




HOW TO BEST SERVE ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS



WHAT IS WORKING ON THE WESTERN SLOPE

CoTESOL's Spring Conference 2018

Saturday, March 24, 2018
Grand Junction High School
1400 N 5th St, Grand Junction, CO 81501



SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

7:30 - 8:00	Check-in				
	Dual Language	ESL	Content	Community	Adult ESL
Session 1 8:10 - 9:25	Building L1 literacy for Spanish Heritage learners Stephanie Dewing	Observation journals: Inspiring ELLs to appreciate the moment and embrace life Patrick T. Randolph	Academic language for all, CHS ALFA STEM team Josh King	Creating engaging partnerships with families Debbie Hovland & Patricia Buettgenbach	Teach the parent, reach the child: Providing educational services for your students' parents and guardians Eusebia Garza & Emily Cuevas
Session 2 9:35 - 10:50	Instructional framework for language and content learning Kevin Donoher, Yunnuen McLaughlin, & Kim Smith	Research and practice: The powerful effects of exercise on language learning Patrick T. Randolph	Using the three features of academic language for student success Kelly McGuire, Cynthia Valdez, & Joan Axthelm	Developing and hosting ELL family nights Mindy Becker	The potential within a community resource: Mesa County Workforce Center Susan K. Breckenridge
Lunch 11:00 - 1:00	Keynote: Selecting and teaching vocabulary before reading Margarita Calderon				
Session 3 1:10 - 2:25	Effective team planning in a dual-language program Danielle Cingoranelli & Andrea Espinosa	Teaching reading in the content areas Margarita Calderon	Co-teaching elementary for ELLs at the elementary level Jamie Popp & Amanda Miller-Perkins	Community resources and supports Karalyn Dorn, Nicole Bernal Ruiz & Peg Martinez	Have you ever? Ezequiel Perez
Session 4 2:35 - 3:50	Developing and implementing the Seal of Biliteracy Monica Heptner, & Irene Almond	Teacher, what does <i>describe</i> mean? - Cue heartbreak! Mindy Becker	Cultivating the language of mathematicians in ALL learners Tracy Seremak	Preparing students for post-secondary Melissa Maldonado & Nelly F. Garcia Olmos	Thinking outside the box with creative writing Dieter Bruhn
Session 5 4:00 - 5:15	QFT - Teach students to ask their own questions! Michele Rewold	Meeting the needs of newcomers at the elementary school level Devon Pollack & Dena Guidry	Co-teaching for ELLs at the secondary level Jesse Beynon, Michelle Bridwell, Ed Hockett, & Adrienne Duff	GJHS Interact Club Cheyanne Gentry	Eureka science experiments for families Cynthia Valdez Building a community that treats everybody equally Sandra Ruth Núñez Currier

KEYNOTE

SELECTING AND TEACHING VOCABULARY BEFORE READING



MARGARITA CALDERON

Dr. Margarita Espino Calderón, Professor Emerita, Johns Hopkins University, worked on numerous research projects from 1990 to 2010 for JHU’s Center for Research on Education of Students Placed at Risk, Center for Data-Driven Reform, and the Success for All Foundation. She was Co-Principal Investigator with Robert Slavin on the 5-year randomized evaluation of English immersion, transitional bilingual, and two-way bilingual elementary programs funded by the Institute for Education Sciences/U.S. Dept. of Education. She developed the Bilingual Cooperative Integrated Reading and Composition (BCIRC) program, which is included in the What Works Clearinghouse. She was principal investigator in a 5-year study in middle and high schools called Expediting Comprehension for English Language Learners (ExC-ELLTM) funded by the Carnegie Corporation of New York that developed a program to train math, science, social studies, and language arts teachers on integrating academic language, reading comprehension, writing skills and content knowledge to help ELs and their non-EL peers achieve in the mainstream classrooms. Her program Reading Instructional Goals for Older Readers (RIGOR) was developed for Newcomers with Interrupted Formal Education. As President and CEO of Margarita Calderón & Associates, Inc., Dr. Calderón and her team continue to implement ExC-ELL in many schools, districts, and state-wide Institutes throughout the country and internationally. Currently, Dr. Calderón and faculty from the Graduate School of Education, George Washington University are recipients of a USDOE-OELA Title III five-year grant to implement and further study “A Whole-School Approach to Professional Development with ExC-ELL” in Virginia schools. Other research has been funded by the U.S. Department of Education, U.S. Department of Labor, National Institutes of Health, and Texas Education Agency, several school districts, and State Departments of Education. She collaborated on longitudinal studies with Diane August, Maria Carlo and Catherine Snow on the National Study of Students Reading in Spanish. She has over 100 publications, is an international speaker, is invited to do keynote speeches at major conferences, and conducts comprehensive professional development programs throughout the country and abroad.

