

## For Immediate Release

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Photos Available

### **TESOL International Association Installs 2026-2027 Board Members**

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (April 17, 2026) – TESOL International Association (TESOL) recently installed Okon Effiong as its 2026-2027 president at the association’s annual business meeting during the TESOL 2026 International Convention & Expo in Salt Lake City, Utah, USA. In addition to Effiong, President-Elect Gabriel Hugo Díaz Maggioli and board members Susan Gaer and Bessie Karras-Lazaris were also installed on the TESOL board of directors. With Effiong’s installation, Justin Shewell became the association’s past president.

Okon Effiong serves as an adjunct assistant professor at Lusail University, Qatar, and a lecturer at Qatar University. He is also the founder of the Africa English Language Teachers Association and winner of the British Council ELTons Outstanding Achievement Award (2024) and the Distance Education Accreditation Commission Outstanding Graduate Award (2026).

Effiong has several peer-reviewed articles and is the lead editor of “Hybrid Learning in English Language Teaching: Motivation, Challenges and Opportunities” (Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2024), and co-editor of “Decentering Advocacy in ELT: Global Perspectives and Local Practices” (Michigan Publishing, 2024) and “The Role of Language Teacher Associations in Professional Development” (Springer, 2018). He presents regularly at international conferences.

Before becoming TESOL president, Effiong dedicated his time and service to numerous leadership positions within the association. He served as chair-elect and newsletter co-editor for the TESOL English as a Foreign Language Interest Section. Other leadership positions included being chair of the TESOL Standing

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Committee on Diversity & Inclusion (2013-2015), member of the TESOL Standing Committee for Nominations (2017-2018), and member of the TESOL board of directors (2020-2023). Effiong was re-elected to the board last year as TESOL president-elect.

Effiong said, “As TESOL president, I am looking forward to helping our association evolve alongside our field, embracing new perspectives and approaches that move us forward.”

Gabriel Hugo Díaz Maggioli, a professor in postgraduate programs in TESOL, learning theories, and assessment at the Institute of Education, Universidad ORT Uruguay, Montevideo, Uruguay, and tenured professor of TESOL at the National Teacher Education Council, will serve as president-elect from March 2026-March 2027. Susan Gaer, subject matter expert in ESL at the Sacramento County Office of Education, Mather, California, USA, and Bessie Karras-Lazaris, professor in the MA TESOL program in the Department of Linguistics at California State University, Northridge, California, USA, will serve on the TESOL board of directors from March 2026-March 2029.

TESOL also recognized the dedication and service of its departing board members: Kisha Bryan, Tennessee State University, Nashville, Tennessee, USA; Debra Suarez, Uplifting Teachers, University Park, Maryland, USA; and Cynthia Wiseman, Borough of Manhattan Community College, New York, New York, USA.

TESOL’s board of directors is the association’s elected governing body helping to formulate the association’s strategic direction and set policy for the association.

### **About TESOL International Association**

TESOL International Association is the trusted global community for knowledge and expertise in English language teaching. TESOL advances the professional expertise in English language teaching to speakers of other languages in multilingual contexts worldwide through professional learning, research, standards, and advocacy. In principle and in practice, TESOL values professionalism, respect, integrity, and lifelong learning and seeks diverse and inclusive participation within the field of English language teaching. TESOL promotes equitable representation, engagement, and broad access to professional opportunities for all and works to eliminate any kind of discrimination. TESOL is a professional community of more than 8,000 English language professionals representing more than 100 countries. For more information, please visit [www.tesol.org](http://www.tesol.org).

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