

# WELCOME TO THE CONFERENCE!

It is the 2009 conference committee's pleasure to welcome you to "Whole Learner, Whole Teacher," the 40th Annual CATESOL State Conference. Our theme originated from our desire to explore how the challenges our students face outside the classroom impact their achievement in class and also to understand the difference between language learning and learning disabilities in order to best serve our students. From this beginning, our theme evolved to encompass not only a holistic understanding of students, but also of the teachers who strive to help them achieve their learning and life goals. As you peruse the following pages, we hope that you will find some new perspectives on achieving such an understanding. At the same time, we recognize that teachers need to nurture themselves in order to be healthy and productive individuals, as well as teachers, so presentations and activities have been planned with the purpose in mind, too.

The conference gets off to an inspirational start at Thursday evening's Opening Plenary. After honoring the Spirit of Teaching award recipient, Dr. James Manseau Saucedo will motivate us to reengage the "Wholeness of Learning and Teaching" by "Seeing with Kaleidoscope Eyes." After the plenary, all are invited to relax and network at the Opening Reception featuring hot and cold hors d'oeuvres and entertainment by the "Joy of Jazz."

On Friday, first-time state conference attendees are encouraged to attend the Newcomers' Orientation and Breakfast to learn how to optimize their state conference experience. Then attendees have a program of hundreds of concurrent sessions from which to choose. At the ticketed President's Luncheon, winners of the elementary, secondary, and adult level writing contests will be honored, as well as the recipients of the David Eskey Memorial Award for Curriculum Innovation. Following the luncheon, plenary speaker Dr. Catherine Collier will address another key aspect of our theme, "Separating Difference from Disability." The plenary is open to all attendees. After a day of intensity, enjoy a night on the town in Pasadena. Sign up at the Hospitality booth for an Escorted Dinner to five area restaurants to enjoy the cuisine and make news friends.

On Saturday, get your day off to a rousing start by joining the early morning Fun Walk. Later, keynote speaker H. Douglas Brown will reflect on "Whole-Person Learning and Teaching in the SECOND Decade of the Millennium." Before his presentation, join us to honor the Rick Sullivan Stipend award winners and also the winners of the community college essay contest. At noon, attend your level's lunchtime rap session and to discuss ideas of mutual interest. The Norma Shapiro Award and Graduate Student Research Contest winners will be honored at this time. After an afternoon of concurrent sessions, join colleagues and relax at the nearby Bodega Wine Bar for hors d'oeuvres and wine (or other beverages). Additional tickets can be purchased at the Hospitality booth.

On both Friday and Saturday, be sure to visit the Exhibit Hall not only to see the latest textbooks and teaching innovations, but also to visit the Poster Sessions and Job Fair and to partake in the many exciting "whole teacher" activities planned.

Sunday ends on a high-note with six intensive Sunday workshops by well-known experts on a wide range of topics. Before settling down, join the Sunday Fun Walk for a route highlighting yet more aspects of historic Pasadena.

The 2009 committee hopes your experience at the conference will be productive, inspiring, and enjoyable, an opportunity to recharge and reflect and get ready for another year of pursuing the profession you love.

Sincerely,  
Barbara Luther, Conference Chair, and the 2009 Conference Committee