CoTESOL FALL CONVENTION

Join us on November 2nd and 3rd for CoTESOL’s 42nd Annual Fall Convention
“ENGAGEMENT, ENCOURAGEMENT, EMPOWERMENT”

Watch our website for more details later this spring – www.cotesol.org

PRESENTATIONS

TOPIC AREA: DUAL LANGUAGE

Session 1: 8:10 – 9:25

Building L1 literacy for Spanish Heritage learners

Many of our students were raised speaking Spanish but never learned to read or write it. All of their academic and literacy instruction has been in English, which can present a unique set of challenges. In this presentation, I will share tips and strategies for using Spanish Heritage students' strengths of listening and speaking to help build their literacy skills in Spanish.

Stephanie Dewing, University of Colorado Colorado Springs

Session 2: 9:35 – 10:50

Instructional framework for language and content learning

This session will introduce an overview of ideas from AIMS4S3 (Achievements Inspired Mathematics for Scaffolding Student Success). This Instructional Model/Framework for Language and Content Learning comes from Dual Language Education of New Mexico. Math teachers at Bookcliff Middle School will highlight aspects of the framework that bring engagement and understanding to the forefront for all learners. Presenters of this session will shed a whole new light on the idea of anchor charts and student output. You will leave with ideas you can implement right away.

Kevin Donoher, Bookcliff Middle School, Dual Immersion Academy

Yunnuen McLaughlin, Dual Immersion Academy

Kim Smith, Bookcliff Middle School

Session 3: 1:10 – 2:25

Effective team planning in a dual-language program

Have you ever wondered about how you can improve your team planning to see better results in student achievement? Have you ever wondered how

our personality traits impact our planning, instruction, and learning? In this presentation we will share our experience as a second grade team of not only having common structures in place, but also knowing the people we work with (partner, parents, students) in order to have clear and rigorous expectations.

Danielle Cingoranelli, Dual Immersion Academy

Andrea Espinosa, Dual Immersion Academy

Session 4: 2:35 – 3:50

Developing and implementing the Seal of Biliteracy

Do you ever wonder how to increase cognitive and academic advantages for students, prepare diverse students for the 21st Century careers, create stronger family and heritage connections, strengthen cross-cultural competencies, or honor multiple cultures and languages within your community? Your answer may be in creating a Seal of Biliteracy in your school district; recognizing students who have attained and can demonstrate proficiency in English and one or more other world languages. Join us to hear our district's journey in developing and implementing the Seal of Biliteracy at 5th, 8th, and 12th grades.

Monica Heptner, Dual Immersion Academy

Irene Almond, District 51

Session 5: 4:00 – 5:15

QFT: Teach students to ask their own questions!

The skill of question asking is far too rarely taught in school in a deliberate manner. TheRightQuestion.org has worked with and learned from educators to develop a teaching strategy that provides a simple yet powerful way to get students asking their own questions and building off their peers' questions. In this session we will review research about questioning and learn the QFT: Question Formulation Technique, which can be used in any content and in any grade.

Michele Rewold, Mesa County Valley School District 51

TOPIC AREA: ESL

Session 1: 8:10 – 9:25

Observation journals: Inspiring ELLs to appreciate the moment and embrace life

This motivational session looks at how observation journals can help create acute observers, critical thinkers, better writers, and inspire a clearer understanding of the ELLs' host culture. Common challenges to this type of writing are identified and effective solutions are given. Participants will receive grading rubrics and suggested observation topics will be discussed. This session will also look at how observation journals can be used to inspire material for creative writing (e.g., poems and flash fiction) and research-based projects (e.g., culture-focused compositions and presentations). Student-generated samples will also be available. Participants are encouraged to bring eager eyes and elated ears!

Patrick T. Randolph, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Session 2: 9:35 – 10:50

Research and practice: The powerful effects of exercise on language learning

This high-energy session examines physical exercise's powerful effects on the brain. Three inspirational case studies are surveyed that focus on both young and adult learners. Language learning benefits will then be discussed. Participants will practice six fun and effective exercises guaranteed to help strengthen their ELLs' attention and memory, and also create energized and happy instructors. Two academic-based activities are offered that focus on a metacognitive awareness of exercise's impact on learning. Participants are encouraged to bring smiles and a willingness to dance!

Patrick T. Randolph, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Session 3: 1:10 – 2:25

Teaching reading in the content areas

In this session, Dr. Calderón will present key instructional strategies for developing reading comprehension skills in 6th to 12th content classrooms. We will use a biology text to go through the reading cycle and practice teaching ELs and

striving readers: text features, text structures, partner reading with partner summarization of content and use of pretaught vocabulary, student Bloom question formulation in lieu of only answering book questions, and closure activities at the end of the class period. Tools for expediting comprehension will be shared and can be downloaded from Dr. Calderón's new website.

