



International Black Professionals & Friends in TESOL

Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages

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**TESOL 2001
Caucus Open
Meeting
Thursday, March 1
5-7 p.m.**

Volunteers Needed!!!!!!!!!!!!

This year at the St. Louis Conference Caucus booths will take center stage!

In St. Louis the booths will be placed in the entrance giving us all more exposure. If you are attending the conference please make yourself available to volunteer a couple of hours at the booth.

Contact Tamara at trollie@amity.org for scheduling.

Confronting Prejudice

By Tamara Rollie

As teachers of color, confronting prejudice is something we do both in and out of the classroom. Being a woman of mixed race, it came naturally to me from early on in my career to incorporate diversity into my curriculum, through film, music and literature in order to highlight African, Asian and Hispanic American cultures. While at TESOL 2000 in Vancouver, I attended a session that discussed how to use film to confront prejudice. In the post session discussion a debate arose about the goal of these lessons, and I was led to examine my role as a teacher more deeply. As the discussion began to focus on the importance of challenging students into accepting new beliefs, something inside of me clicked. I asked myself, "Is it important if my students agree with me and believe what I believe?" The answer is a resounding no. My primary role is to facilitate their ability to read, write and speak English. It is an added benefit that I chose a profession that affords me the opportunity to present issues of cultural diversity and increases awareness. It has been my experience, that through these lessons, students will begin to question their stereotypes, and as a result become more accepting of not only people of color, but women and various other groups considered minorities. However, some students, despite the new knowledge and awareness, may not agree that all are created equal and may continue to discriminate based on their individual values. That is what I feel I must accept and as ESL professionals we must accept. When we ask students to be tolerant of what is accepted by some, not all, in our culture we must accept that they may not be willing to do so. Therefore, we must be tolerant and be willing to agree to disagree. It does not mean that we should permit this individual to discriminate or mistreat a teacher or classmate, but accept that this individual will go through his or her life with values different from our own. This opened my eyes to a clearer understanding of my role as a teacher. In the classroom, I present students with a positive image of minorities in America and increase their awareness of the culture and issues that minorities face. As international students, these are issues they may face themselves as part of their experience while learning English and living in the United States.

Get Published!

You are invited to submit a writing for the upcoming 2001 issues of the IBPFT Newsletter. The Newsletter is OUR forum to present OUR issues. Get involved, get published!

Submit your writings to Marvelyn Rowe Bucky via email at marvbucky@hotmail.com or snail mail to: The American Language Institute, 5250 Campanile Dr., San Diego, CA 92182-1914

