

SARA PIERCE AND KATIE MCKIBBEN'S FAMILY ENGAGEMENT PROJECT



MARCH 2021

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.

## English Department iELT Blog Post



This past December 2020, the English Department chose to write a blog post entitled "iELT-Ozarks Project Engages Families" about the iELT-Ozarks Project! The post highlights positive aspects of the iELT-Ozarks Project grant thus far.

There is also a section that mentions Springfield R-XIII employee and cohort 2 graduate Miranda Hagin-Schaefer and her family engagement project she carried out at Hickory Hills K-8 school. You can read the blog at the following website: <https://blogs.missouristate.edu/english/2020/12/15/ielt-ozarks-project-engages-families/>.

## Call for Proposals

We invite all cohort teachers currently in the iELT-Ozarks Project to consider submitting a proposal to present at a conference in 2021 or 2022. If accepted, cohort members may submit a mini grant application to iELT-Ozarks Project to assist with funding for attending and presenting at a regional or national professional development conference.

Upcoming conferences to consider include virtual MIDTESOL October 22-23, 2021 and TESOL International March 22-25, 2022. Both conferences will have proposals due this summer, and our iELT team can advise you through the proposal process.



### 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.

## 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.

# Cohort 1 & 2 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.

- The majority of students in these cohorts have now completed all of the core TESOL courses. The last full group of cohort 2 students are currently completing their Practicum in TESOL course in a small group this spring where they learned to implement SIOP techniques into the classroom and family engagement projects in their buildings.
- All 30 cohort 1 members earned their Graduate Certificates in TESOL from MSU, and 28 cohort 2 members have earned theirs thus far.
- Eight additional students are on track to graduate in spring 2021 and meet the requirements to earn the Missouri K-12 ELL Endorsement.
- All eight students are also completing their Master of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies (MSIS) program in English Language Teaching and Literacy Education this spring. They will earn this in conjunction with the Missouri K-12 ELL Endorsement and the TESOL Graduate Certificate.\*

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR COHORT 1 & 2 SPRING 2021 GRADUATES

### Cohort 1

- **Sean Wilson**, Benton Elementary, Neosho R-5\*

### Cohort 2

- **Samantha Cook**, Neosho\*
- **Amanda Cruz**, Monett Intermediate, Monett R-1\*
- **Alena Dalton**, Goodman Elementary, Neosho R-5\*
- **Arlene Jan Foyewa**, Carver Middle, Springfield R-XII\*
- **Katie McKibben**, McDonald County High, McDonald County R-1\*
- **Charity Schneickert**, Neosho High, Neosho R-5\*
- **Kathleen Sharp**, Field & Boyd Elementary, Springfield R-XII\*



Wilson



Cook



Cruz



Dalton



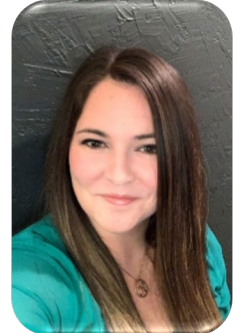
Foyewa



McKibben



Schneickert



Sharp

*"I am so grateful for [this] program. The things that I have learned in my classes are practical, applicable, and useful in my classroom. The way that I relate to, engage with, and teach my ELL students has taken a dramatic turn for the better. I cannot wait to see what lies ahead of me thanks to the training that I have received."*

**– Katie McKibben, McDonald County High English teacher in McDonald County R-1 and spring 2021 graduate (cohort 2)**

# Cohort 3 Updates

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 and ENG 695 Second Language Acquisition.
- This spring, cohort 3 students are taking ENG 691 Linguistic Theory and ENG 605 Methods in TESOL.
- Cohort 3 will take ENG 690 Grammatical Analysis this summer and will 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.

*"This program is incredible. I am learning so much that is already benefiting me in working with my EL students and doing it with such amazing classmates and leadership!"*

**– Alicia Johnson, Twain Elementary 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher in Springfield R-XII (cohort 3)**

# 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 ten of our cohort 2 participants completed in fall 2020. Between them, there were a total of seven projects, which included multicultural reading materials, bilingual communication projects, family-teacher partnerships, science and math activities, and literacy events.



*Bilingual and multicultural books along with other supplies for Noel Elementary and Junior High's family engagement project.*

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 Noel Elementary and Jr. High in McDonald County R-1 schools where Samantha Whited and Kya Thomas planned an outdoor family engagement event to connect with their school's Somali population. The cover photo on page 1 shows the Spanish language version of the ELL toolkit flipbook that Sara Pierce and Katie McKibben from McDonald County High School in McDonald County R-1 schools designed, printed, and distributed to engage Spanish-speaking EL families across their district.



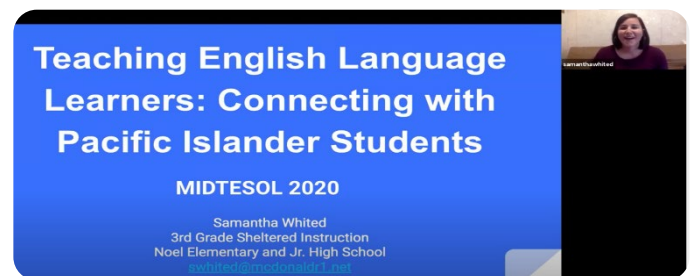
*Bilingual and multicultural books along with science supplies for Monett Intermediate's family engagement project.*

The photo above shows Amanda Hedgpeth's family engagement project. She teaches 5<sup>th</sup> grade at Monett Intermediate School in Monett R-1 schools and designed a family engagement project to help EL families connect to the school through technology to support their virtual learning. She also saw the value in hands-on learning and the gap that many families did not have such resources at home. As such, Hedgpeth created learning toolkits that EL students and families can check out from her room to use at home. In addition to the items pictured above, she also has a variety of math, time, and money materials she purchased through the iELT-Ozarks Project mini grant for the home learning toolkits.

