



AT ORIENTATIONS PARTICIPANTS EXPLORE TEACHING WITH WORDLESS BOOKS



MARCH 2019

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 going on with the students, faculty, and staff at Missouri State University.



### iELT-Ozarks Team Spotlight

Meet the director of the iELT-Ozarks Project, Dr. Andrea Hellman. She shares her vision for the project and for English language education.

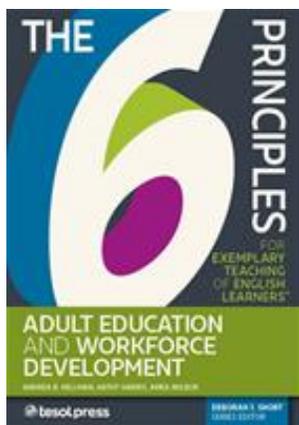
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### iELT-Ozarks Cohort 1 Graduates

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.

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*The 6 Principles for Exemplary Teaching of English Learners: Adult Education and Workforce Development* by Andrea B. Hellman, Kathy Harris, and Amea Wilbur. The second volume in TESOL International Association's 6 Principles series. Check it out on the website and join the World Ps movement: <https://www.tesol.org/the-6-principles>.



### Cohort 1 PD Presentations

Four cohort 1 students earned travel grants from iELT-Ozarks Project and travelled with the iELT-Ozarks Project team to present at the regional MIDTESOL Conference in Kansas City, MO in September 2018.

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### Family Engagement Projects

All cohort members create and implement family engagement projects in their schools as part of the course curriculum and grounds for funding the iELT-Ozarks Project. The first projects took place fall 2018.

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# Cohort 1 Updates

Cohort 1 of the iELT-Ozarks Project includes thirty K-12 in-service teachers from the McDonald County, Monett R-1, Neosho R-5, and Springfield R-XII public school districts. Here is a look at what the first cohort accomplished over the last semester:

- The cohort completed ENG 696/797: Materials and Assessment in TESOL fall 2018 and is completing ENG 697/797: Practicum in TESOL in small groups over the semesters where students implement SIOP techniques into the classroom and a family engagement project in their buildings.
- All 30 members earned their graduate certificates in TESOL.
- Six students graduated in fall 2018 with 5 of them meeting the requirements to earn the Missouri K-12 ELL Endorsement.
- Fourteen students are on track to graduate in spring and summer 2019 and meet the requirements to earn the Missouri K-12 ELL Endorsement.
- In addition, nine students are also working on completing their Master of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies program in English Language Teaching and Literacy Education. They will earn this in conjunction with the Missouri K-12 ELL Endorsement and the TESOL graduate certificate.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR COHORT 1 SPRING AND SUMMER 2019 GRADUATES

<p>Spring 2019</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Kristina Berger</b>, Monett Intermediate, Monett R-1</li> <li>• <b>Becky Godsey</b>, Monett Elementary, Monett R-1</li> <li>• <b>Shelley Gordon</b>, Hickory Hills Elementary, Springfield R-XII</li> <li>• <b>Emily Hanson</b>, Monett Elementary, Monett R-1</li> <li>• <b>Tonya Harrell</b>, Noel Primary, McDonald County</li> <li>• <b>Kayla Haynes</b>, Monett Elementary, Monett R-1</li> <li>• <b>Brittany Jenkins</b>, Monett Elementary, Monett R-1</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Melissa Lewis</b>, Neosho Middle, Neosho R-5</li> <li>• <b>Shannon Matthews</b>, Noel Primary, McDonald County</li> <li>• <b>Debbin Roach</b>, Hickory Hills Elementary, Springfield R-XII</li> <li>• <b>Samanthia Stone</b>, Hickory Hills Elementary, Springfield R-XII</li> </ul> <p>Summer 2019</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Latricia Davis</b>, Monett Intermediate, Monett R-1</li> <li>• <b>Morgan Fonda</b>, Springfield R-XII</li> <li>• <b>Kimberly McCarty</b>, Southwest City Elementary, McDonald County</li> </ul>
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*"I frequently include the content and language objectives/goals. I have learned the importance of these in previous classes and I have established this as a new normal in my classroom. I did not do this prior to taking these classes for TESOL certification and I feel this has been really beneficial for me and my students. I also feel like I am good at identifying prior knowledge and using many techniques to engage all learners. I feel I am successful at this because all Kindergarten students (not just ELLs) benefit from these things and I have been doing them for years."*

– **Kayla Haynes, Monett Elementary kindergarten teacher set to graduate spring 2019 (cohort 1)**



I am Dr. Andrea Hellman, the Director of the iELT-Ozarks project. I feel true joy serving in this role and working with you to welcome language minority families in our area and assisting them with becoming a part of our community.