Margarita Calderon, Johns Hopkins University

Session 4: 2:35 – 3:50

"Teacher, what does describe mean?"

Cue heartbreak! Students read, write, speak, and hear academic language throughout their school day, but how much of it is truly mastered? This session will provide teachers with lessons that can be used immediately to teach a selection of academic language "from the beginning." We will also touch on ways to effectively collaborate with classroom teachers to help bridge the gap between pullout and classroom instruction.

Mindy Becker, Lincoln Elementary, Delta County School District

Session 5: 4:00 – 5:15

Meeting the needs of newcomers at the elementary school level

Many colleagues do not have personal experience as language learners. General Education teachers are responsible for the majority of the daily interactions these students receive. This demonstration will help them experience what newcomers face by incorporating a make-and-take to use from day one of arriving. Attendees will have a firsthand experience of some of the frustrations newcomers feel as they embark on a new venture. By understanding the challenges, they will be better prepared to provide meaningful support strategies and feel a new empathy for these students who are depending on them for their safety and total wellbeing.

Dena Guidry, Chipeta Elementary

Devon Pollack, Chipeta & Orchard Avenue Elementary schools

TOPIC AREA: CONTENT

Session 1: 8:10 – 9:25

Academic language for all: The CHS ALFA STEM team

The ALFA STEM team is 15 staff members from Central High School. Our goal is to develop an understanding of academic language and its importance in the classroom and then translate that into our teaching. Through continued practice, we have been working to introduce concepts and strategies to our fellow staff members as well. We will present on the growth and successes of our team over the past 3 years and the strides we hope to make in the coming year. We will also work to provide some strategies that we are currently using that translate to any classroom.

Josh King, Central High School

Session 2: 9:35 – 10:50

Using the three features of academic language for student success

This session will introduce a framework for teaching language acquisition conceptually using WIDA's Features of Academic Language. We will also talk about setting individual student goals and practice writing them using the academic language features for different levels of English proficiency. Participants will draft sample student goals and dialogue about each language feature.

Kelly McGuire, Mesa County School District 51

Cynthia Valdez, Mesa County School District 51

Joan Axthelm, Mesa County School District 51

Session 3: 1:10 – 2:25

Co-teaching elementary for ELLs at the elementary level

This session will give a brief overview of co-teaching, co-reflecting, co-planning, and co-grading. We will be talking about four approaches to co-teaching, which include: supportive, parallel, complementary, and team teaching. There will be opportunities for

people to experience firsthand the different approaches to co-teaching.

Jamie Popp, Clifton Elementary School

Amanda Miller-Perkins, Clifton Elementary School

Session 4: 2:35 – 3:50

Cultivating the language of mathematicians in all learners

How can we support learners in developing the language of mathematicians? Academic language strategies that support and engage all learners are a great start. Strategies include supportive structures for group work, number talks, accountable talk, scaffolds, varying think time strategies,...as many as we can fit into our time together. We will look at resources for many and dive deep into a couple strategies.

Tracy Seremak, Mesa County School District 51

Session 5: 4:00 – 5:15

Co-teaching for ELLs at the secondary level

*Two cooks in one kitchen?! What a disaster! Two cooks could equal twice the mess. But when it's in the classroom, you have 27 critics just eager for an epic fail or resounding success. This session looks at the major benefits of co-teaching for ELLs and their classmates. It details how co-planning, co-grading, and co-reflecting are essential ingredients of that process. The presenters have seen *all* students in their co-taught class consistently master essential skills and increase test scores - more so than in any other class. Come and see which recipes worked for us and may work for you.*

Jesse Beynon, Mesa County School District 51

Michelle Bridwell, Mesa County School District 51

Ed Hockett, Central High School

Adrienne Duff, Central High School

TOPIC AREA: COMMUNITY

Session 1: 8:10 – 9:25

Creating engaging partnerships with families

This session will introduce a bilingual/bicultural Family Literacy Program. The Latino Family Literacy

Project meets the needs of Latino parents and children through an effective, tailored, literacy program. The structure of the program is designed to be an educational process which encourages critical reflection and dialogue by means of reading, writing as well as art projects.

Debbie Hovland, Fruitvale Elementary

Patricia Buettgenbach, Fruitvale Elementary

Session 2: 9:35 – 10:50

Developing and hosting ELL family nights

Supporting EL families in our schools is an important piece of our EL student's education. This session will outline a successful EL Parent/Family night tradition held at Lincoln Elementary School in Delta. From the planning, to the prep, and the practice to the performance. Get an inside look at how we include and support our EL families.

