

I E P
insightful
energized
passionate

**5th Annual
IEP Mini-Conference**
Call for Proposals



***The Challenge of Change:
Expanding IEP Horizons***

*If you are IEP faculty, staff, or an administrator looking for a practical and inspirational professional development experience, please join us for the 5th annual IEP Mini-Conference – **The Challenge of Change: Expanding IEP Horizons!** IEPs all over the country, and certainly in our region, are in a time of transition and adaptation. Come to the conference prepared to share and learn how this transition informs your classroom practice, administrative plans, and student services. Who are we becoming, and how do we make changes well, for the good of our programs and students? Your colleagues want to hear as many ideas as possible!*

Kennesaw State University

February 25, 2017

About the Conference

IEPs face challenges delivering language instruction and student services to ever-changing student populations at various skill levels, meeting university and programmatic accreditation standards, utilizing new technologies, and engaging students. By sharing knowledge, experiences, and ideas, these challenges become more manageable, and working in an IEP becomes more rewarding. This one-day mini-conference addresses the specific needs of IEP faculty and staff and focuses on solutions and collaboration. The conference is sponsored by Georgia TESOL and organized by the Georgia TESOL IEP Interest Section, representatives of four Georgia universities, and EnglishUSA. It includes free lunch and an informal meet-up after the conference at a local establishment.

Registration

Preregistration on www.gatesol.org is required to present *and* attend; there will be no onsite registration. Registration opens on October 24 and closes February 20 and is \$5 for Georgia TESOL members and \$15 for non-members. The conference includes snacks, coffee, and a catered lunch in addition to all sessions, materials, parking, and wifi access. If you have any questions, contact the conference organizers at iepminiconference@gmail.com.

Criteria for Proposals

Conference sessions will be 50 minutes and there is a strong preference for including time for discussion and questions. As you think about the conference theme in your context, consider how you can explore the idea of change in the following areas:

Classroom change: Share your challenges and successes! What are you doing differently to instruct and educate students? Are you trying new things in response to changing demographics and learning needs? How have students responded to new topics, new course organization, or new materials? Consider how your “out of the box” thinking can be shared with your colleagues for use in IEP classrooms around the region.

Administrative change: Share how your program is expanding horizons! How are you planning to improve program quality? Where are you looking to grow? What obstacles have you overcome in the last year? Has your program piloted any new initiatives, tried a new curriculum, or developed a new partnership? Others are eager to hear how you are branching out.

Student services change: Share what you’re trying and what’s worked! Have you implemented new programs, gone on new trips, or built new bridges between IEP students and others in the community? Have you tried a different scheduling paradigm or implemented a new tutoring program? Tell others about the new or improved services you have offered to IEP students.

Factors Affecting Selection

The IEP Mini-Conference is intended to bring together individuals from a variety of programs; thus, important factors in proposal selection include (a) balanced institutional representation, (b) range of topics, (c) interests and (d) relevance to the audience. Collaboration across programs is highly encouraged. The Program Committee can accept only one primary presentation per presenter. If more than one acceptable proposal is submitted, the proposal that allows for the most participants will be selected.

Submission of Proposals

Submit proposals at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/S792DHZ> by 11:59 PM on December 9, 2016. Please follow the directions carefully. The Program Committee (made up of representatives from four area universities) will select proposals based on a blind review. In order to submit your proposal, you will need the following:

- A title of 7 words or less for the program
- An abstract of 50 words or less for the program
- A summary of 250 words or less for reviewers
- Names, affiliations, and contact information for all presenters

*The **Georgia TESOL IEP Interest Section** is devoted to meeting the needs and voicing the concerns of teachers and students in IEPs throughout Georgia. It aims to discuss current issues in IEPs and to support and represent IEP professionals at the state level.*