ELs and their families. Seeing parents' faces light up when they found a book in their own language to share with their children was a rewarding experience.

When I am not working with teachers, I am with my husband and three young kids. We love having family adventures near and far. Some of our favorite things to do are hike, bike, and spend time at a family cottage on Lake Huron.



*LeCureux and family*

There are so many wonderful things happening in the iELT-Ozarks Project program, and I am honored to be a part of it. I especially love challenging teachers to try new techniques in their classrooms.

## COVID-19 Grant Impact

COVID-19 has disrupted most aspects of everyone's lives; our project is no exception. While we continue the fully online coursework for our teacher participants and they are earning their credentials as planned, our project's ultimate goal--to improve educational outcomes for English learners--has suffered significant setbacks.

- English learners missed instruction during the spring and the summer.
- Several family engagement projects were cancelled.
- Practicum experiences had to be modified unexpectedly.
- We could not carry out exit observations on spring and summer completers.
- Students did not complete assessments that we were tracking for our project's outcome data.
- The VIP study had to be postponed indefinitely.

The positive news is that our participants are continuing their coursework and we have been able to assist them with the challenges they are facing with teaching English learners and with rethinking family engagement with linguistically diverse families. We have been advocating for English learners' access to instruction during emergency school closings and would like to continue working with our completers on recovering English learners' equity in education during this time of crisis. Please let us know how we can best support your advocacy, instructional planning, and family engagement efforts for your English learners.



**iELT-OZARKS  
PROJECT**

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## Cohort 1 Alumna Wins Award

In August 2020, Melissa Powers, a cohort 1 alumna of the iELT-Ozarks Project, was named Teacher of the Year for the 2019-2020 school year at Monett High School in the Monett R-1 school district. Powers graduated from our program in December 2018. Congratulations, Melissa!

Visit our website at <https://www.missouristate.edu/iELT-Ozarks/>