Mindy Becker, Lincoln Elementary, Delta County School District

Session 3: 1:10 – 2:25

Community resources and supports

Collaboration is key when it comes to serving the immigrant community. The Hispanic Affairs Project (HAP) and Child and Migrant Services (CMS) will present on this vital collaboration. HAP will provide an intro to immigration law and the unauthorized practice of law and an update on the Dream Act and DACA. CMS will concentrate on community-based services for the underserved population of farm workers in Mesa County and how their organization reaches out. Attendees will gain an understanding of farm workers' vital contribution to the economic success of the Grand Valley and how they are valued as part of the fabric of the community.

Karalyn Dorn, Child & Migrant Services

Nicole Bernal Ruiz, Hispanic Affairs Project

Peg Martinez, Child & Migrant Services

Session 4: 2:35 – 3:50

Preparing students for post-secondary

Giving lifestyle support so students can cross the bridge to continue their education after high school is very important. College graduates and students

come back to give their stories, informational resources, helpful college connections, motivation to graduate from high school and college, and support to aid college readiness for high schoolers. Cultural awareness and first hand experiences being ELLs entering into and succeeding in college is shared with students, parents and teachers.

Melissa Maldonado, Mesa County Public Libraries

Nelly F. Garcia Olmos, West Central-Migrant Education Program

Session 5: 4:00 – 5:15

GJHS Interact Club

The Interact Club at Grand Junction High School is in its 4th year and has made quite an impact. As part of our international service-learning project, the Interact Club at Grand Junction High School donated \$580.00 to purchase a cow, 20 chicks, and 20 ducks for Heifer International. This is one example of how our Interact Club supports our community, state, nation and the world. We have received the President's Award three years running.

Cheyenne Gentry, Grand Junction High School

TOPIC AREA: ADULT ESL

Session 1: 8:10 – 9:25

Teach the parent, reach the child: Providing educational services for your students' parents and guardians

Our libraries are making an incredible difference in the lives of adult English Language Learners. Learn how the Mesa County Public Library Literacy Center is empowering adult ELL students to achieve the English capabilities, citizenship test aptitude, and HSE skills necessary to achieve their goals. Presenters will be discussing the process for enrolling students and measuring their successes, training confident tutors, and creating effective classes.

Eusebia Garza, Mesa County Libraries Literacy Center

Emily Cuevas, Mesa County Libraries Literacy Center

Session 2: 9:35 – 10:50

The Potential within a community resource: Mesa County Workforce Center

Today's workforce center provides clients with valuable services both independently and through a network of agencies in the Grand Valley. Have you ever wondered what happens to a teenager who is not able to complete a high school education? This presentation will show you the steps taken and resources available for personalized guidance back on the educational track, into the job circuit, and on a path to a lifetime of success.

Susan K. Breckenridge, Central High School

Session 3: 1:10 – 2:25

Have you ever?

Have you been in a setting where every other person is speaking a tongue that you have never heard? Have you had people make faces, speak so loud to your face, or laugh, and you just nod since you have no idea what is going on? Have you left your homeland to start from zero? Have you ever been told that your accent will never make you succeed in a foreign land? Come hear my story and how I overcame culture and language barriers. Come get strategies you can use with ELL students.

Ezequiel Perez, CMU

Session 4: 2:35 – 3:50

Thinking outside the box with creative writing

This lively and high-powered workshop takes reading and writing to a whole new level by presenting creative and interactive activities that increase student interest and motivation and transform classrooms into more dynamic and engaging learning environments. Participants will walk out of the

workshop with activities that they can begin using tomorrow.

Dieter Bruhn, One World Training, LLC

Session 5: 4:00 – 5:15

Eureka Science Experiments for Families

Come see the new CMU science and engineering building. This session offers a hands-on engineering challenge lesson to enhance student and parent engagement in science and engineering practices. This workshop will inspire and inform families and prepare students to be college- and career-ready through creative problem solving, innovative inquiry, and developing 21st Century skills. (NOTE: This session will be outside of the building. Participants will walk to science and engineering building.)

Cynthia Valdez, Mesa County School District 51

Session 5: 4:00 – 5:15

Building a community that treats everybody Equally

Creating new avenues of expression is a present moral issue directed to people with physical and cognitive disabilities; it also applies to people incorrectly diagnosed with disabilities, like second language speakers. Educators, public places, businesses, museums, musical opportunities, libraries, and other social services need to adapt services and opportunities for people with disabilities to experience everything they offer, no matter what. This can be achieved by building a community that treats everybody equally, and accommodates services. People with disabilities are not much different than others. By exploring their extraordinary qualities and attributes, you will trust and not be afraid of them.

