

# TIRF TODAY

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Promoting research and effective practices in English language education for the global knowledge economy in the 21st century

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## TIRF to Report on English Workforce Training Programs



**Students from Sichuan International Studies University use English to compete for a spot in the annual Students in Free Enterprise competition**

At its September 2010 meeting, the TIRF Board of Trustees voted to commission a research project based on case reports of English language training programs that focus on English in the workplace. The final report will be based on a series of case studies depicting workforce training programs that prepare people to use English in a range of businesses, industries, and professions around the world.

To this end, TIRF is soliciting two kinds of input.

First, we are seeking “case contributors” – people who provide workforce English language training and can write about the work they do with people in a particular business, industry, or profession. The individual case reports will be generated by answering questions about the goals, objectives, and processes of the programs, as well as other facts related to the training program. (Please visit <http://www.tirfonline.org/english-in-the-workforce/> for the list of questions to be asked.) We hope to receive descriptions of training programs offered by a range of service providers (intensive, in-house company-based, university-based, consultancies, etc.). For those case

studies which are selected for inclusion in the final report, the contributor will be paid US \$100 per case. The individual case reports are due by January 30, 2011.

The selected case reports will be analyzed and synthesized into a commissioned report, tentatively entitled, *English at Work: Case Studies of English Language Training for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Workforce*. The report will be made available to interested parties worldwide via TIRF’s website. The primary readership would include corporate human resources staff, corporate executives, government officials, and English language program teachers and administrators. The report will also be of interest to English language test developers, publishers, researchers and teacher educators.

Second, to generate the final report, TIRF is seeking an author (or a team of authors) to produce the commissioned paper, which will include a review of relevant literature and the analysis and interpretation of the selected case reports described above. The duties of the author(s) will include reviewing the available literature on training for English language use in the 21<sup>st</sup> century global workforce; reviewing the workforce training cases solicited by and submitted to TIRF; soliciting and/or generating additional workforce training cases as needed to meet the breadth criteria; corresponding with case contributors to ensure quality and uniformity of style and content in the cases selected, to secure needed information, etc.; and working closely and regularly with representatives of the TIRF Board of Trustees in producing the final report.

Applicants for the position of report author should ideally have experience in conducting and reporting on qualitative research; an established track record of publishing/producing such work; the ability to work collaboratively; the ability to meet deadlines; and knowledge of the available literature on training for English language use in the workforce. The application process is detailed on TIRF’s website (<http://www.tirfonline.org/english-in-the-workforce/call-for-proposals/>). Applications for the author position should be submitted no later than December 31, 2011.

## TIRF Article Published in BizEd Magazine

TIRF colleagues Ryan Damerow, Administrative Assistant, and Kathi Bailey, President and Chair of the Board of Trustees, published an article entitled, *The Language of Business*. In this piece, the authors argue for the necessity of second and third language requirements to be included as part of the curriculum for MBA programs worldwide. The full article can be found by clicking here: <http://www.tirfonline.org/news-events/>.

# TIRF

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Kathleen Bailey,  
Chair of TIRF

## TIRF Panel Presentation at TESOL 2011

The 2011 TESOL Convention to be held in March in New Orleans will include a TIRF panel presentation entitled "Regional Perspectives on English: Current Status and Future Trends." The panel members will address the current status of English and predict future trends in various parts of Asia, Europe, Africa, and Latin America. Issues include promoting research and best practices to improve the use of English in the global knowledge economy.

David Nunan (Vice President for Academic Affairs, Anaheim University) will be the panel moderator. The panelists will be Michael Carrier (Head, English Language Innovation, British Council), Jun Liu (Professor and Head of the English Department, University of Arizona), and Ana Sylvia Ramirez (CEO, Educational and Cultural Manager, Guatemalan American Institute).

The date and time have not yet been set. That information will be posted on the TIRF website as soon as it is available. In the meantime, for more information about the TESOL Convention, please visit [http://www.tesol.org/s\\_tesol/convention2011/](http://www.tesol.org/s_tesol/convention2011/).



