August 28, 2022

Dear Superintendent, Principal, Administrator, and/or Coordinator of Title III,

We hope this letter finds you well. Our names are Dr. John DePriest (President) and Dr. Amy Pan (President-elect) of Louisiana Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (LaTESOL). LaTESOL is the Louisiana affiliate of the International Organization of Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages. TESOL is the trusted global authority for knowledge and expertise in English language teaching. The Core Values of our organization include Integrity, Lifelong Learning, Professionalism, and Respect.

We are proud to announce that we are hosting our 2022 LaTESOL Conference on October 28, 2022 at the East Baton Rouge Parish Main Library at 7711 Goodwood Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA, 70806. It is our earnest desire to invite your Principals, Administrators, ESL Teachers, and Content Teachers to our 43rd Annual Conference in which our theme is Empowering Educators of Multilingual Scholars. There are over 25,000 English Learners in Louisiana who are multilingual in Arabic, Chinese, French, Spanish, Vietnamese, and many other languages. This is the only conference specifically designed for ESL professionals.

It is our hope that the in-person conference will be an opportunity for ESL professionals to come together for Professional Development. ESL Administrators will have a chance to discuss their English Learner Programs in the Administrator's Roundtable. These will be organized by the six Congressional districts where ESL Administrators will network and learn best practices for English Learner Programming.

Our Plenary Speaker, Dr. Mercuri, is a National Education Consultant and Past Professor at University of Texas. Her presentation will be on themes of empowering educators and biliteracy development. Our Featured Speaker, Adam Strom, is the Executive Director of Re-imaging Migration. His presentation will be about championing immigrant students in schools and societies. Our Third Speaker is Dr. Alex Torres, the Assistant Director of LatinX Affairs at Louisiana State University. Her presentation will be on bridging the gaps of college
access for our English Learners. We will also have presentations by the U.S. Department of State English Language Programs (Fulbright), Ellii (formerly ESL Library), National Geographic Learning, and Louisiana Department of Education’s English Learner Coordinator.

Please forward this memo to the Coordinator of ESL in your district and the principals in your schools. It is recommended that this Conference be viewed as a Professional Development Day in which your personnel will attend for the entire day. The Early Registration price is $40 per attendee until October 20, 2022. Late Registration begins on October 21, 2022 and the price increases to $60. All Conference Attendees will receive a 2-month Subscription to Ellii for a $30 value. This is a good opportunity to use Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Funds (ESSER) and/or Title III funds. The Continuing Learning Unit (CLU) hours include eight hours and it may be included in your teachers’ Professional Growth Plan (PGP). Participants will also receive a Certificate of Participation which may be used to verify attendance and Professional Leave documentation. All personnel who teach English Learners are invited to attend. We look forward to seeing you at the 2022 LaTESOL Conference!

Educating Global Citizens in Louisiana,

John DePriest, Ph.D.                  Amy Pan, Ph.D.