



SHELLY RICKARD'S FAMILY ENGAGEMENT PROJECT



SEPTEMBER 2021

Welcome to our most recent 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).

Upcoming PD

These are all free to Missouri educators. Register through the DESE Curriculum Calendar found here: <https://dese.mo.gov/college-career-readiness/curriculum>.

- Sept. 15, 2021 3:45-4:45 PM – Literacy Professional Learning: Nancy Hennessy and the Reading Comprehension Blueprint
- Sept. 27, 2021 1:00-3:00 PM – Language Specialist: Engaging Multilingual Newcomers 3-sessions (9/27, 10/4, 10/11) Registration closes Sept. 18, 2021
- Sept. 27, 2021 3:45-5:00 PM – Monthly ELD Check-in (held the 4th Monday of each month)
- Beginning October 4, 2021 – January 2022 – Reading Supports for Multilingual Learners. A 15-week eWorkshop through WIDA. Registration closes October 1, 2021.
- October 13, 2021 3:30-4:30 PM – Literacy Professional Learning: Missouri MELL Specialist, Literacy and the English Language Learner
- Oct. 25, 2021 3:45-5:00 PM – Monthly ELD Check-in
- Nov. 10, 2021 3:45-4:45 PM Literacy Professional Development: Jennifer Hasser – How to Make Reading Instruction Motivating to Reluctant Learners
- Nov. 22, 2021 3:45-5:00 PM – Monthly ELD Check-in



iELT-Ozarks Cohort 2 & 3 Graduates

We are proud to announce our latest group of graduates from the iELT-Ozarks Project. Fourteen cohort 1 students will be completing their studies soon.

Page 2



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

Partner Districts



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

Cohort Updates

Cohorts 1 & 2 of the iELT-Ozarks Project include a total of fifty-nine K-12 in-service teachers from the McDonald County R-1, Monett R-1, Neosho R-5, and Springfield R-XII public school districts. The majority of these students have now graduated or are almost finished with their programs at MSU.

Cohort 3 of the iELT-Ozarks Project includes twenty-eight K-12 in-service teachers enrolled from McDonald County R-1, Monett R-1, Neosho R-5, and Springfield R-XII public school districts as well as 11 other high-need school districts from across Missouri. Here is a look at what the third cohort has been up to recently:

- The majority of the cohort completed the core TESOL classes of ENG 688 Sociolinguistics, ENG 695 Second Language Acquisition, ENG 691 Intro to Linguistics, ENG 605 Methods in TESOL, and ENG 690 Grammatical Analysis.
- This fall, cohort 3 students are taking ENG 696/796 Assessment in TESOL. In addition, some students are taking ENG 697/707 Practicum in TESOL.
- Students also have the option to take additional reading, special education, and research courses needed for the MO K-12 ELL Endorsement and/or the MSIS – English Language Teaching and Literacy Education.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR COHORT 2 & 3 FALL 2021 GRADUATES

Cohort 2

- **Brett Wary**, Noel Primary, McDonald County R-1

Cohort 3

- **Kara Griffin**, Summit Intermediate, Nixa Public Schools
- **Dene'e Jones**, Noel Primary, McDonald County R-1
- **Mary Ottis**, English Landing Elementary, Park Hill Schools
- **Sarah Reeves**, Bayless Junior High and High, Bayless Schools



Wary



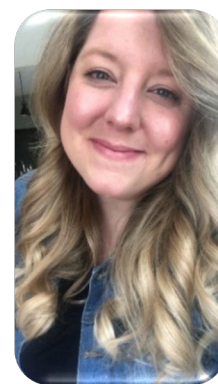
Griffin



Jones



Ottis



Reeves

"I'm so thankful to have been a part of this program! Each class was packed full of applicable information to use with my colleagues, students and parents. I feel well-equipped to meet the needs of ELs in my district. The professors were extremely passionate and knowledgeable. They treated me as a colleague and genuinely worked hard to help me be successful in their classroom and in my own. Not only did I gain the knowledge I needed to further my education, but I gained valuable friends as well!"

– Kara Griffin, Summit Intermediate, Inman Intermediate, & JTSD EL Specialist in Nixa school district & fall 2021 graduate (C3)

"The iELT-Ozarks Project has been a life-changing experience. I have learned so much about how students learn. Much of what I learned is beneficial to all my students, not only English language learners.

– Dene'e Jones, Noel Primary K-2 Art teacher in McDonald Country R-1 schools & fall 2021 graduate (C3)

"I am so thankful for this program. The leadership is amazing and I have learned so much from my classmates! I have been able to implement some of the strategies and ideas already!"