Sandra Ruth Núñez Currier, Mesa County Libraries

PRESENTER BIOS

(ALPHABETICAL BY LAST NAME)

Irene Almond, ELL Coordinator, Mesa County School District 51, irene.almond@d51schools.org



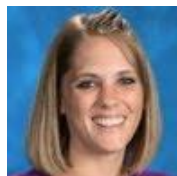
Irene Almond is currently the ELL Coordinator in District 51 and has served in her current position for 7 years. Other professional experiences range from being an elementary teacher, a middle school teacher, counselor, principal, a high school counselor and assistant principal. Irene has always been an advocate for English Language Learners and continues to strive to close the achievement gap for diverse student groups. She is an alumnus of the University of Northern Colorado, Adams State College, and the University of Colorado at Denver.

Joan Axthelm, Elementary ESL Teacher, Mesa County School District 51, Joan.Axthelm@d51schools.org



Joan Axthelm has taught English as a second language at D51 almost 8 years. Teaching is the second career for her, and she began with secondary students but now teaches students K-5. She has a family of her own to wrangle, including two young kids, and when free of those responsibilities enjoys music, hiking, and advocating for healthy, hearty public education for everyone.

Mindy Becker, K-5 ELL teacher, Lincoln Elementary, Delta County School District, melinda.becker@deltaschools.com



Mindy Becker has been an elementary teacher for 9 years working in kindergarten, first grade, and ELL. After only 2 years as an ELL teacher, she was named one of the recipients of the Virginia French Allen award for Excellence in Teaching by COTESOL in 2017. Mindy works closely with the classroom teachers at her school to support her EL students' general classroom curriculum while meeting the needs of her diverse learners.

Jesse Beynon, English Instructor, Mesa County School District 51, Jesse.Beynon@d51schools.org



Jesse Beynon's experience as an English educator has come from the high school and middle school levels. He spent two years at Palisade High School and is now finishing his third year teaching sixth grade. He currently co-teaches with Michelle Bridwell at Fruita Middle School in Mesa Valley School District 51. He has co-taught for a grand total of three years and has gained increasing conviction of its value to students and teachers within any classroom.

Susan K. Breckenridge, ESL/IA, Central High School, Susan.Breckenridge@d51schools.org



Susan has been an ESL/IA at Central High School and Bookcliff Middle School for the past five years. Her focus is on Math and Comp/Lit. Susan has worked evenings for Hilltop Community Resources for the past twelve years teaching adult GED students. These positions have enabled Susan to blend her love of Psychology, Spanish and Education to assist young people as well as adults who strive to better themselves.

Michelle Bridwell, ESL Teacher, Mesa County School District 51, michelle.bridwell@d51schools.org



A photojournalist for many years based in Austin, Texas, Michelle Bridwell is currently an ESL teacher with MCVSD51 in Grand Junction and a developmental English instructor at Colorado Mesa University/Western Colorado Community College. She has been teaching since 2010, and she and Jesse Beynon have been co-teaching together for two and a half years.

Dieter Bruhn, President, One World Training, LLC, dbruhn@oneworldtraining.com



Dieter Bruhn is President and Founder of One World Training, where he specializes in teacher education and training. He has been on the Executive Board of CoTESOL for 12 years, including two years as President, and he has conducted training programs all over the world.

Patricia Buettgenbach, ELL Teacher, Fruitvale Elementary



I am Patricia Buettgenbach, currently an ELL Instructional Assistant at Fruitvale Elementary. I have been doing it for two years. I have done a before school homework club to help support the ELL students. I want to continue to help the diverse students in any way I can. I am also an alumna of Colorado Christian University.

Danielle Cingoranelli, 2nd Grade Spanish Teacher, Dual Immersion Academy, Danielle.Cingoranelli@D51schools.org

Andrea Espinosa, 2nd grade English Teacher, Dual Immersion Academy, Andrea.Espinosa@D51schools.org



Andrea and Danielle are the second grade team at Dual Immersion Academy. They have been a team for five years. Andrea is a bilingual educator who is in her tenth year at Dual Immersion Academy. She has taught third and second grade. Andrea has earned her endorsement in Linguistically Diverse Education. Danielle is a bilingual educator who is in her fifth year at Dual Immersion Academy. Danielle is certified in ESL and Bilingual/Bicultural education. Both are extremely passionate about bilingual education.

Emily Cuevas, Mesa County Libraries Literacy Center, literacy@mcpld.org



Emily Cuevas became a member of the Mesa County Libraries Literacy Program in the fall of 2016. While studying Anthropology at Tulane University, she spent a semester volunteering as an English teacher in Brazil. She has since achieved her certification in Teaching English as a Second Language. As a part of the literacy team, she works to coordinate trainings for current as well as new literacy tutors, and she assists Eusebia Garza in connecting students to library resources.

