

## **NEWS**

## For Immediate Release

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## **TESOL Announces Partnership with VIPKID**

Alexandria, VA (21 November 2016) – With the demand for high-quality English as a second or foreign language services growing around the world, TESOL International Association has entered into a strategic partnership with VIPKID, a leading provider of online English language programs to young learners in China. Through their partnership, TESOL and VIPKID will work to improve the quality of training and credentialing for English language teachers, increase the number of quality ELT educators in China, and enhance the preparation teachers receive in designing online English curricula.

TESOL's mission is to advance professional expertise in English language teaching worldwide, and this agreement supports that mission. TESOL will grant professional TESOL memberships to 1,200 tenured VIPKID teachers and allow 50 VIPKID teachers to participate in two of TESOL's new self-study courses, <a href="Fundamentals of TESOL">Fundamentals of TESOL</a> and <a href="Teaching and Assessing Young Learners">Teaching and Assessing Young Learners</a>. Three VIPKID content designers will participate in the newly revised <a href="Principles and Practicing of Online Teaching">Principles and Practicing of Online Teaching</a> self-study course. Additionally, VIPKID has received 200 copies of <a href="Pedagogy and Practice for Online English Language Teacher Education">Press</a>. VIPKID will also exhibit at the <a href="2017 TESOL International Convention">2017 TESOL International Convention</a> & <a href="English Language Expo">English Language Expo</a> in Seattle, Washington, USA.

"VIPKID is honored to partner with TESOL International Association. As a veteran teacher myself, I understand the importance of high-quality training and continuous professional development for all teachers. With its expertise in the field, as well as world-class professional development programming, TESOL will be a strong supporter of VIPKID teachers. I hope this is just the beginning and that our two organizations continue to work together, supporting every VIPKID teacher and beyond," said Mi Wenjuan, CEO and co-founder of VIPKID. Mi will also participate in strategic discussions during the Summit on the Future of the TESOL Profession in Athens, Greece.

With the increased access to TESOL resources and professional development opportunities available to VIPKID through this partnership, TESOL fulfills its role as a trusted global authority for knowledge and expertise in English language teaching.

"VIPKID's commitment to high-quality online teachers for young learners in China is commendable," noted TESOL Executive Director Rosa Aronson. "TESOL International Association is pleased to partner with VIPKID to ensure a highly competent teaching workforce and a cogent pedagogical approach to English Language teaching."

## **About TESOL International Association**

Founded in 1966, <u>TESOL International Association</u> 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 13,000 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 <a href="https://www.tesol.org">www.tesol.org</a>.

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