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Food order: Mr. Marsala  
CATESOL Chapter Coordinator: Kathy Miner  
Conference Chair: Tünde Csepelyi



Northern Nevada  
CATESOL Chapter  
Conference

## EMPOWERING EDUCATORS THROUGH CULTURAL COMPETENCY

November 18 — 19, 2011

*Truckee Meadows Community College*

*Dandini Campus  
Sierra Building  
7000 Dandini Boulevard  
Reno, NV 89512*



**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18**

**Room: Vista 108**



**4:00 — 9:00 pm**      *Registration*

**5:00 — 5:15**      *Welcome*  
TMCC President Maria Sheehan

**5:15 — 6:30**      *Cultural competency at WCSD/Envision 2012*

**Pati Falk, Stacey Ting-Senini, & Fátima Rivas**  
Washoe County School District

The presenters will provide a Washoe County School District (WCSD) cultural competency initiative outlined in Envision 2015. The presentation will include information about the district's Diversity, Equity, Leadership Team; Employee Network Groups; and Study Circles.

Participants will engage in meaningful discussion and activities related to their own cultural memberships, individual beliefs, and biases that impact teaching and learning. We will explore the relationships between the dominant culture and cultural practices of the United States and begin to understand how power and privilege play out in schools.



**6:30 — 7:15**      *Dinner*

**Cristal Cisneros** is the SIOP Implementation Specialist for Dilworth STEM Academy. She has her ESL Endorsement and has been teaching in the district for 6 years now. Before she became an Implementation Specialist, she was a 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher.

[ccisneros@washoeschools.net](mailto:ccisneros@washoeschools.net)

**Joan Weber, Ms.Ed,** is an ESL instructor at TMCC, and a half-time ESL teacher at Washoe Innovations High School in Reno.

[jweber@tmcc.edu](mailto:jweber@tmcc.edu)

**Laurel Pollard** has been a classroom teacher and teacher educator for over thirty years and is enjoying it more all the time. Her books include *Zero Prep: Ready-to-Go Activities*, *Zero Prep for Beginners*, *WOW! Stories From Real Life* (a low-beginning multi-skills reader), and *Finding Family* (an intermediate textbook). Laurel leads workshops for ESL and content teachers all over the world. Her aims: to make teachers' lives easier and more effective, and to provide students with tools for success.

[laurel@laurelpollard.com](mailto:laurel@laurelpollard.com)

**Blanche Dieket** is an ESL instructor at Truckee Meadows Community College Adult Basic Education Program.

[bdieket@tmcc.edu](mailto:bdieket@tmcc.edu)

**Julie Balderson, Interpreter/Instructional Assistant for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing** at Carson City School District

[balderson\\_julie@yahoo.com](mailto:balderson_julie@yahoo.com)

**Carol Stranford, M.A.,** has taught languages to all ages and levels, preschool to college, Newcomer to Fully English Proficient. Currently in her 15<sup>th</sup> year with Washoe County School District, she teaches fifth and sixth grade ELLs at Donner Springs Elementary.

[cstranford@washoe.k12.nv.us](mailto:cstranford@washoe.k12.nv.us)

**Joaquin Rocés** has coordinated cultural and educational exchange programs at UNR's International Center, and has taught a cultural and intensive English language class in Algeria for the US State Department.

[ellis.unit1@gmail.com](mailto:ellis.unit1@gmail.com)

**Kathy Miner** is an ELL instructor at Swope Middle School and Washoe High School.

[kminer@washoeschools.net](mailto:kminer@washoeschools.net)

**THANK YOU FOR PRESENTING**

## Presenters

**Pati Falk** has served WCSD as a primary grades teacher, Reading Recovery teacher, Dean, and Principal and Director for Curriculum and Instruction for WCSD and the Northwest Regional Professional Development Program. She has been active in the leadership of the cultural competency initiative in WCSD.

[pfalk@washoeschools.net](mailto:pfalk@washoeschools.net)

**Stacey Ting-Senini** is a Curriculum specialist and principal in Seattle Washington and Reno, Nevada. Employed by the WCSD as a Consulting Principal to mentor and coach principals/assistant principals. Stacey is currently developing training modules related to cultural competency and equity training for administrators, implementation specialists, and nurses.

[sting@washoeschools.net](mailto:sting@washoeschools.net)

**Fátima Rivas** serves as the WCSD coordinator dedicated to reaching out to bi-cultural families in Washoe County, providing resources, and promoting family engagement as well as supporting academic success for more than 40,000 minority students and their families. She coordinates the Study Circles program at the district to help schools and families remove racial/ethnic barriers that hamper students' achievement and family engagement.

[frivas@washoeschools.net](mailto:frivas@washoeschools.net)

**Eleni Oikonomidou, Ph.D.**, is an Assistant Professor of Multicultural Education at the College of Education of the University of Nevada, Reno. Her research and teaching interests are: a) academic identity construction of foreign-born students; b) globalization, culture, and education; and c) cultivation of globally aware and culturally responsive teaching approaches.

