



Preparing Excellent Teachers for All Language Learners

PETALLs CONFERENCE

"Practices That Improve the Education of English Learners" was held at the University of Massachusetts Lowell's University Crossing on Wednesday October 7, 2015 from 4:30 -7:30p.m. Over 135 area public school teachers, public school administrators, higher-education faculty, UMass Lowell students and staff participated in this event. Michaela Colombo opened the event and Chancellor Jacqueline Moloney provided opening remarks.



Chancellor Jacqueline Moloney provides opening remarks about the current state of teaching ELs in Massachusetts schools.



University Crossing Moloney Ballroom

Drs. O'Hara and Pritchard actively engaged participants in the analysis of scripts from authentic classrooms. Participants analyzed scripts in small groups and then discussed evidence of student engagement in academic language and teacher talk that stimulated this type of conversation.



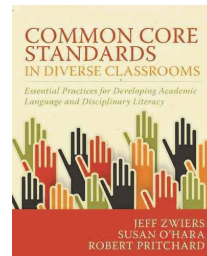
Local educators share best practices and exchange ideas

Keynote Address

Dr. Susan O'Hara and Dr. Bob Pritchard gave the keynote address. To meet the needs of Educators of ELs, they ensured that their presentation was practice-focused. Fellow National Professional Development grantees, Drs. O'Hara and Pritchard shared lessons learned from their professional development work. Using clear examples, which included sample materials and video demonstrations, O'Hara and Pritchard illustrated classroom practices that engage ELs in focused academic conversations.



Dr. Colombo introduces Drs. Pritchard and O'Hara



O'Hara and Pritchard are co-authors of the book, *Common Core Standards in Diverse Classrooms: Essential Practices for Developing Academic Language and Disciplinary*

Literacy, with Jeff Zwiers. Each conference participant received a copy. Drs. O'Hara and Pritchard were available to sign books following the keynote.

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PETALLs Website
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PETALLs WEEBLY





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Salem State
Fitchburg State
Framingham State

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Poster Presentations

Posters showcased research-based practices that improve educational opportunities and outcomes for ELLs in ESL and content-area classrooms as well as innovative ways educators can connect with families and communities of ELLs. Dr. Patricia Fontaine, UML Clinical Associate Professor and Instructor for History Methods for Initial licensure, presented a poster that addressed teaching U.S. history to ELLs. Her poster touched on ways to deconstruct difficult primary and secondary sources that can be used cross content areas. Dr. Fontaine facilitates workshops for UML Graduate School of Education faculty, preparing them to imbed SEI instruction into their graduate courses taught to pre-service teachers.



Educators review the variety of poster topics



Poster presenters discuss their findings with attendees

Poster Themes

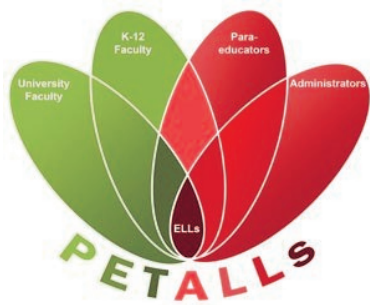
- Academic Conversations
- Vocabulary Development
- Family Engagement
- Math and Science
- Reading and Writing Strategies
- Music Based Strategies



Local educators present posters addressing strategies used in their classrooms that improve the education of ELLs

District and University Presenters

- Haverhill Nettle Middle School
- Lawrence Guilmette Middle School
- Lawrence High School of Health and Human Services
- Lawrence High School of International Newly Arrived Program
- Lawrence High School Learning Center
- Lawrence High School of Math, Science and Technology
- Lawrence High School of Performing and Fine Arts
- Lowell Daley Middle School
- Methuen Donald P. Timony Grammar School
- Revere Garfield Middle School
- Salem State University
- University of Massachusetts Lowell Graduate School of Education



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Poster presenters share their ideas with fellow educators

Six poster presentations were submitted from Lawrence Public School District educators.

1. *Using Partner Reading to Enhance the Understanding of Novels for ELLs*

Sheila Fabiano, ESL teacher and Marian Didio, ELA teacher, High School Learning Center.

This poster provided English Language Arts teachers with strategies to help ELLs comprehend themes and motifs contained in novels such as *The Kite Runner* by Hosseini.

2. *Pumping Up Vocabulary for English Language Learners*

Diane McDonald, ESL/Reading Teacher and Yahaira Diaz, ESL Teacher, Newcomers Program, Guilmette Middle School.

This poster presented best practices for promoting vocabulary development with ideas for conversations and structured routines to teach and reinforce vocabulary.



Content area teachers connect with each other

3. *Modeled but not Taught-Implementing Mathematical Writing Skills*

Timothy Palladino, Physics and Robotics Teacher 9-12, Math, Science and Technology High School.

This poster focused on order and clear formatting structures in written mathematic problem solving that demonstrate improved achievement and understanding on open response questions.

