TESOL and National Geographic Learning Announce 2020 TESOL Teacher of the Year

Alexandria, VA (28 January 2020) – TESOL International Association and National Geographic Learning, a division of Cengage, are pleased to announce that Neda Sahranavard, a lecturer and academic coordinator at the University of California, Irvine and adjunct faculty at South Orange County Community College District in California, USA, will receive the 2020 TESOL Teacher of the Year Award. The award, which is open to teachers at all levels, honors exceptional English language teaching. Sahranavard will be recognized at the opening keynote session of the 2020 TESOL International Convention & English Language Expo, 31 March – 3 April in Denver, Colorado, USA.

An educator for more than 17 years, Sahranavard decided to become a teacher while juggling her undergraduate studies with caring for her two small children. Discussing the professors who influenced her future career in teaching, Sahranavard recalled, “[they] opened my world and would change my life dramatically. They guided me in learning English and embracing English literature. Through them, I explored my potential and became confident of what I was doing with my life. I hope I am the teacher that my own professors showed me.”

After completing her doctoral coursework at the Islamic Azad University in Tehran, Iran, Sahranavard moved to the United States where she completed her dissertation while teaching at Santa Ana College and the University of California, Irvine Division of Continuing Education. Teaching at the community college and university levels in Iran and the United States granted Sahranavard a wealth of experience as she was able to educate students from a wide range of socioeconomic, ethnic, linguistic, racial, and religious backgrounds.

While describing her philosophy as a teacher, Sahranavard noted, “I aim to keep the best interests of my students at heart. I believe that responsive and helpful communication is the pillar of teaching effectively. I always teach in context and work to create a seamless progression from one subject to another.”
The recipient of the TESOL Teacher of the Year Award receives a one-year membership in TESOL International Association; a selection of TESOL publications valued at US$250; complimentary registration, travel, and accommodations for the 2020 TESOL International Convention & English Language Expo; and a cash award of US$1000.

National Geographic Learning will present the award to Sahranavard at the TESOL International Convention, where she will deliver a presentation titled “Re-Conceptualizing the Teaching of Academic Reading/Vocabulary: A Multilingual Reader-Oriented Approach.” Her session will report on classroom-based studies in the use of a reader-oriented approach for teaching academic reading/vocabulary to multilingual students.

For more information on Neda Sahranavard, please see the Teacher of the Year feature in the January issue of TESOL Connections.

About National Geographic Learning

National Geographic Learning, a part of Cengage, brings the world to the classroom and the classroom to life. We create English programs that are inspiring, real and relevant. Students learn their world by experiencing it through the stories, ideas, photography and video of National Geographic and TED. Because we teach English and we teach the world. Visit us at www.ELTNGL.com

About TESOL International Association

TESOL International Association is the trusted global authority for knowledge and expertise in English language teaching. A professional community of more than 10,000 educators representing over 150 countries, TESOL fosters the exchange of ideas to advance the expertise of those teaching English while supporting equity, diversity, and multilingualism. For over 50 years, TESOL has strived to advance its mission with programs, publications, and services to expand its global presence and connectivity throughout the field, share its knowledge and expertise, and amplify its voice through advocacy. For more information, please visit www.tesol.org.

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