

LANGUAGE ETC NEWS

Improving the lives of immigrants through education.



A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Language ETC to Get a New Name – Introducing WASHINGTON ENGLISH CENTER

Everything we do at Language ETC is based on the acquisition and application of English language skills. Clear communication is at the heart of our efforts. Accordingly, we feel it is time that our name more clearly conveys our mission – providing English language instruction for adult immigrants. As of January 1, Language ETC will become Washington English Center. With this name change, we hope that our volunteers and students can more easily describe where they go and what they are doing, just by saying, “I’m headed to Washington English Center!” Be assured that while our name is changing, the quality and mission of our organization will stay the same and continue to improve. We will continue to provide

the same student-focused classes, including multi level English instruction, free conversation and writing workshops, introductory computer classes, Spanish literacy, and citizenship test preparation.

We will be rolling out our name over the next several months, with the official change taking place in January, 2014. Look for posters, displays, banners and some special events along the way. Our website and social media will migrate over to the new brand identity at that time as well. You’ll see a new look to all of our communications, from our newsletter to our Facebook page. We hope you’ll join us in spreading the word, and join us at Washington English Center!

– *Karen Sandler*

Chair, Language ETC Board of Directors

IN THIS ISSUE...



Teacher Training

Every semester, Language ETC provides free teacher training sessions on specialized topics. In the past, many volunteers have requested training on ESL games and lesson planning so we were very excited to be able to offer two great training sessions this fall: Games and Activities for ESL Students with Melanie Baker and Introduction to Lesson Planning with Christine Neil.

Games and Activities for ESL Students:

During this session, Melanie Baker, an ESL Instructor at University of Maryland and Montgomery College, introduced participants to a variety of games and activities that could be easily adapted for different levels and purposes. Some of these games included variations on popular

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Melanie Baker engages volunteers during a training session.



LETC Welcomes New Program Director and New Academic Advisory Board Member

August 28th was Ashley Lipps’ last day as LETC’s Program Director. We congratulate her on her new position at the Center for Applied Linguistics and are happy we are not completely saying good-bye. Ashley will be volunteering as a Language Lab coordinator this fall and will continue to contribute to our Facebook page. We were fortunate to find a fantastic new Program Director within our staff. Emily Naber, who started as a volunteer teacher and later became Program Assistant, accepted the position. Emily is excited to be able to work with Erin Ross, our new Program Assistant, also a former LETC volunteer!

The newest member of our Academic Advisory Board is Dr. Sheery Steely. Dr. Steeley teaches an international TEFL Certification Program, which is a blended online-onsite based course offered by the Center for Language Education and Development at Georgetown University. Her ESL/EFL teaching has included adult immigrant and refugee students, community college, university, graduate level, and family literacy programs. Dr. Steeley holds a Ph.D. in Education from George Mason University, an M.A. from the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, and a B.A. from Mount St. Mary’s University.

WELCOME TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

We are happy to welcome Elizabeth Werner as the newest member of the LETC Board of Directors. Liz has served as a volunteer teacher at LETC since 2009 and has a certificate in TEFL from Georgetown University.



Visit Our Website –
www.languageetc.org



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Helping Our Students Reach Their Employment Goals

Fall classes have started and we are excited for the beginning of another new school year. This year we will focus on doing even more to get our students prepared for new or better jobs. All LETC students set employment related goals when they register for class. Throughout each term we will be offering more work-skills related activities at all levels. Students will be asked about their goals and what they are doing to achieve them. We will offer free sessions to students to improve their computer and internet skills, with a focus on how to use both to improve job prospects. In a recent student survey, 86.3% of LETC students strongly agreed that “Learning English has helped me find a job.” Of those who had a job, 91% strongly agreed that “Learning English has helped me be better in my job.” Our goal is to not only help our students improve their English, but to incorporate our computer labs and classroom iPads into all our programs so that our students are prepared to use their new English skills in an increasingly technology-focused workplace.

Last spring we celebrated Language ETC’s 20th Anniversary. It was a wonderful event that reminded us of how much we have accomplished and how many people we have touched over the last two decades. That we have been here for 20 years and have worked with thousands of people makes it even more remarkable that so many students, volunteers and others in the community still do not know, or mistake, our name. When asked where I work, I am usually met with blank stares when I respond, “Language ETC.” I then begin to explain that we are an amazing non-profit that teaches thousands of adult immigrants English with the help of over 300 volunteer teachers! Then I start to sense some recognition. I continue to explain that we are located in Kalorama at Our Lady Queen of the Americas Church. It is at this point that a majority of people say, “I know that place!”, or “I taught there!” or, “I know someone that studied there.” It’s great to know that people know us, but it’s been a long running problem that people don’t know who we are. After years of thinking about it, and many months of working on it, we have decided to change our name and logo. We have chosen a name that better describes what we do, that we think will be more memorable and that we hope will allow us to really be known for the great work we do. As described in the “Message from the Chair of the Board” on page 1 in this newsletter, our new name, to be made official on January 1, 2014, is Washington English Center. Keep an eye out for more materials from us with our new name and logo.

With our new name and logo we look forward to embarking on another great school year with many positive developments!

Mercedes Lemp

Teacher Training *Continued from Page 1*

games such as Tic-Tac-Toe and Catch Phrase, and others were games Melanie had tried and tested in her own classroom. This training was very popular and many of the teachers have already been able to use the games they learned in their classes at Language ETC.