Stephanie Dewing, Ph.D., Lead Supervisor, National Professional Development Grant Project, University of Colorado Colorado Springs, sdewing2@uccs.edu



I have been a Spanish and ESL/ELD teacher, coach, and teacher educator for about 20 years. I have taught in K-12, bilingual education, and higher education settings both here in the U.S. and in Quito, Ecuador. Currently, I am the Lead Supervisor for a National Professional Development grant project at the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs. My ultimate goal in everything I do is to unite educators with their culturally and linguistically diverse students and families through language development and cultural understanding. Together, we can make a difference.

Kevin Donoher, Teacher, Bookcliff Middle School, Dual Immersion Academy, Kevin.donoher@d51schools.org



Kevin Donoher teaches eighth grade math at Bookcliff Middle School and Dual Immersion Academy. He has taught math for nine years, seven of which have been at Bookcliff. Prior to teaching, Mr. Donoher worked as a civil engineer in Denver and as a Peace Corps volunteer in Honduras. He is an alumnus of Colorado School of Mines and New Mexico State University.

Karalyn Dorn, Executive Director, Child & Migrant Services, childmigrantservices@gmail.com



Karalyn's 20+ years of professional experience in the field of human services includes administration, case management, community outreach, volunteer recruitment, job development, fundraising and program coordination. She has lived and worked in Latin America, including a two-year stint as Peace Corps Volunteer in Guatemala, and is fluent in Spanish.

Adrienne Duff, Biology teacher, Central High School



Adrienne Duff has taught science for 18 years. For the last two years, she has had the unique opportunity of co-teaching an ELL/Non-ELL Biology class in addition to her other science classes at Central High School in Grand Junction, Colorado.

Eusebia Garza, Mesa County Libraries Literacy Center, literacy@mcpld.org



Eusebia Garza has been working with adult English Language Learners at the Mesa County Libraries Literacy Center for close to nine years. Her own journey at the library began as one of its students, eventually evolving into the role she has at the Literacy Center today. Since becoming a member of the literacy team in 2008, Eusebia has dedicated herself to the development of the program and the services it provides, and endeavored to connect ESL students to the many resources the library offers.

Nelly F. Garcia Olmos, West Central-Migrant Education Program, Nelly.GarciaOlmos@d51schools.org



Nelly F. Garcia Olmos is an Outreach and Enrollment specialist for the West Central-Migrant Education Program. Nelly graduated from Colorado Mesa University with a BA in Spanish Applied Professional and Spanish Literature and Language. She has been with the Migrant Education Program for the past 4 years, enrolling families and providing instructional/support services for migrant families in 29 school district across the western slope of Colorado. She works closely with Out of School Youth as an advocate and facilitates post-secondary career options. Nelly is involved with local and state wide nonprofit organizations that work on social justice issues and civic engagement.

Cheyenne Gentry, ESL teacher, Grand Junction High School, cheyanne.gentry@d51schools.org



Cheyenne Gentry has been a counselor/educator for 28 years. She holds an MA in Cultural Linguistics & Diversity from CU Boulder and a BA in History from CMU. She also has a CAC III for the State of Colorado. She has been teaching at GJHS ESL teacher for 10 years.

Dena Guidry, ESL Teacher, Chipeta Elementary, Dena.guidry@d51schools.org



Dena has taught in different capacities for 15 years. She began her career in Deep South Texas where she taught Gifted and Talented, 4th grade and 2nd grade. 90% of her students were English language learners, and many were Newcomers to the U.S. Dena moved to Western Colorado in 2012 and now serves as an ESL Teacher at Chipeta Elementary in Grand Junction. Being the single mother of a teenage boy, Dena stays very busy, but enjoys reading and spending time with her friends.

Monica Heptner, Principal, Dual Immersion Academy, monica.heptner@d51.org



Monica Heptner has been the Principal at the Dual Immersion Academy for six years. Monica is also a CMU and CCU Affiliate ESL Professor. Prior to that she was an ELL Coach in District 51 for one year, a dual immersion teacher for six years, and a bilingual teacher and coordinator in Limon, Costa Rica 18 years. Monica was also a Peace Corps Volunteer for rural pilot schools in Honduras and Costa Rica.

Ed Hockett, Central High School, ed.hockett@d51schools.org



Ed Hockett earned his BA in modern languages from Knox College. He has an M.A. and Ph.D. in Spanish literature from Indiana University. He has instructed at the college and high school levels for 46 years. Currently he teaches ESL at Central H. S. in Grand Junction.

Debbie Hovland, ELL Teacher, Fruitvale Elementary, debbie.hovland@d51schools.org



Debbie Hovland has been the ELL Teacher at Fruitvale Elementary with District 51 for 4 years. Prior to that she was a LEAG Liaison for 5 years and 8 years as an ELL instructional assistant. All have required her to develop close relationships with her ELL families. As a former ELL student, she understands and appreciates the need for cultural understanding in the classroom. Debbie also recognizes the need for families to come together in the ways of reading. Debbie is an Alumna of Colorado Mesa University, Colorado Christian University and is currently working on her masters in English Language Acquisition.