# Cohort 2 Fall 2020 PD Presentations

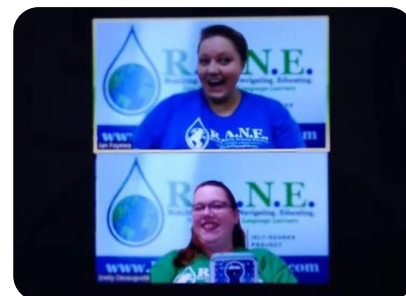
iELT-Ozarks Project students are encouraged to participate in at least one professional development conference in the TESOL field during their time at Missouri State. This fall semester three cohort 2 students presented at the virtual MIDTESOL conference.

Samantha Whited, a third grade classroom teacher from Noel Elementary School in McDonald County R-1 schools led a session entitled, **Teaching English Language Learners: Connecting with Pacific Islander Students**. In this presentation, Whited shared a compilation of resources focused on the Pacific Islander culture and language. The toolkit she presented was to help teachers gain more knowledge and understanding of their Pacific Islander students and identify best practices to use in the classroom with a 3<sup>rd</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade focus.



*Whited presenting at MIDTESOL.*

Emily Desauguste, an elementary EL Specialist at Weller Elementary School in Springfield R-XII schools, and Jan Foyewa, a 6-8 Special Education classroom teacher at Carver Middle School in Springfield R-XII schools, co-presented a session entitled, **Reaching Advising Navigating Education Families of ELs in Springfield, MO (RANE)** at the virtual MIDTESOL conference. In their presentation, they described details of their final project as students in the iELT-Ozarks Project grant program. As a part of their culminating family engagement project, these ladies designed and created a website to help Springfield, Missouri EL families understand the school system in their community. Desauguste and Foyewa shared their created website with participants and answered questions regarding the process. The RANE website offers translatable text and is an ongoing project available here: <https://sites.google.com/view/ranespringfield/home?authuser=0>.



*Foyewa (top) and Desauguste (bottom) presenting at MIDTESOL.*

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

**March 2021 – Virtual TESOL International**  
**April 2021 – Virtual AERA**

# iELT-Ozarks Team Spotlight



Greetings! I am Jeri Goswick, one of the Practicum Supervisors for the iELT-Ozarks Project. I have the pleasure of partnering with educators as they journey through the process of learning how to better serve our English learners in the classroom. Visiting these classrooms throughout the course is always a highlight of my semester!

I began my journey into cultural diversity as an exchange student in high school spending my Junior year in Spain. That experience opened up opportunities to serve culturally-diverse populations upon returning

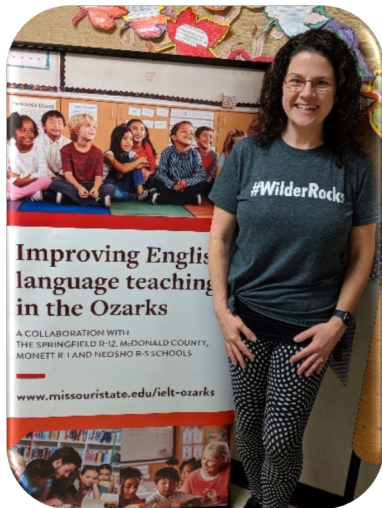
home. Using my second language, I began volunteering to translate in the community health clinic and literacy program in my home town. As I volunteered, I developed a passion for teaching and serving English learners and their families. Eventually, I left my career as an accountant to teach English as an Other Language in the public schools. Throughout my years of teaching English, I had the privilege of interacting with families from all over the world. Some of my most cherished friendships are with students and families from Iraq, Vietnam, Central America, India, Sri Lanka, and the Micronesian Islands.

As a current assistant professor of a local university, I now have the privilege of welcoming many of my previous K-12 students into higher education; what a joy it is. Some of them have even chosen to follow my footsteps into education, an even greater joy!

I truly believe education is the window to greater opportunities! My passion is providing support to those children currently in our public schools as well as those who wish to pursue higher education. Helping them see a brighter future for themselves and their family brings me great joy!

I am thankful to be part of the iELT- Ozarks Project. Seeing other educators with the passion for making a difference in the lives of language learners is empowering and gives me hope for a stronger, more inclusive world.

## Cohort 1 Graduate Publication



Cohort 1 completer Maria Kaufman

Cohort 1 graduate Maria Kaufman, a 2<sup>nd</sup> grade classroom teacher at Wilder Elementary in Springfield R-XII schools, recently wrote an article that was featured in the Winter 2020 Volume 44 Issue 1 of *The Missouri Reader*, a publication of the Missouri Literary Association.

In this special section about teaching literacy virtually in 2020 and beyond, Kaufman wrote a piece entitled *Families and Reading: One Step Forward* discussing some techniques she has used to build literacy with her classes. Her article can be found online here: [https://view.jomag.com/the-missouri-reader-winter-issue-draft-vol-44-issue-1/0239489001608167931?short&fbclid=IwAR3D1VBgjpOPUO8PyiLoVV9qoNKU5NIUA2sGzFZ-a37MWW9y4z72Ko\\_KUWA](https://view.jomag.com/the-missouri-reader-winter-issue-draft-vol-44-issue-1/0239489001608167931?short&fbclid=IwAR3D1VBgjpOPUO8PyiLoVV9qoNKU5NIUA2sGzFZ-a37MWW9y4z72Ko_KUWA). Congrats, Maria!

## Partner Districts



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