

Keynote Speakers

Michel Chikwanine- A former child soldier from the Congo who survived the atrocities of the Great War of Africa to become one of the world's best-known motivational speakers, is one of two keynote speakers who will highlight the 2010 Alberta Teachers Association ESL Conference.

Michel Chikwanine left his home as a refugee at the age of 11, after witnessing first-hand the death and decay of a war that claimed the lives of 5.8 million people, including his father. Since then, he has traveled to many African countries to witness first-hand the problems facing the developing world, but to also share the stories of the beauty of the communities and the people who live there.

Chikwanine uses the experiences of his past to inspire people to believe in their ability to create change, leaving audiences with a new perspective on life and a sense of hope through social responsibility. And he's not alone in spreading his message for change. Over the last few years has shared the stage with likes of Dr. Jane Goodall, Robert F. Kennedy Jr., Mia Farrow, former Prime Minister Paul Martin and The Dalai Lama.

Jeffrey Zwiers - A teacher training specialist from Los Angeles, Zwiers has worked on curriculum development projects in Macedonia, Pakistan, Liberia, Cyprus and Ghana.

He currently is working with the Guatemala Education Reform in the Classroom project team to develop effective systems of bilingual education and teacher training across the country. He has published articles and books on literacy, cognition and academic language.

Break-out Sessions

1. Presentation Title: ESL Benchmarks.

The ESL Benchmarks show language proficiency development from Level 1 (beginner) to Level 5 (advanced) for Kindergarten, Grades 1-3, 4-6, 7-9 and 10-12. This session will provide an introduction to the ESL Benchmarks with some practical hands-on learning experiences so that teachers can begin using this resource with the English Language Learners (ELLs) they teach.

Biography; Mike Etrich is the Manager for ESL for Alberta Education. He has extensive background in language acquisition pedagogy. He has taught German, and has an interest and a background in using and enhancing student language learning through technology.

Kathy Salmon is seconded from CBE as an ESL Consultant for Alberta Education. She has worked as an ESL teacher, Learning Leader, Specialist and Assistant Principal and has an M.Ed TESL from the University of Calgary. Kathy's enthusiastic in supporting Alberta teachers in building best practices for the English Language Learners they teach.

2. Presentation Title: Academic Vocabulary and English Language Development.

The purpose of this presentation is to provide teachers with strategies to successfully teach academic vocabulary to English Language Learners. This presentation will focus on one teacher's journey using English Language Development theory to improve students' understanding of mathematical academic vocabulary. Initially, there will be a brief discussion of English Language Development theory. Then, we will share the process of applying this theory through mathematical teaching and learning. Initial assessments, lessons and student work will be shared. Finally, there will be a discussion about how this process can be applied to other academic areas and the impact it will have on life long student learning. Danielle Derosier graduated from the University of Calgary Masters of Teaching program in 2005. She is currently a LEAD (Literacy Education and Academic Development) teacher with the Calgary Board of Education at Connaught School and has been since 2006.

Kathy Andrews graduated from the University of Calgary with a bachelor's degree in special education and psychology. Over the past 20 years she has held a number of jobs ranging from classroom teacher to AISI Learning Leader. She is currently working with Connaught School on the Universal Design for Learning project.

3. "Between Cultures"

"Contemporary immigrant and refugee children represented in children's literature".

Lynn will share numerous picture books and novels that she has found useful in her classroom. You will learn what to look for and what to avoid when choosing multicultural literature for your class. We will explore the question "Does the author have to be an immigrant from that specific culture to ensure the book is authentic?" You will also learn where to find these books and many ways to use them in your class. A comprehensive book list will be provided.

Lynn Farrugia has been a teacher at an inner-city school for 14 years. She has taught countless immigrant and refugee children from all over the world.

4. Title - Connaught School – Centre for ESL.

The purpose of this presentation is to provide teachers and administrators information about Connaught School, Centre for English as a Second Language for the Calgary Board of Education. A description of Connaught School – recently reopened as a restored, state of the art 100 year old school in downtown Calgary. How we organize for our diverse population – 50 different countries and 43 different languages. Assessment for and of learning with ELL students, cultural awareness and acknowledgement, school organization to meet student needs (flexible groupings, multi aging, Literacy, English and Academic Development classes, LEAD), Professional Learning Communities, PLC's, and Assistive Technology.

5. Fran McGilvray Cooke graduated from the University of Calgary with a Bachelor's Degree in Teaching and a Master's Degree in Administration and Literacy. She has held a number of jobs ranging from classroom teacher, specialist to school principal. She is currently working as the Principal of Connaught School.

Natalie Jones has been teaching at Connaught School for two years. She is a graduate of the University of Calgary Master of Teaching program and has a Bachelor of Arts in English. She is currently teaching in a grade ¾ classroom.

Rita Traxler has been teaching at Connaught School for two years. She is a graduate of the University of Calgary Master of Teaching program. She is currently teaching full day kindergarten.

6. Suzie Bisson- Mental Health

7. Hetty Roessingh,

Presentation title: Providing transitional supports for ELLs from high school to university

Synopsis: I will present the findings from a pilot study of ELLs, graduates from Canadian high schools, at university reflecting their lack of preparedness for participation in tertiary education; and a programmatic intervention -- intensive English for Academic Purposes (iEAP) designed to provide transitional support from high school to university. The workshop highlights areas for targeted intervention in developing CALP – like proficiency, many of which can be implemented beginning in upper elementary and throughout high school level *prior* to their arrival at university.

8. Presentation title: **Grandma's Soup: Integrated thematic teaching for Grade 1 ELLs**

Synopsis: Integrated thematic teaching provides an excellent context for focusing on the language learning needs of ELLs while addressing curricular mandates. Grandma's Soup demonstrates the underlying principles for organizing thematic study in a Grade 1 setting. An accompanying website shows the thematic overview and provides a tool for teachers to build their own thematic units from this model; a variety of learning activities, and artefacts of children's learning. There is further support for teachers' professional development, and tips for working with parents. Please come visit!

<http://www.duallanguageproject.com/> Use or adapt our Grandma's Soup unit, or build your own.

Biographical statement: Hetty is a long term ESL teacher in the k – 12 system. She moved to the University of Calgary in 2000, where she is a professor in Education.

9. Kathy Salmon - Presentation Title: Alberta Education K-12 ESL Proficiency Benchmarks

Synopsis: The ESL Benchmarks show language proficiency development from Level 1 (beginner) to Level 5 (advanced) for Kindergarten, Grades 1-3, 4-6, 7-9 and 10-12. This session will provide an introduction to the ESL Benchmarks with some practical hands-on learning experiences so that teachers can begin using this resource with the English Language Learners (ELLs) they teach.

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