Thirty years ago, I came to the United States first as an international exchange student and then later as an immigrant. Although I held a master's degree and teaching credentials, earning my first full-time teaching position took many years. The decade I spent living in poverty in a harsh

## iELT-Ozarks Team Spotlight

inner city among many immigrant families has developed a deep empathy in me for immigrant families' hopes and struggles.

My passion for language education comes from growing up as a Hungarian speaker. Even as a child it was clear to me that speaking languages opens up opportunities one can hardly imagine. Yet, learning any language well is time-consuming and difficult. It is easier to learn a language we love. Although we might flirt with many languages and study them a little here and there, the only languages we can truly master are the ones that are our lifelong loves. A language being merely useful is not enough motivation to learn it well. Only a language that it is a lifetime partner for us is.

As language teachers, I see us as matchmakers, whose key purpose is to kindle a passion in our students for the languages that will open up the greatest opportunities for them. If they are to master English, they

should love it first. As they should love the language of their family as well.

My vision for the iELT-Ozarks project is that we come together as teachers of English language learners to sustain each other in the effort to engage our learners and their families. By collaborating with each other as educators, we can assist them to overcome their struggles and become contributors in our communities. By developing and dedicating our own expertise to teach English learners, we are opening up possibilities for these students and their families, which in turn will enrich our schools and our whole communities in innumerable ways. I am grateful that you have decided to join us and to be active in this initiative. You are the agents of change. Please feel free to reach out to me to share your stories, ideas, or suggestions. What you do at your school with your learners and their families is what brings our project to life.

# 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 the course of 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 ENG 697/797: Practicum in TESOL, which some of our cohort 1 participants completed in fall 2018. Fall 2018 projects included new ELL welcome packs, bilingual welcome videos, a culture club, and a STEAM night for ELL families.



Cohort 1 students Samantha Stone, Shelly Gordon, and Debbin Roach (from left to right) at their STEAM night.

Students also have the opportunity to apply for mini grants from the iELT-Ozarks Project to help fund their family engagement projects. These photos are of the STEAM night held at Hickory Hills Elementary School in Springfield, Missouri. Cohort 1 students Shelley Gordon, Debbin Roach, and Samantha Stone worked as a group to host this evening for ELLs and their families. Their project included a variety of engaging tasks using Legos, Magna tiles, K’NEX Lincoln Logs, gears, and flexible building sticks. They also provided pizza and drinks.



Samanthia Stone builds Legos with students.

Regarding the night, Stone said, “STEAM Night was a wonderful opportunity to connect with families and make memories with my students. The materials we received from the grant were fun, engaging, and made the night special and exciting for the kids. Thank you iELT for the experience!” Roach added, “STEAM night was a great success! It was fun pumping the kids up for the event and everyone was so engaged. The support we got from iELT was amazing and it was super easy to get the items ordered and delivered in plenty of time for our plan to come together.” We look forward to sharing about many other family engagement projects in future issues.

# Cohort 1 PD Presentations

The annual MIDTESOL (Mid-America Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages) conference is the premier gathering of TESOL professionals from four states (Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska) who are interested in learning how to better serve their ELLs while meeting likeminded individuals. In September 2018, the iELT-Ozarks Project team and four of cohort 1 grant students attended and presented at the MIDTESOL conference in Kansas City, Missouri.

Amber Bledsoe and Melissa Powers from Monett R-1 schools presented a poster session entitled, *From Burma to Missouri*. They showcased how teachers in rural Missouri are researching Burmese Karen culture and the issues facing refugee immigrants since a large number of Burmese students began enrolling in the district. Reflecting after the conference, Powers said, “MIDTESOL was a great opportunity to network with other ELD specialists, professors, and organizations that support EL students and families. I thought it was encouraging and helpful to learn from other communities that had similar cultures as our community. It was also interesting to learn about nearby communities with different cultural groups and how those communities and schools were meeting the diverse needs.”



