

Linda Abramson Evans was the first instructor hired by SMU's ESL Program, initially presenting seminars and workshops to Cox School of Business International MBA students in 1999 and later teaching with the Intensive English Program (IEP). Over the last 20 years, she has designed, developed, and taught many of SMU's non-credit ESL Courses for international teaching assistants and other graduate students, visiting scholars, and undergraduates, from all departments of the university. She was asked to serve as Interim Director of SMU's ESL and IEP from April through December 2019, upon retirement of the founder and former Director, John Wheeler, and is returning to her previous ESL course teaching as of Spring 2020 while continuing to support the IEP administration as needed.

Beyond her academic responsibilities and duties at SMU, Linda engages in voluntary service for her students and the SMU community, including the creation of the "ESL Volunteer Program," mentoring Engaged Learning and Caswell Leadership Fellows, contributing to development of the Graduate Professional Development Workshops, conducting J-1 Exchange Scholar English Proficiency Interviews, and other such endeavors. Previously, she taught in the University of Dallas Graduate School of Management and University of Texas at Arlington English Language Institute. As an independent practitioner, she coaches international professional and business clients on American English Pronunciation and Communication Skills. She maintains long-term relationships with Korean and other international communities in Dallas/Fort Worth as well as international connections abroad, and she readily promotes the SMU ESL and Intensive English Program to her networks both on and off-campus. Her travels include South Korea, Russia, Mexico, Hong Kong, Singapore, and India, and she has studied some Spanish, Korean and Russian.

Linda holds a TESOL Certification from the University of Texas at Arlington Dept. of Linguistics and a Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary/International Studies from the University of Texas at Dallas. Additional professional certifications include Pronunciation, English for the Workplace, and English for Specific Purposes. She is a member of TESOL International and the TexTESOL V Regional Affiliate, and has presented workshops at local conferences.

Community engagement continues to be a significant aspect of Linda's life, with 35 years of advocacy. She is the founder of the Committee on Refugees and the *Volunteer Guide to Refugee Service Agencies in Dallas/Fort Worth*, projects that she has shared since 1998 with the United Nations Association USA-Dallas Chapter and community at large (also providing Service Learning and internship opportunities for SMU students). She is a Task Force member of the Dallas Office of Welcoming Communities and Immigrant Affairs, serves on the Thanks-Giving Square Interfaith Council and provides support for Faith Forward Dallas, and is active in the American Association of University Women, among numerous other organizations.