



# GATESOL In Action

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## From the President of Georgia TESOL

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### BEING LEARNING LEADERS

As language professionals, we understand the need for ongoing professional development. In fact, in the GATESOL mission/purpose statement we indicate that providing opportunities for ongoing study and research along with encouraging professional development, participation, and leadership within Georgia is something that we will do as an organization.

Since 1981, Georgia TESOL has been here working to provide what some would call a vital piece in the ongoing development of educators stating that “when educators learn, students learn more” (Mizell, 19). Even though our organization has grown and changed since its inception, our belief in our standard mission is still the same. One area in which we are dedicated is ensuring that our Annual Conference has quality presentations and speakers. Each year our Conference team dedicates countless hours to developing a conference that will meet the needs of the various groups within GATESOL. Additionally, we have begun to fund smaller learning opportunities for specific groups throughout the year. This past spring the IEP interest section held their 2nd Annual Mini-Conference, our Adult Education interest section held their first ‘hands-on’ workshop, and this summer, Regions 8, 9, & 12 held their first regional meeting.

We aim to connect to our members throughout the year through our newsletters, online forums, Facebook, Twitter (@GA\_TESOL), and resources found on our website. As our world becomes more virtual, it is imperative that we as an organization move forward as well. It is exciting to see GATESOL in Action moving to an online journal. This is our organization’s cornerstone publication providing articles from current practitioners in the field with ongoing information about new research and current language learning practices.

In order for language educators to remain at the “top of our game”, we must be learning leaders and this happens in part through ongoing professional development. Leaders and educators who desire to research, study, learn, and apply new knowledge to better equip our students for the language demands they will face. With this new online journal, GATESOL continues to be a learning leader as an organization. Connect with GATESOL and help ensure that we will be able to provide professional development in its various forms for our members for years to come.

Mizell, Hayes. *Why professional development matters*. Oxford, OH: Learning Forward. 2010.  
[www.learningforward.org](http://www.learningforward.org)