Mark Jackson (2014)

For the past 3 years, Mark has been an ELL teacher at Henry Wilson Elementary in Manchester, NH, where he works with K-5 ELLs. Before Manchester, he had gained overseas experience teaching English in Ethiopia. Most of his students now are first or second-generation immigrants, some of whom come from refugee families. Mark loves getting to teach small group of students who represent a wide range of cultures and language backgrounds.

"I appreciated the accessibility of PSU's graduate program and the flexibility of my professors. The online courses meant that I was able to complete my graduate studies while teaching abroad … It gave me a good foundation in how to provide interactive and student-centered learning opportunities."

Kayla Bassett (2013)

Kayla teaches ELL elementary-school students at Ledge Street School in Nashua, NH. There are many positive aspects in her job, including seeing her students’ progress in their transition to a new country and school. As an ELL teacher, Kayla enjoys working with fellow teachers as well as her students’ families, as she promotes learning both in and out of the classroom. She gained many tools to use in the classroom and learned from more experienced teachers during her teaching internship.

“It is a small...program, which allows you to get to know other students...very convenient, as I could work while taking the program.”

Melissa McLaren (2015)

Melissa currently teaches ELL elementary school students at North Windham Elementary in Windham, CT. Working with ELLs, she enjoys her role in helping students access content material and academic English. Melissa also notes she can see her students’ school life become more positive as a result of their language learning. For Melissa, the best aspect of her job is having fun with kids all day. During her studies, she increased her understanding of the unique needs of ELLs and gained valuable preparation in how to meet those needs.

“I graduated with a range of skills and lesson plans that could be modified for any age and any level…the instructors at PSU are top-notch and truly know their material.”
**Kathy Dunn (2015)**

Kathy is an ELL teacher in Manchester, NH, teaching Kindergarten at Beech Street Elementary School. She loves interacting with her students and learning about their countries, citing the students as the best part of her job.

“It’s a fantastic program...the course schedule is very doable for a person working full-time...the instructors were hands-on and gave us the opportunity to use our skills in the classroom.”

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**Cove Aaronoff (2015)**

Cove currently teaches 4th grade at the International School of Myanmar in Yangon, Myanmar. Reflecting on his teaching experience, he loves the fact that he is continually able to question and adjust his approach to education. Cove emphasizes that working in this field doesn't let you "gather moss" and that the kids he works with are undoubtedly the best part of his job. Looking back on his coursework, Cove praises the passionate and capable professors, whose instruction continues to provide inspiration and direction in his classroom teaching.

"Treat [yourself] to the professional and personal experience that is the PSU graduate program. It served as a supportive platform for the rest of my career.

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**Meredith Mabrouk (2016)**

Meredith is an ELL teacher in Manassas, VA. She enjoys helping her students meet their language acquisition and academic learning goals through new and creative lessons. Using a predominantly push-in approach, Meredith collaborates closely with general education teachers to ensure appropriate scaffolding in the content areas for her students. Additionally, she loves learning about students’ home cultures and languages as she assists them with acclimating to the US. Meredith feels PSU prepared her well as she was able to combine theory and practice during her studies.

“This program gets you excited about having the chance to learn new strategies to teach your ESOL students and to build their skills in all four language domains...I know that I saved each and every assignment and project as I went, and...used these...as an intern and during my first year teaching as resources…”