– Mary Ottis, English Landing Elementary EL Specialist in Park Hill school district & fall 2021 graduate (C3)

"This program has been a blessing professionally and personally. The entire iELT-Ozarks team has been encouraging. I feel supported and challenged to be the best learner and educator I can be."

– Sarah Reeves, Bayless Jr. High and High EL Specialist in Bayless school district & fall 2021 graduate (C3)

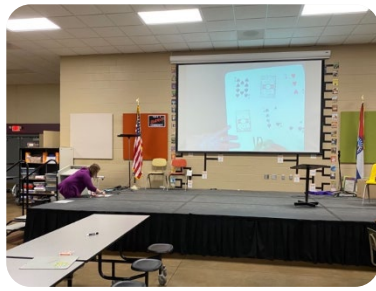
Implementing Family Engagement Projects

As part of the iELT-Ozarks Project grant, all cohort students implement a family engagement project in their schools. Students focus on family engagement throughout the program. They read and discuss literature on research and best practices, learn more about their families, and plan projects that respond to their needs. This project is carried out in Practicum, which two of our cohort 2 participants and one of our cohort 3 participants completed in spring 2021. Between them, there were a total of three projects, which included a website for EL families, adapting a district Lau Plan, adding bilingual and multicultural books to the school, and a bilingual math night.



Bilingual and multicultural books for Willow Springs Elementary ELs.

Participants also have the opportunity to apply for mini grants from the iELT-Ozarks Project to help fund their projects. The photo above is from part of Shelly Rickard’s family engagement project at Willow Springs Elementary. Reflecting on the book purchase, Rickard stated, “This helps all children feel comfortable with cultural diversity and cultivates multicultural awareness and appreciation.”



Supplies for the bilingual math night (left) and Cruz leading an activity on the projector at the math night (right).

The photos above are from Amanda Cruz’s family engagement project. She teaches 6th grade math at Monett Intermediate School in Monett R-1 schools and designed a family engagement project to help EL students and their families with middle school math. Reflecting on the event and its planning process, Cruz said, “I saw a need for family involvement in math for all my families, especially my ELL population. I saw that my students were struggling in math and thought that a solution to this problem would be for students to hear common language and use common strategies both at home and school when talking about math. I surveyed parents to get their reaction about the needs that they saw in our school building. Eighty percent of my parents surveyed wanted to know how they could support math classwork at home. This started out as a way to increase student achievement in math but evolved into an event that I could create year after year.”

iELT-Ozarks Team Spotlight

Hello! I am Peggy Strange, one of the Practicum Supervisors for the iELT-Ozarks Project. It is a joy partnering with McDonald County educators as they navigate required ELD coursework through Missouri State. I especially enjoy visiting their classrooms and feel so proud when I see how much they personally invest in serving our English learners and their families!



I was born in Guatemala and grew up in Central and South America learning English and Spanish simultaneously in a bilingual home. I attended bilingual schools most of my life, with two exceptions. In first grade, my family moved to Kansas City for one year while my father attended graduate school. The staff wanted to place me in speech therapy until my mother explained that I did not have a speech impediment, but rather I spoke English with an accent. We returned to Guatemala the following year. At midyear in my 9th grade, we left Costa Rica to live in a city south of Chicago for a year. I had a difficult time adjusting to the high school that was so different from my school in Costa Rica. Memories of the culture shock I experienced both as a 1st grader and as a teenager are part of the passion I feel for English Learner, especially newcomers.

I returned to Illinois for college and majored in Family Services with minors in Spanish and Psychology. During college, I tutored EL peers and traveled with volunteer programs working with migrants. After college, I taught one year in a school in Costa Rica. After returning to the United States, I have worked with ELs and families, teaching English to students from preschool age to adult in Illinois, Ohio, Texas, Kansas, Louisiana, Nebraska, and now Missouri.

As an ELD specialist in McDonald County Missouri, I enjoy collaborating with classroom teachers and Title 1 coaches in meeting the needs of our ELs. Last year, I was able to be back in the classroom as an ELD Sheltered Instruction classroom teacher. This year, I am once again the building ELD coach. One of the sweetest rewards as an ELD teacher is receiving a card that says: “Thank you for teaching me English!” Staying in one building for several years I get to experience students’ language development firsthand and see the results of years of strategies and individual growth plans.

UP NEXT FOR THE iELT TEAM

March 2022 – TESOL International

