



# PETALLs

A Partnership between the University of Massachusetts Lowell and the Lawrence Public Schools. Funded by the U.S. DOE (T365Z120232)

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## Preparing Excellent Teachers for All Language Learners

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#### PETALLs Conference 2015 - Save the Date!

#### Call for Proposals

#### Contacts:

Michaela Colombo  
PETALLs Director  
University of Massachusetts Lowell  
978.934.4610  
Michaela\_Colombo@uml.edu

Kinnon Foley  
ELL Director  
Lawrence Public Schools  
978.975.5905 x 25608  
Kinnon.Foley@Lawrence.k12.ma.us

**PETALLs Website**  
<http://www.uml.edu/petalls>



#### The PETALLs at TESOL 2015

LPS and UMass faculty presented at the Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) 2015 International Convention in Toronto, Canada, March 25-28. Their presentations were well attended by participants from the U.S. and from Canada.

#### Leadership that Improves Educational Outcomes for ELs: A Systemic Approach



In this presentation, Laurie Hartwick, LPS ELL facilitator, Kinnon Foley, LPS ELL Director, and Michaela Colombo, UMass faculty member, shared the perspectives of 23 LPS administrators who have been involved in the implementation of the RETELL initiative. In general these administrators reported that they welcomed the RETELL mandate, which has been accompanied by support from PETALLs. (Administrators participated in breakfast meetings throughout last year.) According to administrators RETELL has focused educators' attention on the needs of the English learners (ELs), who represent a large percentage of students in the LPS. Administrators also expressed concerns about the need for ongoing professional development for themselves and for their teachers. Kinnon Foley shared an overview of the progress that ELs were making across the LPS campus, and highlighted growth that comes from focused instruction. The presentation showed how district and school administrators can embrace, build on, and sustain external mandates to improve teacher practice and EL outcomes. Principals at LPS continue to participate in the PETALLs breakfast workshops, which are facilitated by Mr. Paul Neal, the Principal of the Health and Human Services High School.

#### Integrating Academic Scaffolds for SIFE in ESL and Content Classrooms

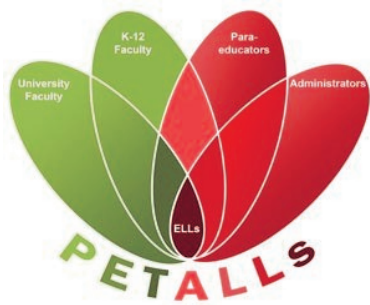


In this interactive workshop Nicoleta Filimon, LPS ESL teacher and Doug Haubert, ELL facilitator (both at the International High School) shared instructional methods, strategies, and assignments that are effective with Students with Interrupted Formal Education (SIFE) in secondary level ESL classrooms. They showed attendees how they have created a rich academic learning environment for SIFE. Nicoleta and Doug led participants in activities to scaffold strategies and tasks for ELs with different levels of English proficiency and in different content areas. Participants received a toolkit of strategies and assignments to use in their classrooms.

#### Improving Performance of Paraprofessionals of ELs: What Really Matters



Michaela Colombo, UMass faculty member, discussed perspectives and lessons learned from LPS paraprofessionals and teachers. Paraprofessionals in the LPS have attended professional development (PD) over the past two years. This PD has focused on preparing them to work more effectively with ELs. Not only did LPS paraprofessionals learn about supporting instruction for ELs, they also reported feeling more valued in their workplace because the district provided this academic-focused PD. Two issues with which paraprofessionals and teachers continue to struggle are scheduling and time for collaboration. Interruptions to paraprofessionals' schedules interfere with their ability to support teachers' instruction. A new version of PD is being developed to pair teachers and paraprofessionals to plan instruction.



## Preparing Excellent Teachers for All Language Learners

### Helping Content-Area Teachers Assess EL Work Using WIDA Standards

Heidi Perez, ELL Facilitator for the Methuen Public Schools and Michaela Colombo demonstrated how they prepared content-area teachers to use WIDA to differentiate biology assignments for ELs with different English proficiency levels. Participants practiced assessing student work.



### The PETALLs at TESOL 2015

- Helping Content-Area Teachers Assess EL Work Using WIDA Standards

The PETALLs Conference -  
Save the Date!  
Call for Proposals

### INFORMATION

For newsletter input contact:  
Laurie Hartwick, ELL Facilitator  
Lawrence Public Schools  
Laurie.Hartwick@lawrence.k12.ma.us

### PETALLs WEEBLY

Resource Site  
<http://petalls.weebly.com>

### PETALLs Website

<http://www.uml.edu/petalls>

## PETALLs CONFERENCE Practices that Improve the Education of English Learners

Missed TESOL 2015? Come present at the 2015 PETALLs Conference!

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
Wednesday October 7, 2015  
4:30 - 7:30 PM

**5:30 - 6:30 Keynote Dr. Susan O'Hara**  
(Dr. O'Hara is the co-author of *Common Core Standards in Diverse Classrooms: Essential Practices for Developing Academic Language and Disciplinary Literacy* with Jeff Zwiers and Robert Pritchard)

**4:30 - 5:15 & 6:45 - 7:30 Poster Session**  
University Crossing 260  
University of Massachusetts Lowell  
220 Pawtucket Street, Lowell MA 01854

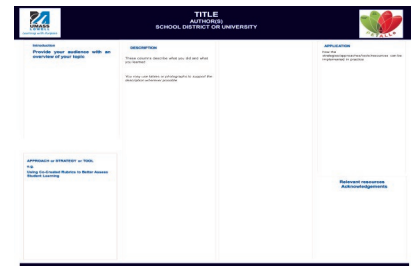
Please visit <http://uml.edu/Education/PETALLs/Conference-2015/default.aspx> for more information.

**CALL FOR PROPOSALS**  
Due June 15, 2015

Submitting a proposal is easy!  
Simply complete the online submission form at  
<http://uml.edu/education/petalls/ProposalSubmission/>

Not sure about how to do a poster presentation? See three simple steps with examples in the next column.

**Step 1.** Choose an area of interest (e.g. Best Practices for Teaching ELs). Begin with a blank template:



This template is available for download on the PETALLs website.

**Step 2.** Describe your practices using short passages of text, add photos and/or graphics (e.g. what is difficult for ELs, what you did to address the difficulty, what students did, what you learned). Completed Sample Poster:



**Step 3.** Present and share your expertise with other educators in a conversational and interactive way!

