

MITESOL 2014 CALL FOR PROPOSALS



**Expanding our Perspectives:
From the classroom to the community**

October 17-18

**Grand Valley State University
Grand Rapids**

Michigan Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages invites professionals involved with English language learners to submit proposals for our annual conference, to be held October 17th & 18th, at Grand Valley State University's Eberhard Center, in downtown Grand Rapids.

The theme of this year's conference, *Expanding our Perspectives: From the Classroom to the Community*, seeks to broaden our scope, to address the increasingly diverse needs of our membership—including those of our traditional constituents (in elementary, secondary, and post-secondary contexts), and those of professionals working in the many community-based and government-funded adult education programs across the state. This latter group serves a growing population of ESL students—primarily immigrants and refugees—who often have limited formal schooling and little or no print literacy. Referred to by the acronym LESLLA (low-educated second language and literacy acquisition)—or, for adolescents, SLIFE (students with limited or interrupted formal education)—these learners face the daunting task of acquiring another language while simultaneously learning how to read and write for the first time. This profile presents unique challenges for educators, administrators, and researchers alike.

MITESOL 2014 invites proposals related to *all* aspects of ESL/ELL/EAL in diverse contexts, including recent research, best practices, standards-based instruction, assessment, language policy & advocacy, CALL, program administration, and professional development. In keeping with this year's theme, we especially welcome proposals focusing on ESL among low-educated, low-literate adolescents and adults (including immigrants and refugees)—and the programs, policies, and pedagogies that serve them.

Proposals are being accepted for the following formats:

- **Paper** (50 minutes)—An oral summary, with occasional reference to notes, visuals, etc.
- **Teaching Demonstration** (50 minutes)—A session that *shows* and *explains* a technique for teaching or tutoring.
- **Panel Discussion** (50 minutes)—A structured, facilitated discussion of a hot topic in TESOL. Panelists should have a strong knowledge of the topic.
- **Workshop** (90 minutes)—A structured, hands-on professional development activity.
- **Exhibitor Session** (50 minutes)—A showcase for new teaching materials and resources. The presenter must register as an *exhibitor*.

Proposals must be submitted through MITESOL's **online conference proposal system** by **Monday, July 14, 11:59 pm EDT**. Please refer to the guidelines below for detailed instructions.

GUIDELINES FOR SUBMITTING MITESOL 2014 CONFERENCE PROPOSALS

Before Going to MITESOL's Online Conference Proposal System

MITESOL conference proposals require a **title**, **300-word abstract**, and **50-word summary**. Before entering the online system, prepare each of these items, following the directions presented below. Save them in an MS Word document, from which you can later copy text (to paste into the online system).

Title (100-character limit)

Create a title for your session that is descriptive and will solicit appropriate audience(s).
Length: 100 characters, *including spaces*, maximum

Abstract of Session (300-word limit)

Clearly describe the purpose and main content of your proposed session. Abstracts should show evidence of current practices/theory/research, and be thorough, well organized, and well written. This will be read by reviewers. Length: 300 words, maximum.

Summary of Session for Conference Program (50-word limit)

Write a clear, succinct summary of your proposed session for publication in the conference program. This will be read by conference attendees. Length: 50 words, maximum.

Access the Online Proposal System:

Go to the online proposal system, available at: <http://mitesol.elc.msu.edu/proposal>

**In* the Online Proposal System:*

Once you are in the system, you will be required to complete the following tasks:

1. **Register with a Username** *Only* the primary author for each proposal must **register** in the online system, which entails **creating a username** and **password**. Notification of acceptance will be emailed to primary authors.

You should receive the following message after completing the registration process:
 “You have successfully joined the system as a user. Your username and password have been emailed to you for your reference. Use this information to log in to the system. . .”

NOTE: Primary authors can add **co-presenter(s)** to a proposal using the “Add User” function; however, co-presenters themselves need not register or create usernames.

2. **Title** You will be asked to enter your session title (≤ 100 characters, including spaces).
3. **Audience & Area of Interest** You will be asked to indicate the area of interest and intended audience for your proposed presentation, via two drop-down menus.
 - a. **First Drop-down Menu** Select **ONE area of interest** that best matches the focus of your proposal:

Assessment
Computer-Assisted Language Learning (CALL)
English for Specific Purposes (ESP)
Immigrant, Migrant, & Refugee Concerns
Instruction, Curriculum, Materials
Policy & Advocacy
Professional Development
Program Administration
Research
Special Education & ESL
Teaching Content Area Teachers to Teach English (TCATTE)

- b. **Second Drop-down Menu** Select **ONE learning context** that best matches the focus of your proposed session:

Choices in Second Drop-down Menu
Adult Education (community, religious, or govt-funded; includes LESLLA)
College or University
Intensive English Program
Pre-K–12
Workplace
Not Applicable (learning context & learner age = irrelevant)

4. **Proposal Type** You will be asked to indicate the type of proposal you are submitting.
5. **Abstract of Session** You will be asked to enter your 300-word abstract.
6. **Presentation Summary** You will be asked to enter your 50-word summary.
7. **Equipment/Technology Needs** All rooms come equipped with a PC-compatible projection system and screen and desktop PC with CD/DVD player. Presenters are responsible for bringing **their own laptop computers, power cords**, and—for Apple-users—**projection adaptors**. You will be asked to specify any additional needs you may have. Please limit your requests to items that are *essential* for your presentation.
8. **Submitting Your Proposal** Once you click “submit,” you will not be able to edit/make changes to your proposal.

NOTIFICATION OF ACCEPTANCE

Acceptance decisions will be **emailed** to primary authors by late August.

QUESTIONS

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer to help with the 2014 Conference, please contact us. (Include “MITESOL” in the subject line of your message).

- **For Proposal inquiries:** **Colleen Brice**, Conference Chair
bricec@gvsu.edu
- **For IT/Website inquiries:** **Heidi Enck**, Communications Coordinator
heidi.enck@cornerstone.edu
- **For Membership inquiries:** **Jane DeGroot**, Membership Coordinator
JDeGroot@literacycenterwm.org
- **For Exhibitor inquiries:** **Sharon Pearce**, Exhibits Manager
sharon.m.pearce@gmail.com