Josh King, Math Teacher, Central High School, josh.king@d51schools.org



Josh King has been teaching math at Central High school for several years. He joined the Academic Language For All (ALFA) team 3 years ago and has been a peer leader ever since. He has presented at school and District high school in-services and has changed his practice as a result. Josh has also coached basketball at Central High School.

Melissa Maldonado, Youth Services Library Assistant, mmaldonado@mcpld.org



Melissa was born and raised in a dangerous neighborhood in Chicago, but later moved to Colorado when she was 12 years old. As a first generation Mexican-American, she was able to obtain her bachelor's degree in psychology from Colorado Mesa University. Currently, she is working with families and children at a public library and is a social and behavioral analysis intern at a defense attorney's office. She is also planning on continuing her academic career in psychology and law.

Peg Martinez, Community Health Worker, Child & Migrant Services, pegmtz.cms@gmail.com

Peg started her career assisting migrant farm workers in California's Central Valley, then worked for years as a family liaison in public schools before becoming a professional Spanish interpreter. Peg has proven to be an invaluable asset to CMS, quickly gaining the confidence of workers as she assists them with medical appointments and troubleshooting the everyday challenges that arise.

Kelly McGuire, ESL Content Facilitator, Mesa County School District 51, kelly.mcguire@d51schools.org



Kelly has an MA in Education for English Speakers of Other Languages from Colorado Mesa University. She taught ESL for 5 years before becoming a specialist.

Yunnuen McLaughlin, Teacher, Dual Immersion Academy, Grand Junction, delia.mclaughlin@d51schools.org



Yunnuen McLaughlin has taught 7th grade Math and Science in Spanish at the Dual Immersion Academy in Grand Junction, Colorado for the last 8 years. Yunnuen, a native Spanish speaker, was born in Chihuahua, Mexico, and grew up mostly in El Paso, Texas. Yunnuen has a Bachelor's in Business Management and a Master's in Bilingual Education from the University of Texas at El Paso. She is passionate about Dual Language education and the opportunity to support biliteracy and biculturalism.

Amanda Miller-Perkins, 3rd Grade Teacher, Clifton Elementary, Mesa County School District 51, amanda.miller-perkins@d51schools.org



Amanda Miller went to school at Fort Lewis College and got her degree in Political Science. She then returned to school at Colorado Mesa University where she received her degree in Elementary Education. Amanda has been a classroom teacher for the past ten years in Mesa County Valley School District 51. She has taught middle school as well as intermediate grades at the elementary school.

Sandra Ruth Núñez Currier, Youth Services Coordinator, Mesa County Libraries, scurrier@mcpld.org



Sandra has been the Youth Services Coordinator at Mesa County Libraries, central branch, since 2017. Prior to that, she managed orchestras and choirs in a public school in the western slope. She was a practicing violin player at Clear Lake Symphony, Orquesta Sinfónica Juvenil de El Salvador, among others. She is also involved with other non-profits in her home country, El Salvador.

Sandra holds an Arts Diploma from the National School of Arts in El Salvador, a bachelor's in music education K-12, and a bachelor's in liberal arts. Sandra is working in on her master's in special education from Colorado Mesa University.

Ezequiel Perez, CMU Instructor and Fruita 8/9 Teacher, eperez@coloradomesa.org



Ezequiel Perez is originally from Mexico and he came to the United States at age 16, where he learned English as a second language. Mr. Perez obtained a degree in teaching and one in interpreting at Colorado Mesa University. In addition, Mr. Perez obtained a Master's Degree in Teaching and an Educational Specialist in School Leadership from the University of Northern Colorado. Mr. Perez loves to teach a second language at the secondary and college level. He is currently working on his Special Education Degree and is a National Board Candidate.

Devon Pollack, Educator, Chipeta & Orchard Avenue Elementary schools, Devon.Pollack@d51schools.org



Devon is in her 4th year teaching ESL and 5th year as an educator. She began her teaching career teaching high school Spanish at Montezuma Cortez high school and has over two years of experience teaching ESL abroad. She worked with classroom teachers facilitate the development of English classes in a public school in El Salvador while serving for the Peace Corps. Additionally she volunteered as an ESL teacher for an after school program in Guatemala. Devon works push-in and pullout services for K-5 students. She uses TPR, comprehensible input, and SIOP techniques to help students acquire the language and meet classroom expectations.

Jamie Popp, K-5 ESL Teacher, Clifton Elementary, Mesa County School District 51, jamie.popp@d51schools.org



Jamie Popp went to school at the University of Northern Colorado and got her undergraduate degree in Elementary Education. After working in north Denver for a year, she went on to pursue her masters at the University of Colorado in Culturally Diverse Education and Special Education. She continued working in classroom in north Denver for another nine years. Then she moved to the Grand Junction area, where she has taught for the past eight years as a classroom teacher and as an ESL teacher.