Dr. Bell, Powers, and Bledsoe (left) and Gangel and Kaufman (right) in front of their MIDTESOL poster presentations.



Elisabeth Gangel and Maria Kaufman from Springfield R-XII schools presented a poster session entitled, *Resources to Engage English Language Learners and their Families*. Their presentation, which fulfilled a graduation requirement for their MSIS degree program, was based on an ELL toolkit they compiled including games, articles, and printables for use in elementary school classrooms. Gangel stated, “It was such great experience to travel to Kansas City and present the content we learned in class. The opportunity to interact with the professors at MIDTESOL was incredibly beneficial (and fun!). The professional learning and contacts that were made have proved incredibly helpful.” Kaufman added, “Mid-TESOL was such an exciting experience! Presenting our poster to fellow students, teachers, and professors gave us the chance to answer questions on topics we’ve been studying intensely for the past three semesters.”

We invite all cohort 1 and 2 teachers currently in the iELT-Ozarks Project to consider submitting a proposal to present at MIDTESOL for fall 2019. If accepted, cohort members may submit a mini travel grant proposal to iELT-Ozarks Project to assist with funding for attending and presenting at this regional professional development conference.

UP NEXT FOR THE IELT TEAM...
March 2019 – TESOL International, Atlanta, GA
UP NEXT FOR COHORT 1 STUDENTS...
May 2019 – MSU Interdisciplinary Forum, Springfield, MO

## Cohort 2 Updates

Cohort 2 of the iELT-Ozarks Project is made up of thirty K-12 in-service teachers enrolled from McDonald County (5 students), Monett R-1 (9 students), Neosho R-5 (7 students), and Springfield R-XII (9 students) public school districts. Here is a look at what the first cohort has been up to recently:

- In August 2018, our cohort 2 members completed their program orientation.
- In January 2019, all cohort 2 members began ENG 688: Sociolinguistics in Language Teaching, which lasts eight weeks.
- In March 2019, the cohort 2 students will begin ENG 695: Principles of Second Language Acquisition, which lasts eight weeks.
- In summer 2019, all cohort 2 students will take ENG 690: Grammatical Analysis. They will have the option to take this as a 5-week or 8-week course.



*iELT-Ozarks Project cohort 2 students collaborate at orientation.*

*"I am so thankful to be a part of a program that is a community of educators. The reading, discussions, and resources are already changing the way my classroom looks. I am making connections with students and having such interesting conversations. I so appreciate a program which offers immediate applicability of materials in my classroom!"*

**– Katie McKibben, McDonald County High School 12<sup>th</sup> grade English teacher (cohort 2)**

## iELT-Ozarks Team Presents at NCFR Conference



*Rojas-McWhinney, Bell, and González at NCFR.*

In November 2018, three members of the iELT-Ozarks Project team flew to San Diego, California to share their recent work on family engagement at the National Council on Family Relations (NCFR) conference. The theme for the conference was Families and Cultural Intersections in a Global Context: Innovations in Research, Practice, and Policies.

Dr. Jennifer Rojas-McWhinney, Dr. Angela Bell, and Alexis González presented a session they worked on with Dr. Andrea Hellman and Dr. Ximena Uribe-Zarain entitled, **Opening Doors for Families of English Learners: Recommended Practices to Overcome Challenges**, which expanded on Epstein et al. (2009)'s framework for family engagement to pertain specifically to ELLs and their families.

## Looking Ahead - Cohort 3 in Fall 2020

Cohort 3, the last grant-funded cohort of the iELT-Ozarks Project, is slated to begin coursework in fall 2020. Participants will come mainly from our four partner districts with a few seats reserved for teachers from other high-need areas of Missouri. Applications for cohort 3 open in fall 2019. Look for an announcement on our website this coming fall for an exact date. Anyone interested may also email us to be added to the interest list (see contact information box below). Once the application goes live, those on the interest list will receive an email inviting them to apply.

Recent cohort 1 graduate Amber Bledsoe, 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher at Monett Intermediate School supports the program saying, "I would have to say that the decision to take part in the iELT-Ozarks TESOL program was one of the smartest decisions as an educator I have made. I know that I have become an advocate for my ELL students and feel that I am now able to better meet the needs of my students."

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

## Partner Districts



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