



news

For Immediate Release

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TESOL to Honor Chilean Minister of Education

Alexandria, VA (March 2006) – Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages, Inc. (TESOL), the global education association representing more than 13,000 English language educators worldwide, announces it will be recognizing Sergio Bitar, the former Minister of Education for Chile, at the opening plenary of its 40th Annual Convention and Exhibit in Tampa, Florida, USA. The presentation will be held before an audience of 1,500 English language educators on Wednesday, March 15, 2006, at 11:30 am in the West Hall of the Tampa Convention Center.

Serving as Chile's Minister of Education from 2003-2005, and the current President of the Chilean National Commission of UNESCO, Sergio Bitar has been one of his country's leading education reformers. While serving as Minister, his main focus was on improving the quality of education, and he led the efforts to establish the teaching and learning of English as a major national priority in Chile by launching the English Opens Doors program. This ambitious 10-year plan has already significantly enhanced public awareness of the need for learning English, has generated increased interest in professional development among English teachers, and has focused attention on improving the quality of both English instruction and the preservice education of English teachers.

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TESOL to Honor Chilean Minister of Education (continued)

Under the banner "Daring to Lead," the 2006 TESOL convention will feature more than 800 lecture/discussion sessions presented by 2,200 speakers representing more than 65 countries. Among the variety of topics are language testing and assessment, technology in language learning, bilingual education, education standards, and refugee/immigration concerns. This TESOL forum offers ESL/EFL professionals the opportunity to gain new knowledge and skills, and to network and exchange ideas on issues affecting the more than 1.3 billion nonnative speakers of English around the world.

Press can register for the convention either in advance or on site. To register in advance, visit the online press room at <http://www.tesol.org/>, and click on TESOL 2006. To register on site, please go to Room 39 on the third floor of the Tampa Convention Center. Other press releases and more information about presenters and sessions are available at the TESOL 2006 online press room.

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Founded in 1966, Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages, Inc. (TESOL), is a global education association with more than 13,000 members and 90 affiliates in over 120 countries. TESOL is recognized as a nongovernmental organization (NGO) of the United Nations Department of Public Information. TESOL's mission is to ensure excellence in English language teaching to speakers of other languages.