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Welcome from the K-12 Editor

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Hello Fellow Educators!

We know you have a story to tell or knowledge to share. People want to know about your expertise and how you have grown professionally. As an ESOL teacher, I have met families from all over the world, helped students to develop survival skills in this Western culture, and used my Spanish to help students to make connections between their native language and the language of their academic content. More specifically, I have conducted professional development classes for K-12 teachers, presented at state-level conferences, and conducted research about the culturally proficient teacher and the ESOL student. In addition, I have encouraged mainstream teachers to improve upon their pedagogical content knowledge so that they might more insightfully use their curriculum guides. Also, I have initiated cultural celebrations that showcased important contributions of prominent figures from that cultural community. These celebrations provided tips and strategies to help the English Language Learner improve their English and enlightened families and other members of my community about the intricacies of US-born and immigrant students. As a GATESOL Regional Liaison, I met with wonderful educators from the K-12,

university/college, and retired sectors. We discussed the mission and vision of GATESOL, their experiences with culturally diverse populations, and policies and procedures that are in place to ensure equity in our educational systems. As a result, networks were established and morale increased.

Reflect upon your own story. Have you had teachable moments in your classrooms that sparked an interest to engage families and to further your own education? Have you participated in professional development sessions that equipped you to initiate a new strategy or to re-vamp an old one? Have you taken an endorsement class or completed a degree that caused you to conduct quantitative or qualitative research? I want to encourage you to write about these things and your contributions that benefit multilingual and multicultural communities. Your research, strategies, and insight can increase the morale of your fellow K-12 educators and all other stakeholders. Start here with us at *GATESOL in Action Journal*.

I am available to help you work on any submissions, and please feel free to let me know if you need anything.

Your Partner in Education,

Kendra M. Castelow, Ed.S.
K-12 Editor
GATESOL In Action Journal