

# PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

Welcome, Colleagues!

I would like to welcome you to the 40th CATESOL State Conference in Pasadena. CATESOL turns forty in a difficult economic year, but the pioneering founders of this multi-state organization did not fear challenges. CATESOL was founded to reflect the needs and the spirit of a large and diverse western state and grew to include neighboring Nevada. This is an organization which not only has an annual state conference, but also three one-day regional conferences and chapter conferences as well. It is members like you who plan these events and see them to fruition. CATESOL is made up of members who give of themselves and who come together at the annual state conference to learn new ideas and to renew their commitment to the field.

Fittingly, the theme of this year's conference is "Whole Learner, Whole Teacher." All year long we concern ourselves with our students. We try new teaching ideas, incorporate new technology into our lessons, and ask ourselves how we can become better teachers. But teachers also need a time for renewal. As we took this theme and expanded on it, it became clear that teacher renewal would become a part of this conference. So, as you plan your weekend, circle the talks that you want to hear and plan your days, but remember to plan some fun too. Sign up at the hospitality table for the "Energizing Fun Walk" and join one of the "Laughter Yoga" sessions in the Exhibits Hall. There are five different escorted dinners on Friday night and two events planned for Saturday. There is an ice skating party as well as a wine and light dinner social. Both events are very close to the Convention Center, so you can walk there with friends or make some new ones on the way.

The conference speakers were chosen with the "Whole Learner, Whole Teacher" theme as well. In the opening plenary speech on Thursday evening, Dr. Manseau Saucedo will discuss the idea of building alliances and nourishing partnerships with the community. He will talk about integrating different learning styles and blending these with cross-cultural communication skills. The Friday plenary speaker is Dr. Catherine Collier and she will speak on at-risk learners and learners with a variety of disabilities. Dr. Collier will provide an introduction to the topic that many teachers wonder about: is the problem that the teacher sees in the student's behavior one of language difference or of language disorder. This is a complex topic and one that all teachers need to learn about. The Saturday plenary will be delivered by Dr. H. Douglas Brown who will speak about what we have learned in the last ten years and the challenges for teachers of EL learners in the next decade.

There will be Level Rap Sessions and Level Workshops where you can connect with colleagues who teach the same level that you do. There will be six Sunday Workshops and Pre-Conference Workshops on Thursday. CATESOL's Legislative Advocate, Jeff Frost, will make a presentation on the 2009-2010 budget. Jeff will also have a question and answer session.

The President's Luncheon on Friday will be a time to hear our plenary speaker and to honor those who will be receiving awards. It is always inspiring to hear the words of our own students as they speak of their experiences as learners in our classrooms. I look forward to seeing you in Pasadena to celebrate our fortieth year as an organization and to honor the teachers and learners among us as well as the teacher and learner in you.

In unity,

Kathy Flynn  
CATESOL President 2008-2009