

Dear NYS TESOL Community:

I am very pleased to introduce this special edition of the NYS TESOL *Journal* dedicated to the 50th anniversary of the NYS TESOL annual conference. We are grateful to the authors, reviewers, and editors for launching an excellent volume during a time period filled with many challenges.

Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020, researchers and educators of multilingual learners have faced many obstacles to continue their important work in supporting and sustaining linguistically, culturally, and racially responsive practices for their students. In spite of this, and maybe as a result of our need to connect, educators and researchers in the field of TESOL came together during our first virtual conference to learn, share, and celebrate achievements of the crucial work that is being carried out during the COVID-19 pandemic. On our 50th anniversary, one message was made loud and clear in meetings, workshops, and coffee chats: We are our multilingual learners' and teachers' most committed and fiercest advocates. Please consider this 50th conference anniversary issue as a testimony to our hopes for a shared endeavor in multilingual education.

The work needed to dismantle and debunk myths around nativism, language purism, racism, and discrimination in language teaching and learning is relentless. This is a time of change and we should embrace it by elevating each other's work and by "walking our talk." The authors in this volume are doing exactly that. Their research encapsulates the strong messages shared during our virtual event. The pieces published in this volume question and challenge common assumptions while inviting readers to transform education for multilingual learners and the communities they are a part of. Through new digital spaces, culturally responsive and sustaining practices, and a critical perspective toward equity and access in the education of culturally, racially, and linguistically diverse learners, this volume expands the message of the NYS TESOL 50th annual conference.

I am truly inspired by the possibilities of the work as we read, think, and act together to make the necessary changes in our field. I hope you also feel energized by the uplifting ideas, questions, and outcomes of the work published in this special anniversary edition. Happy birthday, NYS TESOL!

Warmly,
Clara Vaz Bauler

cbauler@adelphi.edu

