

**Name:** Elizabeth Tannenbaum, 1968

**Nominated for:** Elizabeth Topham Kennan Award (2018)

Elizabeth Tannenbaum has been a practitioner in the field of ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) teaching and teacher training for the past 40 years. As an English language teacher, teacher trainer, and curriculum developer, working both internationally and domestically, Elizabeth's work has focused on adult literacy, refugee resettlement, teaching practice for a variety of contexts, and curriculum development.

She has worked as a consultant with the Peace Corps, the English Language Specialist Program through the U.S. State Department, and the Center for Applied Linguistics. She has been teaching at the SIT (School for International Training) Graduate Institute since 1989, teaching courses in methodology, applied linguistics, culture, curriculum development and adult education.

She was one of the founders of the SIT TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) Certificate Program and worked for several years in U.S. State Department Southeast Asia refugee education programs in Thailand and Indonesia. Elizabeth has taught in Thailand, Indonesia, Mexico, Haiti, Korea, Iraq, Fiji, Tonga, Sudan, Surinam, and the U.S.

While working for the Department of State, her work included:

Haiti: Taught English teachers; taught and designed programs in an ESL tolerance camp for teen-agers on the border of Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

Tonga and Fiji: Developed secondary school English language curriculum; trained local teachers.

Iraq: Led teacher training workshops for pre and in-service primary, secondary, and university teachers.

Her publications include literacy textbooks (*Picture Stories* and *More Picture Stories*), articles on developing and implementing peace-building programs, and techniques for working with large, under-resourced classrooms.

She is President of the Brooks Memorial Library (Brattleboro VT) Board of Trustees

She is Secretary of the Board of Trustees for the Sandglass Puppet Theater (Putney, VT)

She is the Elected Town Meeting Representative (Brattleboro, VT.)

Through Elizabeth Tannenbaum's work in education and ESOL around the world, she has proven that she has lived and continues to live up to the ideal articulated by Mary Lyon: "Go forward, attempt great things, accomplish great things." Elizabeth Tannenbaum is an alumna

who has had outstanding achievement in and made contributions to the field of education, and is thus a worthy candidate for the Elizabeth Topham Kennan Award.

**References:**

<https://graduate.sit.edu/academics/faculty-and-staff/bios/elizabeth-tannenbaum/>

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/elizabethtannenbaum/>

<https://graduate.sit.edu/documents/graduate/CV-Tannenbaum.pdf>