MEDIA RELEASE

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TESL ONTARIO NAMES WINNERS OF ESL CREATIVITY CONTEST

Toronto, September 6, 2013 - The Teachers of English as a Second Language Association of Ontario (TESL Ontario) recently announced the winners of its popular province-wide, multi-category creativity contest to celebrate ESL education and learning. Grand Prize winners are Yael Padawer, Toronto, of the Toronto District School Board for an Essay entry in the Instructor Division; and Edna Pisciotti, Bolton, of Caledon Community Services for a Video entry in the Learner Division.

From the forty-nine submissions made, two Runners-up were also selected in each Division. Winners in the Instructor Division are: Jennifer Weiler and Janice Desroches, both of Hamilton, Ontario. From the Learner Division, runners-up are Johanna Torres, London, Ontario and Madlin Eisho of Bolton, Ontario.

Winning submissions can be viewed at http://www.teslontario.net/esl-week.

The creativity contest is a feature of ESL Week, an annual celebration of ESL education and learning that is endorsed throughout Ontario by more than 40 communities, thousands of ESL educators, students of all ages, and many learning institutions and school boards. All individuals involved with teaching and learning ESL in Ontario were invited to participate.

“The experience of learning English as a second language is a life-changing event for immigrants, newcomers to Canada and exchange students. At the same time, teaching the English language to the many different levels and categories of students is both challenging and rewarding for language training professionals,” says Renate Tilson, executive director TESL Ontario. “The desire and need for this event to showcase talented ESL learners and educators grew out of our popular annual poster contest for ESL students that began in 2006,” she added.
Both learners and instructors selected their entry choice from one of six different activities. In the Writing category, activities could be a short story, essay, poetry or blog. In the Media category, activities were a short film/documentary/news piece or a photo/photo collage. Judging was done by a panel of ten active TESL Ontario members in various disciplines from across the province.

All winners will be honoured on October 24 at the Welcome Reception of TESL Ontario’s annual conference, which highlights ESL Week.

This 41st conference of TESL Ontario, titled: “Merging and Emerging Pathways through Language”, takes place at the Allstream Centre in Toronto October 24 – 26, 2013. It is the largest conference of its kind in Canada, hosting more than 1500 delegates. A variety of interactive workshops, presentations, technology labs, panel discussions, research symposia, technology fair and more will be offered to language training professionals from public and private sectors, academics, researchers and government representatives.

TESL Ontario, established in 1972, is a non-profit organization serving the needs of teachers of English as a Second Language. It represents more than 4,600 language training professionals working in immigrant serving agencies, school boards, publicly funded sites across Ontario, colleges/universities, elementary/secondary and private language training schools. TESL Ontario’s expertise is in teaching, advocacy, accreditation and professional development. The organization is instrumental in influencing the success of many thousands of English language learners throughout the province.

For more information visit www.teslontario.org and follow us on