

About the Authors

Gerald L. Boyd is currently Dean of Languages and Literature at the Annandale Campus of Northern Virginia Community College. He began his instructional career in English as a Second Language (ESL) at Northern Virginia Community College (NVCC) in 1991. Two years later, he was hired into the full-time position of Coordinator of Community Education ESL Program at the Annandale Campus. After briefly returning to full-time ESL instruction in the Department of Languages and Literature, Jerry was selected to be Dean in the year 2000. As Division Dean, he oversees the English and Developmental English Department, ESL, the American Sign Language and Interpreting Department, and the Foreign Language Department. This represents about 6,000 students and 160 administrative staff and instructional faculty members. He received the Outstanding Faculty of the Year Award in 1999 for exemplary service to the college. Jerry has been a presenter at both the regional conferences of WATESOL and the national TESOL conferences. He has also co-authored

The Accent for Success: A Practical Guide for International Students.

Prior to serving in education, Jerry worked as a manager in several restaurants.

Mary E. O'Neill has been an instructor of ESL since 1990. After three years as an instructor at NVCC, Mary entered into administration in a part-time capacity. By the eighth year, Mary assumed the responsibilities of Assistant Coordinator of Community Education ESL Program at the Annandale Campus in a full-time capacity. Within two years she was selected as the Coordinator of the same program, which boasted an enrollment of 3,000 students yearly and an administrative and instructional staff of 60 people. Mary was nominated for and is a graduate of the 2002 inaugural class of the Grace E. Harris Leadership Institute at Virginia Commonwealth University. Mary has been the Higher Education Representative to WATESOL and a TESOL Team Leader for the 2003 TESOL Convention. Mary left her position of ESL Coordinator at NVCC in 2004 in order to pursue language and culture studies in Curacao, the Netherlands Antilles.