[eleni@unr.edu](mailto:eleni@unr.edu)

**Eriko Sakamura** is an ESL instructor at TMCC ABE and a graduate student in the MATESOL program at UNR. She has taught English for two years and currently teaches an ESL pre-college mathematics class.

[esakamura@tmcc.edu](mailto:esakamura@tmcc.edu)

**Rod Case** is an Associate Professor at the University of Nevada, Reno. His interests are in second language acquisition and oral language.

[rcase@unr.edu](mailto:rcase@unr.edu)

**Laurie Campbell** is an ELL Facilitator at WCSD, with extensive experience in teaching second language learners grades K-6 by incorporating SIOP, GLAD, and CELL strategies while implementing the Avenues Program.

[lacampbell@washoe.k12.nv.us](mailto:lacampbell@washoe.k12.nv.us)

**7:15 — 8:00** *Using the experiences of foreign-born students in schools*

**Eleni Oikonomidou**, University of Nevada, Reno

Using the experiences of foreign-born students in schools as a focal point, this presentation will problematize static notions of culture and will advocate for the reconceptualization of peripheral and sporadic attention to culture in schools. Instead, the widespread dissemination of culturally responsive curricular and pedagogical approaches will be proposed, through the cultivation of teachers' critical intercultural engagement.



**8:00 — 8:45** *The Color of Fear*

**Kathy Miner**,  
Washoe County School District

The Award Winning Documentary “The Color of Fear” will be shown, followed by a brief discussion.



**8:45 — 9:00** *Adjourn*

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19**

**7:30 a.m. — 3:00 p.m. Registration and Networking**

**8:00 a.m. — 8:45 a.m.**  
**21st Century Skills and TESL**  
**Pajama-Party with Margaret Teske**  
CATESOL President



**Room: 105**

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**9:00 a.m. — 9:45 a.m.**

**Using Popular Media in the Classroom — Rod Case**

**Room: 115**

*In what ways can teachers include both top-down and bottom-up listening and speaking strategies in their instruction? This presentation will explore the ways in which popular music videos and movie clips from YouTube can provide a motivating and simple solution.*

**Round Table Discussions**

**Room: 105**

**Cheering — Blanche Dieket**

*"My Pledge" - Words of empowerment, encouragement, focus, and self-esteem to help students develop confidence in their own capacities.*

**Bloom's Taxonomy — Carol Stranford**

*In order to move to higher levels of thinking on Bloom's Taxonomy, students need a basic comprehension of the text and sequence of events. This "zero-prep," SIOP-based sequencing lesson features co-operative learning to generate a whole-class summary. This engaging activity addresses all four language modalities as well as the comprehension skills of summarizing and retelling.*

**Idioms — Joan Weber**

*Idiomatic expressions are some of the more confusing elements in the English language. A simple ten minute lesson, used frequently, can give students an edge on understanding and using idioms. Let's "let the cat out of the bag" about how much fun it is to learn these challenging English phrases.*

**Building Background with Vocabulary! — Laurie Campbell**

*Ideas and activities that integrate all language skills when teaching vocabulary to your students (i.e. reading, writing, listening, speaking and gestures).*

**Listening and decoding — Eriko Sakamura**

*The process of listening –listening is not passive!- consists of many steps. Come and learn about the theory of decoding and listening that can be used in any classroom from K-12 and beyond.*

**10:00 a.m. — 12:00 p.m.**

**Welcome**

CATESOL President Margaret Teske  
**Four Skills with Zero Preparation — Laurel Pollard**

**Room: 108**

*Come and practice activities that boost listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills and work great in multi-level classes. These 'best-practice' routines require no preparation time outside class – which gives teachers time to relax, reflect, and recover their vision.*

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**12:00 p.m. — 1:00 p.m. Lunch**

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**1:00 p.m. — 2:30 p.m.**

**Concurrent Presentations**

**SIOP Coach at a SIG School — Cristal Cisneros**

**Room: 116**

*This presentation will discuss information on coaching and how to support teachers in their instruction of ELLs.*

**Best Practices in Grammar Teaching — Annette Acosta**

**Room: 115**

*Students are always looking for ways to improve their grammar. This session focuses on: the importance of context – is a structure used more in spoken or written language, teaching prepositions effectively, engaging students in editing activities, and ways grammar and writing intersect. Research-based strategies will be presented.*

**Recognizing Linguicism/Linguistic Discrimination in Education — Julie Balderson and Joaquin Rafael**

**Room: 114**

*This presentation will define linguicism as linguistic prejudice, and provide justification and approaches for teaching against it. The presenters will provide a synopsis of current thinking in this area, and lead discussion on practical applications across K-12+ settings.*

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**2:30 p.m. — 3:00 p.m. Snack Break**

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**3:00 p.m. — 5 :00 p.m.**

**Vocabulary with Zero Preparation — Laurel Pollard**

**Room: 108**

*Students know it, teachers know it, and research supports it: vocabulary is crucial! Help your students become lifelong vocabulary learners with this collection of best-practice vocabulary activities. Zero preparation time for you and maximum engagement for your students, both in class and in the world beyond the classroom.*

**4:45 p.m. — 5:00 p.m. Adjourn**

**Northern Nevada CATESOL Chapter Conference 2012**