

NEWS

For Immediate Release

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TESOL and National Geographic Learning Announce Drew S. Fagan as the 2023 TESOL Teacher of the Year

Alexandria, Va (February 24, 2023) – TESOL International Association (TESOL) is pleased to announce Drew S. Fagan as the recipient of the 2023 TESOL Teacher of the Year Award. The award, presented by National Geographic Learning, honors exceptional English language teaching at all levels. Fagan will be recognized in Portland, Ore., USA, during the 2023 TESOL International Convention & English Language Expo, March 21–24.

Fagan is an associate clinical professor at the University of Maryland, College Park, where he teaches applied linguistics and language education. He also coordinates the TESOL Program at the university and serves as associate director of the Multilingual Research Center. He holds an Ed.D. in TESOL from Teachers College, Columbia University; an M.A. in linguistics from San Diego State University; and a B.A. in international relations and Spanish from American University. He worked as a teacher, trainer, and educational researcher in Tokyo, Japan, Madrid, Spain, Baja California, Mexico, and Wuahn China before becoming the first English teaching assistant Fulbright Fellow to the Slovak Republic, teaching English and U.S. culture to university students and researching language teaching method changes over the country's history.

Fagan's research examines the influence of educators' embodied interactions on promoting, or hindering, opportunities for English learners' language and content learning in diverse educational contexts. His current work prepares non-ESOL teachers, specialists, school support staff, and administrators to address the language, academic, cultural, and, if applicable, exceptional needs of English learners across U.S. K–12 curricula.

"I believe teaching excellence lies in how instructors strategically and systematically manage classroom interactions, allowing for the fluidity of student ideas, discussion, and debate to be prominent in the interaction, all the while ensuring that the day's objectives are achieved," Fagan said. "Students have consistently told me that they feel more comfortable interacting in my courses as they believe they have things to offer. In turn, they feel they have a better understanding and a more practical connection with the course material as they reflect on how to use it in their future work."

As the recipient of the TESOL Teacher of the Year Award, Fagan receives a one-year membership in TESOL International Association, a selection of TESOL publications, a complimentary registration for the 2023 TESOL International Convention & English Language Expo with three-night hotel and round-trip airfare paid, and a cash award. The Teacher of the Year award recipient is also offered a session as an invited speaker at the annual convention, where Fagan will deliver a presentation titled "Towards Embodying the Multidimensional Role of ESOL Teacher in 2023."

Learn more about the [TESOL Teacher of the Year Award](#) and the [TESOL 2023 International Convention & English Language Expo](#) on the TESOL website (www.tesol.org).

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