

NEWS

For Immediate Release

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TESOL Awards Brock Brady with the 2024 James E. Alatis Award for Service

Alexandria, Va. (Feb 6, 2024) – Longtime TESOL International Association (TESOL) mentor, past board member, and past president Brock Brady has been named recipient of the 2024 James E. Alatis Award for Service to TESOL. Brady has served as a programming and training education specialist with the U.S. Peace Corps, was coordinator and then codirector of the American University TESOL Program and directed the English language programs for the U.S. State Department in Burkina Faso and Benin.

In making the announcement, TESOL President Shelley K. Taylor described Brady as a language specialist who has experienced a diverse career, having lectured in Korea, spending two years in France as a Fulbright Scholar, working as a Peace Corp volunteer in West Africa, and committing years of service to TESOL. “Brock Brady has traveled the world, collaborating with language professionals and building English language teaching programs for years,” Taylor said. “In doing so he has shared resources and developed collaborations that have empowered and energized teaching communities on an international scale.”

While also teaching English or serving as an educational consultant in Angola, Australia, Brazil, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire, Egypt, France, Gambia, Guatemala, Israel, Mali, Mexico, Moldova, Panama, the Philippines, Portugal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, and other countries, Brady has been a committed presence as a TESOL volunteer. He served as president of the Washington, D.C. Area TESOL (WATESOL), was a program cochair for the 50th TESOL convention, served as a TESOL board member, president-elect, president, and past president, and has maintained an ongoing role as a member of the TESOL Leadership Mentoring Program. He holds degrees from Reed College and Portland State University.

Upon learning of the honor, Brady reflected on his first interaction with the namesake of the award, Dr. James E. Alatis, who was a dean emeritus and distinguished professor of linguistics at Georgetown University.

Brady said, “I will never forget my first meeting with Dr. Alatis. I was the president for the local TESOL association and as such, I was tasked to encourage English

teaching programs in the region to contribute to that year's TESOL convention. Soliciting like this, I never knew how I'd be received. Entering the Georgetown Department of Linguistics I was somewhat surprised to be received by Dr. Alatis himself. He immediately wanted to know about my teaching program, the current state of the TESOL association, the English program in my institution, my research...and he even gave me some tips about which English programs might contribute funding. He was simply gracious, encouraging, and wise. He gave me an hour of his time that he might not get back, and most importantly, he made me feel valuable. I hope that I can continue to make other TESOLers feel they are valuable, too."

The [James E. Alatis Award for Service to TESOL](#) was established in 1987 to honor James E. Alatis for his 21 years of devoted service as TESOL's first executive director. Alatis was a charter member of TESOL International Association and dean emeritus of the School of Languages and Linguistics at Georgetown University. The award is given to recipients who have shown genuine and long-lasting support of TESOL International Association through leadership and service and representation of TESOL values of professionalism, respect, integrity, and lifelong learning; a commitment to the mission of TESOL and dedication to the field of English language education. For more information about the Alatis Award and its past winners, visit [this page](#).

About TESOL International Association

TESOL International Association is the trusted global community for knowledge and expertise in English language teaching. TESOL advances the professional expertise in English language teaching to speakers of other languages in multilingual contexts worldwide through professional learning, research, standards, and advocacy. In principle and in practice, TESOL values professionalism, respect, integrity, and lifelong learning and seeks diverse and inclusive participation within the field of English language teaching. TESOL promotes equitable representation, engagement, and broad access to professional opportunities for all and works to eliminate any kind of discrimination. TESOL is a professional community of more than 13,000 English language professionals representing more than 150 countries. For more information, please visit www.tesol.org.

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