

Amy Hewett-Olatunde

Dr. Amy Hewett-Olatunde has been an English language (EL) teacher for the St. Paul Public Schools in St. Paul, Minnesota at LEAP High School since 1999. LEAP High School caters to immigrant and refugee students and takes a very unique approach to what language teaching looks like. Rather than the traditional grade levels, there are WIDA levels, and beyond that, there are three English levels within WIDA levels 1-4. She primarily teaches levels 1-4 academic and creative writing. She also coaches the drama club at school.

Amy has also taught adult, workforce, secondary, and post secondary graduate and undergraduate English learners and pre-service mainstream and EL teachers. In addition to her current role as a full-time EL teacher at LEAP High School, she has worked at Hamline University and the University of St. Thomas in the Advanced Degrees, Certificate, Licensure, Additional Licensure and CUE Program (The CUE program has been responsible for recruiting persons of color and persons with unique cultural, ethnic, language and urban backgrounds into teaching professions in the Minneapolis/St. Paul metro area.) since 2007 both as a professor and supervisor. She serves on multiple capstone, as well as dissertation, committees.



She recently joined the newly formed EL-ESSA Advisory Board in Minnesota to ensure that the 2014 LEAPS Act of Minnesota will be fully implemented in the years to come and that the community voice is heard.

In addition to these roles, she is the president of MinneTESOL, an organization designed to advocate and support ELs and EL educators and advocates in the state. She is the 2015-16 MN Teacher of the Year, 2015 St. Paul Rotary Club Teacher of the Year, and 2015 Minnesota Monthly Magazine Teacher of the Year.

She believes that equitable and accessible education is in the hands of all of us and we must strive to educate, advocate, and elevate all of our English learners.