Patrick T. Randolph, Lecturer III, PIESL, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, patricktrandolph@yahoo.com



Patrick T. Randolph currently teaches at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and has taught English language learners for the past 23 years, specializing in vocabulary, creative and academic writing, speech, and debate. His research interests include applying findings in neuroscience to the language classroom. He has been awarded two "Best of TESOL Affiliates" awards for his presentations on vocabulary pedagogy (2013-2015) and preventing plagiarism (2016-2018). He recently received the "Best of CoTESOL" award" for his 2017 presentation on Observation Journals. Patrick lives with his soul-inspiring wife, Gamze; his cheerfully trilingual daughter, Aylene; and comical-cat, Gable in Lincoln, Nebraska.

daughter, Aylene; and comical-cat, Gable in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Michele Rewold, Dual Language Program Facilitator, Mesa County Valley School District 51, Michele.rewold@d51schools.org



Michele is a bilingual educator who has had the privilege of serving in the field of bilingual education for over twenty years. She has served as a classroom teacher and instructional coach in various bilingual education models in Adams 14, Eagle County, and now in dual language in Mesa County Valley School District 51. She has a Masters of Arts in Bilingual Education and Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Colorado at Denver.

Nicole Bernal Ruiz, Program Director, Immigration Legal Assistance Program, Hispanic Affairs Project, nbernal99@gmail.com



Nicole is a Grand Valley native but spent a decade living out of state. Her professional background is in Hispanic ministry, faith formation, community organizing, and immigrant advocacy. For the past 3 years, Nicole has been working primarily with clients filing for immigration benefits such as citizenship, DACA, and family-based petitions. Nicole earned a BA in Great Books from the University of Notre Dame and an MA in Theology. Nicole loves exploring the outdoors with her family, and working with the amazing immigrants living in this community. HAP is a regional non-profit supporting immigrant integration across the Western slope.

Tracy Seremak, Math Content Facilitator, Mesa County School District 51, Tracy.Seremak@d51schools.org



I am a math educator passionate about problem-solving, math discourse, and access and equity in math education. I have shared my love of math with 8th graders and all levels of high school. Currently, I am sharing my love of math with all secondary math teachers in District 51 as our math content facilitator. I have a BA in Secondary Math Education and an MA in Educational Leadership. Finally, I am a dabbler and experimenter of DESMOS, all TI graphing calculators and tools, and any new Ed Tech gadget that I find.

Kim Smith, Math Interventionist, Bookcliff Middle School, Kim.smith@d51schools.org



Kim Smith is a math interventionist and Number Talks Ambassador currently serving students in grades 6 - 8 at Bookcliff Middle School. She started her career in elementary school 25 years ago and has facilitated learning for students ranging in age from birth to adult. Kim has a Bachelor's Degree in Education, a Master's Degree in Educational Technology, and licensure in Special Education and Educational Leadership. She is blessed to have the opportunity to work with young mathematicians every day.

Cynthia Valdez, ESL Facilitator/Coach, Mesa County School District 51, cynthia.valdez@d51schools.org



Cynthia Valdez has a B.A. in History with a minor in Spanish from Mesa State College. She is currently working on her Master's Degree in Education. She taught ESL at Palisade High School for 14 years and she has been an ESL Facilitator / Coach in Mesa School District 51 for 3 years. Cynthia was a co-teacher at PHS and she has taught the co-teaching classes for the past 3 years.

THANK YOU

The morning coffee break was generously sponsored by



UNIVERSITY OF
NORTHERN
COLORADO

COTESOL would like to extend a special thank you to the conference organizers: Irene Almond (Mesa County School District 51), Ann Gillies (Colorado Mesa University), and CoTESOL board members Daniel Schweissing (Spring Conference Liaison), Tom Germain (President), Larry Fisher (Executive Secretary), Beth Skelton, Virginia Nicolai, and Chris Tombari. Thank you to the rest of the CoTESOL Board as well for supporting this effort.

CERTIFICATE OF ATTENDANCE

attended

*The CoTESOL 2018 Spring Conference
“How to best serve English language learners:
What’s working on the Western Slope!”*

March 24, 2018 - Grand Junction, CO

One-day attendance: 8 Professional Development Hours

PRESENTED BY

Colorado Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages



Record conference attendance below by entering the titles of each session attended

Saturday Session 1	
Saturday Session 2	
Keynote	Selecting and Teaching Vocabulary Before Reading Margarita Calderon
Saturday Session 3	
Saturday Session 4	
Saturday Session 5	

NOTES
