

First NYS Teacher Education SIG Roundtable Planning Meeting a Success

Report by Soonhyang Kim & Joanna Labov

Statement of Purpose

The NYS TESOL Teacher Education SIG provides a forum for ESL teacher educators to raise, discuss, and address issues relevant to the education, preparation, and continuing professional development of teachers who work with ESL learners in New York State. It creates opportunities for ESL teacher educators to learn, interact, collaborate, and share with one another.

On Friday, October 2, 2009 the NYS TESOL Teacher Education Special Interest Group (SIG) met for the first time to plan future events about teacher education and ESL. This roundtable planning meeting was held at D'Youville College in Buffalo, NY. There were a total of fourteen participants including seven assistant professors or coordinators of higher education TESOL programs, three teachers in local school districts in the Buffalo area, two ESL teachers from adult programs in Erie, PA, the West Region BETAC coordinator, and a current student from D'Youville's TESOL program. The participants attended the meeting in order to learn tips for teaching ESL, to create a network with other ESL teachers, and to encourage more collaboration with the BETAC.

The participants discussed many important teacher education and classroom management issues including NCLB accountability, district wide collaboration, communication between content area and ESL teachers, and push-in and pull-out models of learning. The participants were also asked to share how they would like to be involved in TE SIG activities. They noted that mini-mentoring groups would be a good way to be involved as well as the use of a virtual teacher staff room. Lastly, the attendees were asked for general suggestions for the TE SIG co-chairs. The attendees suggested monthly meetings, including freestyle and informal discussions amongst members.

The next Teacher Education SIG sponsored event will be the *Classroom Management Panel Presentation* at the Annual New York State TESOL Conference on Saturday, November 14, from 9:00-10:30 am. There will be a TE SIG planning meeting immediately after the classroom management panel presentation. Everyone is welcome to both events!

Soonhyang Kim is an Assistant Professor and founding TESOL director of the MA in TESOL Program at D'Youville College, Buffalo, New York. She has been actively involved in the field through service at local, national, and international levels. Several recent examples include membership in the Bilingual/ESL Committee of Practitioners sponsored by the New York Education Department, and the New York State TESOL Executive Board. She was also the chair of International TESOL's Higher Education Interest Section between 2005 and 2007. Kim is co-chair along with Joanna Labov of the New York State TESOL Teacher Education Special Interest Group.

Joanna Labov is a Clinical Assistant Professor of TESOL in New York University's Multilingual Multicultural Studies Program. Labov is a long term TESOL professional who has more than 20 years of experience in teaching ESL. She prepares master degree graduate students from a variety of countries to teach ESL to K-12 (kindergarden-12th grade) students in New York State public schools and adults. Labov is co-chair along with Soonhyang Kim of the New York State TESOL Teacher Education Special Interest Group.