PROPOSAL: PreK-3 +Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages Major (TESOL)

Background

The Undergraduate Studies Council of the Faculty Senate has approved the creation of a new major in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages that leads to Michigan teacher certification in grades PK to grade 3 and an English as a Second Language (NS) endorsement to be offered by the Department of Special Education and Literacy Studies in the College of Education and Human Development.

The proposed ESL major would allow teacher education students to graduate with both a PreK-3 certificate and an ESL K-12 endorsement, making them qualified for a lot more teaching opportunities. Also, there is currently no institution in Southwest Michigan which offers students the option to earn an ESL endorsement as an undergraduate, and thus there is a lot of potential in this area for student recruitment. Finally, given the existing Accelerated Graduate Degree Program (AGDP) in TESOL, students in this major would be on an accelerated path towards a masters degree. An MA TESOL would open up teaching opportunities globally, making this TESOL major even more desirable for some students.

Recommended Action

Create a Major in PreK-3 +Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL)