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THANK YOU, JULIE!!!



Julie Feeny and ELC founder Bud Demko

Simply put, the English Learning Center would not be what it is today without the tremendous efforts and boundless enthusiasm of Executive Director Julie Feeny.

For the past seven years, Julie has led our school through a variety of challenging and celebratory times. From navigating the implementation of online Zoom classes through COVID to finding our latest home at St. Thomas, Julie made all of us believe it was possible and rewarding.

Each of us at ELC thanks you for all you have done to continue Bud's legacy and make our school such an incredible community for our students, volunteers, and supporters.

We wish you the very best of luck in this new chapter of your life.

CELEBRATING OUR COMMUNITY

On a snowy Friday afternoon, over a hundred members of our school's community gathered to celebrate and support the English Learning Center. Board member and teacher Anna Oldenbrook coordinated a festive event that included live music, wonderful food, and touching reflections and testimonials from our students and teachers.

It was so wonderful to see and meet the friends and families of our students and volunteers.

In addition to all of the love, the event raised over \$6,000 for our school! Thank you so much to everyone who attended and donated!



Do you know someone who wants to build their English skills? Please send them our way!



Welcome Maureen Cunningham, our New ED



Our new Executive Director, Maureen Cunningham, comes to the English Learning Center with fifteen years of experience managing federal and nonprofit programs. She is well-versed in grant-writing, volunteer training, and leading diverse, cross-cultural teams, and has overseen complex operations and budgets.

Maureen continues to work as an in-house consultant for the U.S. Peace Corps and was a Country Director with the Peace Corps until recently. She holds a Master of Public Health degree from the University of Michigan, is fluent in French, and brings up-to-date tech skills to the English Learning Center.

The Board of Directors and many of our volunteers and students have had the chance to meet and get to know Maureen during her first few weeks. We welcome her with open arms!

If you missed Maureen's video address from the April 17th event, [CLICK HERE](#) to check it out!

Commending the 2025/2026 School Year

Our community, along with many across the country, faced many challenges over the past year. In September, we weren't certain if anyone would show up for classes. But there was never any reason to doubt our courageous students! One hundred and twenty-eight students from 32 countries registered for fall sessions in Denver, Centennial, and at Barney Ford Elementary!

In January, our second semester saw a consistent enrollment pattern (126 students/32 countries) and high levels of engagement.

Our teaching staff has continued to leverage the new teaching materials from **Intercambio**. We're grateful for the partnership with the Intercambio team and look forward to expanding our use of their resources.



Registration is Open for Fall 2026 Classes

Online registration is now open at www.englishlearningcenterdenver.org/classes. In-person registration will be held at our Denver location on **Tuesday, September 8th**. Classes begin on **Wednesday, September 9th**.





Our Brave and Talented Writers

One of our volunteer teachers, Mary Gay Broderick, led a writing class for advanced students this semester. In addition to teaching our students critical writing skills, she encouraged them to tap into their creative sides.

The following are two works from her outstanding students.

Good Times by A Loving Green Friend

Life outside of your home country is very different. It's a reality that many people don't dare to talk about and it takes courage to do. Many times you feel lost and unable to find meaning in life and no matter how hard you try, you can't seem to find your way again. The only thing that keeps you going is being able to help those people who matter so much to you, the ones waiting for you back home.

Sometimes it is not easy, but that can change when you meet people who choose to support you during important moments and that's one of the most beautiful things you can experience, even if those people don't stay forever. They are like angels you meet along the way, helping you to believe again that everything is possible, that life is beautiful and having their company is a privilege not everyone gets to have. So learning to enjoy it is our responsibility, sometimes we forget how fortunate we are and don't appreciate those small moments that make us feel alive and today I want to thank every person I met along the way who allowed me to be myself and made me feel so much better. Maybe you will never know it, but thank u for every moment we shared, every laugh, every adventure and every day we allowed ourselves to believe that with love for each others life really can get better.

Downpour by P.Q.

The x-ray of a migrant
can be made through their luggage.
We pack with surgical skill
the useful, the emotional, the absurd.
Everything fits in a finite space.
In my suitcase, a battered diploma entered,
telling the story of what I dreamed of becoming,
of what I was
and of what perhaps
I will no longer be.
Three-dollar bills
carefully rolled up,
and the dream of multiplying them.
A letter from my mother,
sealed with twelve tears
and a blessing.
Everything necessary.
The suitcase was not enough,
and yet, the absurd
found a way to make space for itself.
I migrated with an umbrella
to a city
where, apparently, the verb to rain does not exist
and by default, neither does "escampar" (to clear up)
I grew up in a city
where you never know
when it will rain
or when it will stop raining.
So, I learned
to predict storms
in a way
almost unquestionable.
Maybe that's why I brought an umbrella.
Maybe I also knew how to anticipate
the storm that migrating
would bring with it.
Today it rained. I took out my mother's letter
I counted again the stains of twelve tears.
And I wondered: when will it clear up?



HEARD IN THE HALLS

"(On the last day of class) It's so hard to say goodbye. They are such treasures."

-Teacher

Volunteers Needed



As we prepare for the fall semester, our volunteer staff still has a few openings for **teaching assistants**.

Are you or any of your friends or family interested in joining our fabulous team of volunteers? Becoming a teaching assistant is a great way to immerse yourself in our school.

What do assistants do?

They typically volunteer one to two days per week, helping lead teachers take attendance, make copies, assist students with in-class assignments, answer questions, and share their own experiences with the challenges of the English language.

Volunteers are **NOT** required to have a teaching background or an English/related degree. What *is* required is a positive attitude, a passion for helping others, and a desire to have fun.

Sounds great? It is! Please contact our team at Mainoffice@englishlearningcenterdenver.org for more information.

Classes will begin on Wednesday, September 9, 2026, and run each week from Monday through Thursday, 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM.

FALL TEACHERS MEETING

Please plan for a training and informational meeting on either September 2nd or 3rd. Watch your email for details!

It's always a good time to support the English Learning Center!

Looking to DONATE?

Click [HERE](#) or

visit our website at www.englishlearningcenterdenver.org.