



#MIDTESOL26: “Cultivating Linguistic Identities”

MIDTESOL offers several awards associated with the annual conference, such as the:

- **Best Student Proposal Award**
- **Distinguished Service Award**
- **Interest Section**
- **Presenter Travel Awards**

Please carefully review the following information to ascertain your eligibility for any of these awards. All the decisions made by the reviewers are final.

A. Best Student Proposal

MIDTESOL acknowledges the valuable contributions that students make to the success of the conference and the broader field. Students can indicate their eligibility for the award by checking the provided box on the proposal submission form; no additional forms are required to apply for the award.

The Awards Committee will review the proposals submitted by students, and **one proposal** will be selected. The winner (or winners, in the case of co-presenters who will share the prize) will receive a **\$200 award**. Note that award winners still are required to register for the conference

The proposal deadline is **July 26, 2026** at 11:59 pm. Notification to the student(s) will be sent by **August 15, 2026**, allowing the winner(s) to register for the conference at the Early Bird discounted rate. (Early registration closes on September 15, 2026.) Proposals undergo blind peer review and are evaluated based on:

- ❖ Significance and relevance of the topic as it pertains to ESL/EFL teaching and/or research.
- ❖ Written organization and clarity of the proposal.
- ❖ Originality and creativity.

B. Distinguished Service Award

MIDTESOL wishes to honor exceptional service to our organization through the Distinguished Service Award. This award recognizes an individual's outstanding dedication to and leadership within MIDTESOL.

The selected recipient will be awarded a lifetime membership and recognition at this year's MIDTESOL Conference.

Nominations may be made only by members of MIDTESOL. No current member of the MIDTESOL Board is eligible for nomination. Include the following items in the nominating dossier (combined into one continuous document arranged in the order listed below):

1. A nominating letter explaining your rationale for the choice of this individual, verifying, too, that s/he meets the eligibility requirement
2. An up-to-date curriculum vitae of the candidate
3. An account of any MIDTESOL Awards received (on the part of the nominee) in the past

Submit the nominating dossier to acting Awards Committee chair **Vicki Anderson** (vickianderson@midtesol.org) by **August 20, 2026**.

The subject line of your email should read **"MIDTESOL 2026: Distinguished Service Award"**. You will receive confirmation from the Awards Chair that your submission has been received. Neither incomplete dossiers nor self-nominations will be considered. Nominations will be judged on the individual's service to and participation in the profession at the regional (i.e., MIDTESOL) level as detailed in the candidate's nominating letter and CV.

Nominators will be contacted by September 1, 2026.

All other criteria being equal, preference will be given to the applicant who has never before received an award from MIDTESOL.

C. Interest Section Travel Awards

Up to six MIDTESOL members from different interest sections (one member per interest section) will be awarded a check in the amount of **\$125** to cover travel and registration costs for the MIDTESOL 2026 Conference on October 30-31, 2026.

The six MIDTESOL interest sections are

- *Community College/Adult Education*
- *Educational Technology*
- *Higher Education/Teacher Training*
- *Intensive English Program (IEP)*

- *K-12*
- *Program Administrators*

To be eligible, applicants must be employed in the ELL profession but receive little or no funding from their employers for expenses to attend the conference.

To apply, please submit the following in writing:

1. *Name, Position, Employer(s)*
2. *Interest Section applying for*
3. *Statement verifying that little or no funding is received for professional development from employers*
4. *Statement indicating whether you have previously been awarded any travel awards from MIDTESOL*
5. *Statement verifying that you are a **current member of MIDTESOL**. (Verify this by checking your current membership status: <https://midtesol.org/membership/>. If you don't remember your password, simply ask to reset it. Only current MIDTESOL members can be considered for this award.)*
6. *Statement verifying that you're willing to volunteer a few hours at the conference*
7. *A brief summary explaining the impact attending the MIDTESOL conference has had on you in the past, the benefits you will receive by attending this time, and any professional involvement you have had and/or contributions you have made to the field of TESOL (these may include professional organizations, publications, interest groups, or projects in your workplace/community).*

Applications must be sent to acting Awards Committee chair **Vicki Anderson** (vickianderson@midtesol.org). The subject line of your email should read **"#MIDTESOL25: Interest Section Travel Award."**

Deadline is August 20, 2026. The Awards Committee and Interest Section Chairs will judge entries. Winners will be contacted by **September 1, 2026** so that they can register for the Early Bird rate for the conference (early registration closes September 15, 2026).

D. Presenter Travel Awards

If you have been notified of acceptance to present at #MIDTESOL25, you are encouraged to apply for a Travel Award to help fund expenses.

Up to three (3) Travel Awards of **\$150** each will be granted.

To apply, the following items must be submitted to acting Awards Committee chair **Vicki Anderson** (vickianderson@midtesol.org) by **August 31, 2026**. The subject line of your email should read **"#MIDTESOL26: Presenter Travel Award Submission."** All

application materials must be combined into one continuous document arranged in the order listed below:

1. Contact information, including name, email, and institutional affiliation;
2. Notification of proposal acceptance;
3. A brief statement (approximately 300 words, 12-point and double-spaced) describing the benefit that attending and presenting at the MIDTESOL conference will bring to you and other ELT professionals in your community;
4. An account of any outside funding sources received for travel to the conference;
5. A list of MIDTESOL Travel Awards received in the past; and
6. An agreement to submit a report outlining your presentation within a month of the conference for publication in MIDTESOL Matters, the organization's electronic newsletter.

You will receive confirmation from the Awards Chair that your submission has been received and then a notification if you are a winner by **September 1, 2026** to allow you to register for the conference at the Early Bird discounted rate (early registration closes on September 15, 2026). Submissions undergo blind peer review. Incomplete applications or applications that are not in compliance with the instructions listed above will not be considered out of fairness to all applicants.

In the event that there are more proposals deemed worthy than there is money available to fund them, preference will be given to the applicant who (1) does not have external support for travel to the conference and (2) has never before received a MIDTESOL Travel Award.

