

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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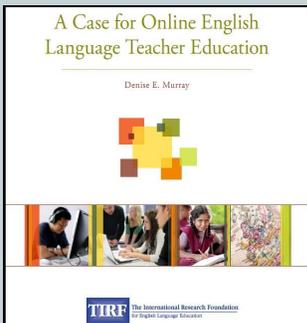
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TIRF TODAY

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TIRF Launches Latest Commissioned Report at TESOL Convention



TIRF is pleased to announce the release of its 2013 commissioned study, *A Case for Online English Language Teacher Education*. The paper was launched last week at the Foundation's presentation at the 2013 TESOL Convention in Dallas, Texas.

the individual case reports can be found by [clicking here](#).

We would like to recognize TIRF Trustee Dr. David Nunan and Anaheim University for their financial support of this project. Dr. Anthony Al-Jamie, Vice President of Anaheim University, commented on the release of the Foundation's latest commissioned paper by saying, "Anaheim University is pleased to provide the funding for this very important research, which is contributing to the betterment of our field."



The research investigated a range of online professional development opportunities offered by institutions around the world. The presentation featured TIRF Trustee, Dr. MaryAnn Christison, and Dr. Denise Murray, the author of the study. In addition to conducting



Dr. Denise Murray



Dr. MaryAnn Christison

an extensive literature review, Dr. Murray analyzed eighteen case reports submitted by providers of online professional development opportunities for language teachers. About 100 attendees joined in the presentation.

A free downloadable PDF of the report can be located on TIRF's website by [clicking here](#). Access to

TIRF would like to acknowledge a wonderful donation from the Cultura Inglesa in São Paulo, Brazil. Their generosity allowed TIRF to host a coffee and tea service for a brief "meet-and-greet" session before the presentation began. We are also very grateful to the TESOL Association for the double slot on the Convention's program, which enabled ample time for discussion.



International Language and Development Conference in South Africa

This year, the International Language and Development Conference returns to Sub-Saharan Africa for the second time since its inception in 1993. The 10th conference in this series will take place in Cape Town, South Africa from October 15 to 17, 2013 at the Lagoon Beach Hotel.

The International Language and Development Conferences are held every two years. They bring together professionals who are interested in the role languages play in development work. The conferences address the issues of world, national, second, and minority languages in relation to language policy, pedagogy, and economic, social, and cultural development. For more information, please [click here](#).

This year's main theme, "Opportunity, Equity and Identity beyond 2015," is divided into two key areas: (1) lessons, observations, and themes developed from earlier Language and Development Conferences, and (2) the role of language in supporting development from 2015 to 2035. For more informa-

tion about past conference themes, [please visit the Language and Development Conferences website](#).

Conference organizers are now accepting session proposals for both keynote presentations and parallel sessions linked to the themes of the conference. Individuals and teams of presenters are invited to submit proposals. The deadline for submissions is Friday, May 31, 2013. To learn more about session types and other session-related issues, please [click here](#). Proposal forms may be downloaded by [clicking here](#). For further information, please write to Jean September at Jean.September@britishcouncil.org.za.



10th INTERNATIONAL
Language & Development
CONFERENCE

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**Kathleen Bailey,
Chair of TIRF**

TIRF Board of Trustees Meets in Dallas

Last week, the TIRF Board of Trustees held its spring meeting in Dallas, Texas, in conjunction with the TESOL Convention and the recent AAAL Conference.

At the Board meeting, three newly elected Trustees were seated. Mr. John Knagg is TIRF's new British Council representative. Mr. Michael Carrier, the former British Council member, was elected as a regular voting Trustee for a three-year term. Dr. Jodi Crandall was also elected to a three-year term. Jodi was one of the original Board members when the Foundation was first started by TESOL in 1998.



**Former TIRF Trustees
Dennis Hogan and
Joanne Dresner**



Kathi Bailey (upper left), John Knagg, Joanne Dresner (lower left), and Jodi Crandall

Trustees Joanne Dresner and Dennis Hogan were honored for their long service to the Foundation. Joanne served for ten years, including several terms on the Executive Committee. Dennis was a Trustee for thirteen years, including several terms as Treasurer.

As part of the meeting, the Trustees brain-stormed short-, medium-, and long-term initiatives for TIRF. In four groups, they focused on policy, research, fundraising, and outreach efforts.



Left to right, Jun Liu, Lorraine de Matos, and Michael Carrier

The Board acknowledged the work of Denise Murray in conducting the latest commissioned research project in TIRF's "key questions" initiative. The Trustees also recognized the helpful financial support of this project from Anaheim University. One exciting new development is that the Board chose the use of handheld devices, with a particular focus on English for the 21st-century workforce, as the topic for a future "key questions" research paper.



Left to right, MaryAnn Christison, Mike Milanovic, Mitch Legutke, and Donna Christian

Learning Resource Network's Call for Research Proposals



Learning Resource Network

The [Learning Resource Network \(LRN\) in London](#) would like to invite researchers in the field of ESOL, applied linguistics, English language testing and assessment, referencing systems that assessments are based on, and other areas to participate in its first [call for proposals for research](#). All studies are funded by LRN and researchers are invited to use LRN assessment products and test data to contribute towards research carried out.

LRN will accept proposals from doctoral students completing a PhD thesis in relevant research areas; students in masters of arts (MA) or masters of education (MED) programs facing thesis submission; and graduates of MA/MED programs and doctorate studies.

Payment for doctoral or postdoctoral students is maximum £1800. The maximum award for MA, MED, and post-MA students is £900. Successful applicants will also be given access to LRN data.

Those who had not yet raised their hands were identified as [potential donors](#). Thanks to everyone who attended this session.

Report from the Chair — E³: Energy, Excitement, & Enthusiasm in Dallas!

What energy, excitement, and enthusiasm we experienced in Dallas – first, at our March 20th Board of Trustees meeting and, then, the next day when a standing-room-only crowd participated in a discussion of online language teacher education led by Denise Murray and MaryAnn Christison. In introducing our speakers, I asked the following people to raise their hands: TIRF grant recipients, Trustees, and donors.

I wish to express my deep gratitude to the TESOL association for providing TIRF with space to hold our Board meeting in the Convention Center free of charge. And, I would like to once again recognize the efforts of my Board colleagues, who graciously serve as volunteers. Through not reim-

bursing any Trustees' travel expenses, we are able to minimize our operating costs and maximize the impact of our donors' gifts.

I'd like to invite you to join in the energy, excitement, and enthusiasm of TIRF, by visiting [our website](#), contributing to [our reference lists](#), or [making a donation](#) to the Foundation. The rewards are well worth the effort!

Kathi Bailey