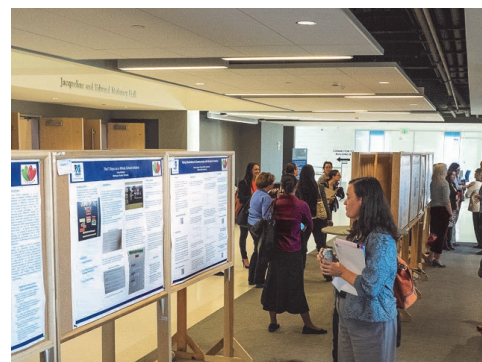


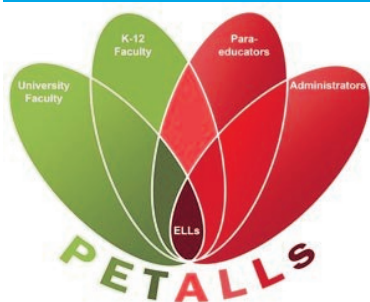
Supplemental handouts accompany poster displays

4. *Reading Instruction That Works: Addressing the Needs of SLIFE*

Nicoleta Filimon, ESL Teacher, Douglas Haubert, ESL Facilitator, Athalia Gonzalez, ESL Teacher and Sarah Montgomery, ESL Teacher, International High School Newly Arrived Program.

This poster illustrated reading strategies that have shown to be effective with SLIFE at the secondary level.





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5. *Holding High Standards for Academic Writing in the English Classroom with English Language Learners*

Michelle Gould, 10th Grade ELA teacher and Scarlett Tannetta, 9-10 Grade ELA teacher. Health and Human Services High School.

This poster acknowledged challenges faced by teachers of ELLs and ELLs themselves. It suggests resources for teachers to use, along with examples of how ELLs are able to write academic essays regardless of their English proficiency levels.

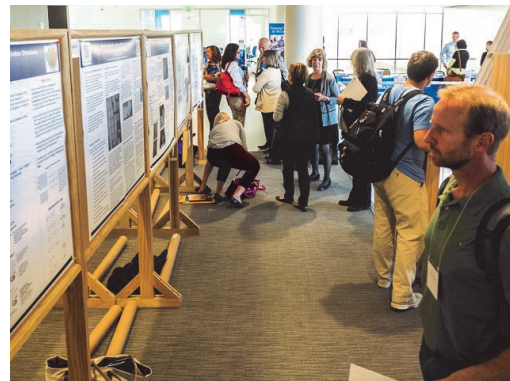


Attendees examine the poster displays

6. *ESL Strategies Across Multiple Proficiency Levels*

Tracy Finn, High School ESL teacher levels 3 & 4 and Christi Cartwright-Lacerda, High School ESL teacher levels 1 & 2, Performing and Fine Arts High School.

This poster depicted two ESL strategies for reading and writing that have been implemented across various proficiency levels. Examples of scaffolding and final products demonstrate how a strategy can be adapted to meet the needs of a range of ESL levels.



Posters grouped by theme

The conference covered important and timely topics for educators of ELLs, providing a valuable professional development experience.



Teachers discuss resource handouts

Resources that were shared can be immediately implemented into classroom practice or infused in higher education syllabi.



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Michaela Colombo PETALLS Project Director, Gillisen Green SAEL Project Student Services Coordinator & Julie Whitlow SAEL Project Director

University of Massachusetts Lowell



Project PETALLS –Preparing Excellent Teachers for All Language Learners
University of Mass Lowell
Michaela Colombo, Project Director

Conference Collaborators

Fitchburg State University



Project TESEL-Transforming Education and Schools for English Learners
Lynn D'Agostino, Project Director

Framingham State University



Project MASSexcELLs-Supporting ELL Populations in Central and Eastern Mass
Marguerite Mahler, Project Director

Salem State University



Project SAEL-Successful Advancement of English Learners in Gateway Cities in Mass
Julie Whitlow, Project Director

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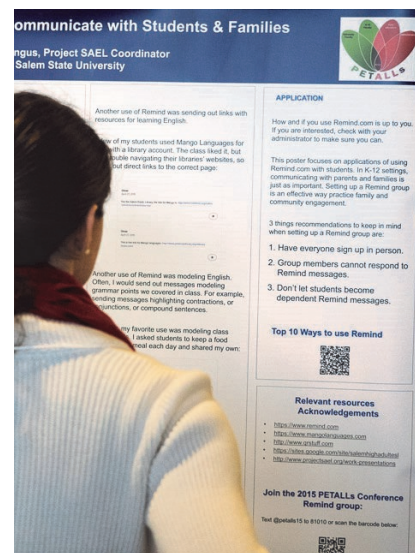
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To access conference posters, program materials and resources, please visit the conference website displayed below:



<http://www.uml.edu/Education/PETALLS/Conference-2015/post-conference.aspx>