Overview:
Standards for ESL/EFL help teachers guide their professional development and classroom practices. Four experts in the field will give formal presentations and lead participants in the discussion of standards and related teacher preparation issues that focus both on the instructor and the instruction. The symposium will deal with all aspects of effective teaching: planning, instructing, and assessing.

The symposium will offer English language teaching (ELT) professionals from Central America and the Caribbean the opportunity to learn from each others’ experience with professional development, while the four experts help them identify the qualities, skills, and practices that every teacher should pursue. TESOL’s affiliate, Panama TESOL, chose the theme for this symposium.

TESOL acknowledges and appreciates the assistance of Panama TESOL and ULACIT.
**A TESOL Symposium on English Language Teaching Standards**

**TOPICS and SPEAKERS:**

**Topic: Are Standards Practical Tools for Personal and Professional Development for EFL Teachers?**

Standards can provide EFL teachers with a framework for personal and professional development, including improving instructional practices and results. Using the *Standards for ESL/EFL Teachers of Adults* (TESOL, 2009) as a guide, the speaker will share research findings and analyze the conditions that need to be met in order to empower EFL teachers to take ownership of their professional development.

**Fernando Fleurquin, M.D.,** has more than 25 years of experience in ELT, including training educators in teaching, assessment, and program administration in Asia, Europe, Latin America, and the United States. He is currently the Director of the English Language Center, University of Maryland, Baltimore County, in the United States. Previously, he supervised the administration of the high-stakes English exams developed at the University of Michigan. For more than 20 years he worked at the Binational Center in Montevideo, Uruguay, as the Academic Director, teacher, teacher educator, materials writer, and examiner.

**Closing Session:**

Debra Psychoyos is founder and executive director of The ProEd Alexander Psychoyos Foundation in Panama and currently a doctoral candidate with the Educational Leadership Cohort at the University of Missouri-Columbia. Her diverse experience over 27 years includes working as a primary and secondary teacher, reading improvement specialist, student teacher supervisor, new teacher mentor, school psychologist, instructional coach, and university professor in a TESOL masters program at the Universidad Latina in Panama.

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