

Promoting research and best practices to improve the use of English in the emerging global knowledge economy of the 21st century

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# TIRF TODAY

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## Research Organizations: Spotlight on the Center for Applied Linguistics

**Editor's note:** In order to share resources with our readers, TIRF occasionally provides information about organizations concerned with language research. This month, we focus on the Center for Applied Linguistics.



The Center for Applied Linguistics (CAL) in Washington, DC is a private, nonprofit organization working to improve communication through better understanding of language and culture. Established in 1959, CAL has earned a national and international reputation for its contributions to the fields of bilingual education, English as a second language, literacy, foreign language education, dialect studies, language policy, refugee orientation, and the education of linguistically and culturally diverse adults and children.

CAL's staff members conduct research, design and develop instructional materials and language tests, and provide technical assistance and professional development. They also conduct needs assessments and program evaluations, and disseminate information and resources related to language and culture.

Research is a critical component of CAL's mission. CAL publishes the findings and best practices which result from its research. Like TIRF, CAL seeks to use research findings for the development of pragmatic and forward-thinking solutions to a variety of issues related to language and culture.

CAL's website provides information about its recent projects. One such project is *English for Heritage Language Speakers (EHLS)*. The EHLS program provides intensive study for adults who are highly proficient in select world languages and want to achieve professional proficiency in English. Conducted in partnership with the Georgetown University Center for Language Education and Development,

EHLS gives participants the English listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills they need to succeed in professional positions in the federal government.

Another current CAL project is *Vocabulary Instruction and Assessment for Spanish Speakers (VIAS)*. CAL is conducting a 12-year collaborative program of research on the literacy and language development of Spanish-speaking students who are learning English as an additional language. Partners include researchers at Boston College, Harvard University, the University of Connecticut, and the University of Houston.

Another CAL project is *The Center for Research on the Educational Achievement and Teaching of English Language Learners (CREATE)*. CAL is a partner in CREATE's focused program of research, which is designed to address the critical challenge of improving educational outcomes of second-language learners in K-12 schools. Briefs written by CREATE researchers are available online. They're intended for practitioners and other education professionals, and explore a range of relevant research topics.

CAL also hosts the [Language Policy Research Network \(LPREN\)](#), an international organization of researchers, scholars, and stakeholders in the field of educational language policy. In addition, CAL offers colloquia at conferences, invites publications related to the field, and shares resources, announcements, and other opportunities via the LPREN listserv.

Visitors to CAL's website will find a wide range of information on a variety of topics related to language and culture. Many of CAL's online resources can be downloaded free of charge. They include a collection of digests, briefs, informational brochures, and reports, as well as several searchable online directories and databases. Recent digests that can be found on the website focus on topics like *Assessment Literacy for Language Educators* and *Coaching Language Teachers*. For more information, visit CAL online: [www.cal.org](http://www.cal.org).

## TESOL Publishes New White Paper



TESOL has released the first "white paper" in a new series, the goals of which parallel TIRF's focus on influencing decision makers with research findings. The authors of TESOL's white papers propose research-based solutions to emerging issues in English language teaching and learning in contexts around the world. The first white paper is entitled *A Principles-based Approach for Language Teaching Policies and Practices*. It was written by Ahmar Mahboob and Namala Tilakaratna. (Professor Mahboob is a former [TIRF Priority Research Grant recipient](#).)

effective and successful practices within varied contexts. The principles are collaboration, relevance, evidence, alignment, transparency, and empowerment (CREATE).

The authors acknowledge the complexities inherent in the process of language policy and planning. The paper also includes a discussion of how these principles have emerged as a result of the demands of globalization. It also considers the interests of the local populations of countries in which the teaching and learning of English are having a major impact.

Please feel free to [download](#) and share this paper with your colleagues. To comment on the paper, please visit the [TESOL Blog](#).

This report identifies six principles aimed at helping policymakers, researchers, and practitioners build

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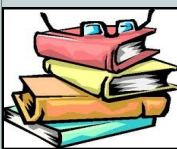
Kathleen Bailey,  
Chair of TIRF

## NAEd & Spencer Foundation: Fellowship Opportunities

*Editor's note: We are pleased to share this edited announcement about fellowships from the National Academy of Education (NAEd) and the Spencer Foundation. With the aim of promoting research, we hope that this information is beneficial to our stakeholders.*

**NAEd/Spencer Dissertation Fellowship Program** seeks to encourage a new generation of scholars from a wide range of disciplines and professional fields to undertake research relevant to the improvement of education. These \$25,000 fellowships support individuals whose dissertations show potential for bringing fresh and constructive perspectives to the history, theory, or practice of formal or informal education anywhere in the world. This year, up to 600 applications are anticipated and about 25 fellowships will be awarded. According to the program's webpage, non-US citizens are eligible so long as they are candidates for doctoral degrees at graduate schools in the United States. More infor-

## New Reference Lists & Updates



We are happy to announce that several new reference lists have been added to the resources on TIRF's website, and [many existing reference lists](#) have been updated. They are all posted as Word documents in APA format, and can be downloaded for free by students and scholars worldwide.