For more information, visit [http://www.tesol.org/s\\_tesol/convention2011/](http://www.tesol.org/s_tesol/convention2011/).

## Pictures Worth Thousands of Words

TIRF is grateful to the many people who submitted photographs for use on our new website. For example, the revolving images on the home page were sent by two Peace Corps Volunteers: Amanda Bradford is seen with her secondary school students on the beach in Mozambique, and Sky Lantz-Wagner with his young EFL students in the People's Republic of China. Another photo of Sky can be found at <http://www.tirfonline.org/resources/links/>, and Amanda's students are also pictured at <http://www.tirfonline.org/resources/>.

Kensaku Yoshida contributed the photos of Japanese teachers-in-training working with EFL students in Cambodia. These are featured in the "Community" section of the website at <http://www.tirfonline.org/about-us/> and <http://www.tirfonline.org/community/projects/>. A picture of Yunjung Kim and her elementary school students in Pacific Grove, California appears at <http://www.tirfonline.org/about-us/history/>. The photo of dancers in Peru at <http://www.tirfonline.org/about-us/archive/> was sent by Lauren Todaro. The group photo at <http://www.tirfonline.org/discussion/> is of Kevin Jepson's Hungarian secondary school students in a dual language program. They were studying Edgar Allen Poe, so they thought the skeleton was appropriate!

Jill Neuendorff (on the far left) and her Russian students appear at <http://www.tirfonline.org/contact-us/> and Ryan Damerow's Chinese teachers-in-training are shown at <http://www.tirfonline.org/english-in-the-workforce/>. Panita Chobnitas (third from right) is shown with her EFL students in Thailand at <http://www.tirfonline.org/resources/references/>. The picture at <http://www.tirfonline.org/about-us/position> is a photo of Peace Corps Volunteer Stephanie Farrell and her secondary school students in Mauritania.

Thanks to everyone who submitted photographs. We are very grateful for these beautiful images, which add a human element to our website. They are a strong reminder that one key purpose of research in our field is to improve teaching and learning, in hopes of bettering the lives of teachers and learners of English everywhere.

## Report from the Chair — Giving to TIRF

At this season of harvest and thanksgiving in the Northern Hemisphere, I find I have much to be thankful for in my role as TIRF's Chair. First, I am very grateful to my Board colleagues, who volunteer their time and expertise so selflessly to make sure that the work of the foundation moves forward. I also very much appreciate the consistent clarity and energy of Ryan Damerow, our part-time administrative assistant, and Fred Luurtsema, our part-time accountant. In addition, I am thankful for the help of the four reviewers who worked so diligently to review the applications for the 2010 Sheikh Nahayan Fellowships — the topic of our next newsletter.

But I am especially thankful for TIRF's donors, whether their gifts have been large or small. It is through the generosity of our

donors — both individuals and corporate sponsors — that we can continue the foundation's work, further its mission, and improve upon the services we offer to the language teaching profession and beyond. And it is now the time of year when we turn to our community once more and ask for financial support.

I will soon be sending out the 2010 annual appeal letters. This is one of the hardest jobs any chair has to face: asking people for money. I find the task even more challenging, given the bizarre economic climate we are all living in. Nevertheless, ask you I must. So please will you be thinking about making your own gift to TIRF this year?

I urge you to visit TIRF's website and read about why some of our donors have given to TIRF (<http://www.tirfonline.org/donate/>). Just scroll down and click on any of the friendly faces in our "Rogues'

Gallery." As you can see from their testimonials, these people have many different reasons for giving to TIRF. I hope some of their thoughts will inspire you to do likewise. Donors can make a secure contribution online, or can send a check drawn on a US bank to the mailing address given on this page.

Let me close with a comment from Doug Brown, who talked about why he gives to TIRF at a donor appreciation event in Long Beach, California in 2004. His words are just as meaningful now, even though the world has changed a great deal: "TIRF is focused, it's within your own profession, it's global, it's already making a difference, and your contribution, however great or small, will make significant changes worldwide."

*Kathi Bailey*