

NEWS

For Immediate Release

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TESOL Celebrates Founders' Day, Past and Future Leaders for 50th Anniversary

TESOL will also be celebrating Founders' Day on Thursday, 17 March!

Alexandria, VA (15 March 2016) – [TESOL International Association](#) continues its year-long 50th-anniversary celebration by marking 17 March 2016 as [TESOL Founders' Day](#). To acknowledge the day, TESOL will recognize 80 outstanding TESOL professionals and present success stories from the field. Additionally, TESOL will offer 24 hours of special promotions and discounts on 17 March.

TESOL will honor two groups of professionals. The [50 at 50](#) recognizes individuals who have made a significant contribution to the TESOL profession during the past 50 years. Following the 50th anniversary theme of "Reflecting Forward," the [30 Up and Coming](#) recognizes individuals who represent future leaders in the profession of English language teaching and learning. The selections were made from more than 250 nominations.

TESOL Executive Director Rosa Aronson thanked the volunteers who were involved in the selections. "We are very grateful to the 50th anniversary team of volunteer leaders from across the world who kindly helped us make this milestone year a celebration of the past, present, and future of our community."

To highlight the impact of the TESOL profession, teachers and students from around the world submitted stories featuring the work of teachers and the success of students who are learning English as a second, or even as a third, language. The most inspiring [TESOL Success Stories](#) are now published on the TESOL website and will be included in a 50th anniversary commemorative publication available to attendees of the 2016 annual convention.

A special [TESOL 50th Anniversary website](#) showcases these outstanding professionals and the success stories. It also features one TESOL affiliate per week from a network of approximately 115 [affiliates](#), and it highlights TESOL milestones during the past 50 years with an [interactive timeline](#).

The [2016 TESOL International Convention & English Language Expo](#), 5-8 April in Baltimore, Maryland, will highlight a number of sessions and events focused on the 50th

anniversary, including the recognition of the 50 at 50 and the 30 Up and Coming at a keynote session. The convention will close with the 50th Anniversary Block Party.

About TESOL International Association

Founded in 1966, [TESOL International Association](http://www.tesol.org) is a professional community of educators, researchers, administrators, and students committed to advancing excellence in English language teaching for speakers of other languages worldwide. With more than 12,000 members representing over 150 countries, TESOL fosters the exchange of ideas, research, and peer-to-peer knowledge, and provides expertise, resources, and a powerful voice on issues affecting the profession. Through professional development programs, its international conference, special interest groups, and publications, TESOL engages tens of thousands of professionals to collaborate globally and create a world of opportunity for millions of people of all ages who want to learn English. For more information, please visit www.tesol.org.

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