The newly posted lists cover the topics of literacy in L2 learning, language play, refugee concerns, automated essay scoring, multicultural and cross-cultural populations, No Child Left Behind, emergent participatory language teaching and learning, accentedness and attitudes, and the internationalization of higher education. In addition, more than forty of the other reference lists which concern a multitude of topics have been updated. We are grateful to Alicia Brill, Robin Chen, Peter DeCosta, Lynn Gold-

## TESOL as a Global Trade Conference in Cairns

*Editor's note: In the interest of promoting conferences related to TIRF's mission, we will periodically share announcements with our readers.*

An upcoming conference of possible interest to be hosted by the Australian Council of TESOL Associations (ACTA) is "TESOL as a Global Trade – Ethics, Equity and Ecology." The conference will be

## Online Language Teacher Education: Call for Case Reports

TIRF's 2012-2013 research project is focused on online language teacher education (OLTE). Part of this project involves case reports from organizations that provide such programs or courses. We welcome your submissions. For further information,

## Report from the Chair — TIRF's Midyear Appeal

As May, 2012 comes to a close, I find myself writing hundreds of emails, asking people for money. I have written to all our previous donors and to many prospective donors, and now I will use the Chair's Report to appeal to each of you.

Once again, members of our Board of Trustees have agreed to a challenge grant: For every new donor who contributes US \$100 or more in the month of June, 2012,

TIRF Trustees will add another \$100.

We hope that you will feel moved to support the Foundation's growing initiatives. For example, this year we have almost twice as many applicants for Doctoral Dissertation Grants as we had last year. We are also arranging to disseminate our latest commissioned paper, [English at Work](#), most recently in England and Taiwan, at no cost to TIRF. Although

information about this fellowship will be available [here](#) later this summer.

**NAEd/Spencer Postdoctoral Fellowship Program** supports early-career scholars working in critical areas of educational scholarship. Fellows will receive \$55,000 for one academic year of research, or \$27,500 for each of two contiguous years, working half time. Applicants must have had their PhD, EdD, or equivalent research degree conferred between January 1, 2007, and December 31, 2012. This fellowship is non-residential, and applications from all disciplines are encouraged. Up to twenty NAEd/Spencer Fellowships will be awarded. According to the website, non-US citizens are welcome to apply. Additional guidelines and the fellowship application form will be available [here](#) later this summer.

For more information about these fellowship opportunities, please contact Philip Perrin, Program Officer - Professional Development Programs, by writing to [info@naeducation.org](mailto:info@naeducation.org).

stein, John Hedgcock, Kris Hiller, Sarah Hoch, Zhi Li, Pat Richard-Amato, Elaine Tarone, Carolyn Turner, and Hyejin Yang for their contributions to TIRF's collection of references.

We continue to welcome additions to existing reference lists as well as bibliographies on new topics. Additionally, we would be pleased to know about any topic for which you would like us to develop a reference list.

We encourage you to share these resources with colleagues who would benefit from accessing the various reference lists. Carolyn Turner, a professor at McGill University, recently wrote to us after sharing the resources with her students and said, "How nice to learn that TIRF has such a resource list. I've known about TIRF for so long, but never realized that your site is a goldmine for references. I can send my graduate students there. Thank you!"

held from July 3-5 in Cairns, Queensland, Australia. Keynote speakers for the conference include Denise Angelo, Suresh Canagarajah, Robert Phillipson, Juanita Sellwood, Jane Simpson, Tove Skutnabb-Kangas, and Gillian Wigglesworth. For more information, please contact [Sarah Hoekwater](#), or visit the [conference website](#).

please [click here](#).

For general information about our OLTE project, [click here](#). If you have additional questions, please contact [Denise Murray](#), the project researcher.

we continue to operate on a lean budget, there are many opportunities for growth that can only be realized with sufficient financial resources. It is my hope that you can assist us in reaching our goals. [Please can you help with a donation?](#)

*Kathi Bailey*