

Feedback and Encouragement
By Chris Carey
2019 Recipient of a CATESOL Northern Regional Stipend

Having been a member of CATESOL for more than 4 years, I particularly enjoyed this year's regional conference and am very grateful for the opportunity to attend thanks to the kindness and generosity of the CATESOL Education Foundation. Having worked as an usher for the San Francisco Giants as an undergrad at SF State, I enjoyed serving as a volunteer at the conference, checking in attendees and presenters.

While making my way to the first round of presentations, a familiar voice pierced through the conference hall and caught my attention. It was the voice of Jennifer Gagliardi, whose regular podcasts my wife and I had been listening to religiously every morning on our way to work in the weeks leading up to her US citizenship interview and civics test.

After attending her workshop on updates and resources for EL civics instructors, Jennifer was kind enough to facilitate and record a mock interview to share and practice with my wife. (Figure 2) I have no doubt that Jennifer's keen insight and acute knowledge of the naturalization process greatly aided in my wife's successful completion of the citizenship interview and civics test! (Figure 1)

During lunch, I had the honor and privilege to present my master's field project to a small group of colleagues, who gave me some great feedback and encouragement. It was a terrific practice opportunity in preparing for my field project presentation to my colleagues and faculty at USF later the following week!

I am very much looking forward to reconnecting with everyone again at CATESOL's annual conference this October in San Jose! Thank you again to the CATESOL Education Foundation for affording me this unique and special opportunity, I great appreciate it!



Figure 1 Chris Carey and his wife (a new citizen)



Figure 2 Jennifer Gagliardi practicing with Chris Carey