

news

For Immediate Release

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Peace Corps to Receive TESOL Presidents' Award

Alexandria, VA (March 2010)—Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages, Inc. (TESOL), a global education association, announces that the U.S. Peace Corps will be the recipient of the 2010 TESOL Presidents' Award. Peace Corps Director Aaron S. Williams will accept the TESOL Presidents' Award at the Opening Plenary of the 44th Annual TESOL Convention and Exhibit, to be held on March 24, 2010, at 5:30 PM, in the Grand Ballroom at the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center, Boston, Massachusetts, USA.

Presented annually at the TESOL convention, the TESOL Presidents' Award is given to an individual or organization that has made important contributions supporting and furthering TESOL's mission to develop and maintain professional expertise in English language teaching and learning for speakers of other languages worldwide. As TESOL values collaboration in a global community and respect for diversity and multiculturalism, there is a strong parallel between TESOL's work and that of the Peace Corps. Many TESOL educators use their experience gained through Peace Corps in countries around the world as the starting point for their careers in the TESOL field.

Since 1961, the Peace Corps has shared with the world America's most precious resource – its people. Peace Corps Volunteers serve in 74 countries in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Central and South America, Europe, and the Middle East. Collaborating with local community members, Volunteers work in areas like education, youth outreach and community development, the environment, and information technology. Coming from all walks of life and representing the rich diversity of the American people, Volunteers range in age from college students to retirees. Every Peace Corps Volunteer's experience is different. From teaching English to elementary school children in Zambia to launching a computer learning center in Moldova to promoting HIV/AIDS awareness in South Africa to working on soil conservation in Panama, Volunteers bring their skills and life experiences to where they are needed most.

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Peace Corps to Receive TESOL Presidents' Award (continued)

Under the banner "Re-Imagining TESOL," the 2010 TESOL convention showcases more than 1000 education sessions presented by speakers from more than 25 countries. Considered the foremost conference of its kind worldwide, the TESOL convention features education sessions and experts on a broad variety of topics, including language testing and assessment, technology in language learning, bilingual education, and standards. In addition, the convention features one of the largest exhibitions of its kind in the world, with over 100 exhibitors offering some of the finest products and services for English language educators and their classrooms.

Members of the media can register for the convention either in advance or on site. To register in advance, visit the online press room at <http://www.tesolconvention.org>, where more press releases and information about presenters and sessions are available. To register on site, please visit the Press Desk in the Registration Area of the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center.

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ABOUT PEACE CORPS: As Peace Corps approaches its 50th anniversary, its service legacy continues to promote peace and friendship around the world with 7,671 volunteers serving in 76 host countries. Historically, nearly 200,000 Americans have served with the Peace Corps to promote a better understanding between Americans and the people of 139 host countries. Peace Corps Volunteers must be U.S. citizens and at least 18 years of age. Peace Corps service is a 27-month commitment. To learn more about the Peace Corps, please visit <http://www.peacecorps.gov>

Incorporated in 1966, Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages, Inc. (TESOL), is a global association for English language teaching professionals headquartered in Alexandria, Virginia, USA. TESOL encompasses a network of over 55,000 educators worldwide, consisting of more than 12,000 individual members and an additional 45,000 educators within the 100 plus TESOL affiliate associations. Representing a multifaceted academic discipline and profession, TESOL offers members serial publications, books, and electronic resources on current issues, ideas, and opportunities in the field of English language teaching. TESOL also conducts a variety of workshops and symposia, including an annual convention, regarded as the foremost professional development opportunity for English language educators worldwide. TESOL's mission is to develop and maintain professional expertise in English language teaching for speakers of other languages worldwide.