Preparing Teachers to Use Technology, MI Theory and TESOL Standards

Ines Marquez-Chisholm, Arizona State University West, US
Carol Beckett, Arizona State University West, US

With the increasing cultural and linguistic diversity in classrooms most teachers have or will have students who are in need of English language skill development. In addition to the cultural and linguistic diversity in today's classrooms, teachers must also address the diversity of cognitive strengths that students bring to the learning environment.

In order to ensure that students receive optimal educational opportunities, teacher educators must prepare preservice and inservice teachers with strategies that will accommodate these cultural, linguistic, and cognitive differences. Teacher educators can provide professional development opportunities for teachers to experience learning activities that support the diverse needs of their students. Merging Multiple Intelligences (MI) Theory with language objectives found in the *ESL Standards for Pre-K-12 Students* (TESOL, 1997) provides teachers with instructional strategies that accommodate a range of cultural, linguistic, and cognitive skills. Applying these strategies through the use of technology provides equitable educational opportunities for all students while developing their technology competency.

This interactive session offers participants the opportunity to experience a hands-on computer integrated learning activity that combines MI Theory and TESOL standards.
The activity is a multi-disciplinary lesson including language arts, social studies, and mathematics. The activity provides for verbal/linguistic, logical mathematical, visual/spatial, and intrapersonal intelligences. TESOL standards addressed are Goal 1, Standard 3, "To use English to communicate in social settings: Students will use learning strategies to extend their communicative competence (p.39)." The activity includes gathering information on the Internet, cut and pasting graphics, word processing, and presentation software. Handouts will include information for downloading the TESOL standards from web, on-line references for MI Theory, and additional adaptations for the classroom.