Introduction to Lesson Planning:

This workshop was given by Christine Neil, a Management Information System Specialist/Student Support Coordinator for the ESL Program at the Literacy Council of Montgomery County Maryland. Christine

also teaches ESOL at Montgomery College and works with other instructors as an Instructional Support Coach. During the first half of the training, participants learned how to identify clear objectives for their lessons and what factors to consider when planning a lesson. Then, they discussed the components of a lesson plan and had the opportunity to practice designing their own lesson plan. LETC offers continuous trainings to our volunteers. We are grateful to have such experienced and accomplished trainers lead our volunteers to be the best teachers they can be.

A New Priest for Our Lady Queen of the Americas



Father Evelio Menjivar

We welcome Father Evelio Menjivar as the new Priest at Our Lady Queen of the Americas Church, where LETC is housed. We also say goodbye to Father Roberto Cortes-Campos, who has been named pastor at St. Mark the Evangelist Parish in Hyattsville. We wish him the best in his new position. We are very fortunate to hold classes in such a beautiful building and we are delighted that Father Evelio is an enthusiastic supporter of Language ETC's programs.

Father Evelio was born in Nueva Trinidad, El Salvador. He immigrated to the United States in 1990, worked as a painter and took English classes at night in Silver Spring. He has firsthand knowledge of the challenges so many of our students face. He learned English in a program similar to LETC. He acquired his

GED, and went on to seminary at St. John Vianney College Seminary, completing his theology studies at the Pontifical North American College in Rome, Italy. He was ordained in 2004.

Most recently, Father Evelio served at St. Matthews Cathedral, where he served as the clergy leader of St. Matthew's Social Justice & Community Services Ministry, working many hours with the homeless and others in need, and participating in advocacy efforts on a range of social justice issues. We look forward to working with Father Evelio to advance our common mission on behalf of the immigrant community.



New Volunteer Spotlight Board Features Marcia Rucker

Outside of our volunteer lounge, our new "Volunteer Board" will serve as another space to honor our volunteers and a place where volunteers can find useful resources and announcements. We are excited to celebrate the dedication and commitment of long-time volunteer Marcia Rucker, as our first featured volunteer. Marcia has been teaching at Language ETC for 4 years and has over 30 years of teaching experience. Before coming to Language ETC, Marcia taught ESOL to high-school and middle-school students in Montgomery County public schools and also spent some time as a linguistics professor at Trinity Washington University.



Volunteer, Marcia Rucker

With so much experience, Marcia could have taught anywhere after she retired, but she chose Language ETC because she was, "impressed by the cohesion among the teachers and the students." Her favorite levels to teach are Basic A and Basic B because "you get to build from practically nothing and they're able to establish basic principles for learning to use all the way up to advanced levels." Marcia's dedication to her students is not only evident through her enthusiasm in the classroom, but in the long hours she spends before and after class preparing her lessons and materials. On class days, you will find Marcia working outside of the volunteer lounge before even school staff arrive! Please join us in thanking Marcia for her many years of dedicated service to the community and to Language ETC!

THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING FOR THEIR GENEROUS SUPPORT

ANC 2D	John and Cora Davis Foundation	IDB-DC Solidarity Program of the Inter-American Development Bank
The Acacia Foundation	DC Office of State Superintendent of Education	The Jovid Foundation
The Morris & Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation	Deloitte Consulting LLP	The Mayor's Office on Latino Affairs
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The Corinna Higginson Foundation	The Herb Block Foundation	Our Lady Queen of the Americas Church
The Dana Foundation	The Barbara and Notz Hines Foundation	El Tamarindo

A small contribution goes a long way at Language ETC.

Donate through www.languageetc.org (Click on Network for Good on the home page) or use this form. Student tuition is only \$120 for a three month term. Your contribution enables us to offer classes at these low prices and provide scholarships whenever needed.

Enclosed is a donation of \$: _____

Name: _____

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in honor or memory of: _____

Please notify: _____



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SCHEDULE

With nearly 2000 students annually, LETC provides practical and affordable English language education in a diverse and welcoming environment. Our proven student-teacher partnership approach to education removes barriers, giving students the confidence to fully participate at home, work and in society. Our small classes with two teachers and extra-curricular activities empower students to become self-sufficient.

As a leading, nonprofit school and advocate for adult education in the Washington, DC region, our volunteer teachers help our students achieve success. With 70% of our students improving at least one literacy level each year, we have greatly exceeded the national average of 40%.

Our organizational focus is the successful integration of each individual immigrant into his or her community. Students come from 75 different countries on five continents, bringing different backgrounds and life experiences.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE!
www.languageetc.org

Language ETC is open 6 days a week.

- HOURS:** MONDAY & WEDNESDAY: 1:30 PM – 8:00 PM
 TUESDAY & THURSDAY: 9:30 AM – 8:00 PM
 FRIDAY: CLOSED
 SATURDAY & SUNDAY: 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

IMPORTANT DATES:

- NOVEMBER 11: CLOSED FOR VETERANS DAY
 NOV 25 - DEC 1: CLOSED FOR THANKSGIVING
 DECEMBER 12: DAY AND EVENING PROGRAM GRADUATION
 DECEMBER 15: SUNDAY AND WEEKEND GRADUATION
 DEC 20 – JAN 3: CLOSED FOR HOLIDAYS
 JANUARY 13: BEGINNING OF WINTER TERM

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION,
CALL LETC AT 202-387-2222.**

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