

Ron Lee Technology Award 2023

Purpose

Sponsored by the CATESOL Education Foundation, this award recognizes and honors one CATESOL member who has achieved excellence through integrating technology in innovative ways in teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages.

Ron Lee, creator of free English-learning websites <https://www.rong-chang.com/> and <https://www.eslfast.com/>, is a long-time English education researcher and practitioner. He is a pioneer in Computer-Assisted Language Learning (CALL).

Timeline

- See CATESOL Foundation Awards page for most updated deadline (End of May or beginning of June)
- Winner will be announced by the end of August.
- The awardee will present the project/activity at the upcoming Annual CATESOL Conference in the fall.

Amount: \$1,000

Criteria for Candidates

- ESL teachers who are currently teaching ESL in an institution in California.
- Be a current CATESOL member.
- Agree to present at the Annual CATESOL Conference.
- Must agree to serve as a judge (or award coordinator if needed) of the Ron Lee Award the following year.

How to Apply

Submit a write-up on your project or an activity which incorporates technology tools and original materials in innovative ways in teaching an ESL course. The project should have been implemented within the last two years. Please include an explanation of how the materials, activities and/or resources can support the CATESOL community as a whole.

Your application should include the following components:

- overview of classroom context, language level, and student population

- rationale for implementation including principles of language pedagogy and methodology
- detailed explanation on how the project was implemented
- links to any online supplements, websites, apps, materials, etc.
- student learning outcomes and assessment plan
- reflection on implementation of this project and improvements made or are needed
- 1,000 words limit
- student samples and photos (optional)

Award Rubric

	Outstanding (3)	Average (2)	Weak (1)
1. Project or activity encourages and motivates students to leverage technology for language learning.			
2. Rationale and theoretical basis are clear and innovative.			
3. Materials and necessary links and resources are included.			
4. Student learning objectives and plan for assessment are included.			
5. Project or activity shows technology had a positive impact on student learning.			
6. Thoughtful reflection is included and shows changes and improvements based on feedback. (If the project has not been evaluated yet, a plan to evaluate is included.)			
7. Application is written in clear, academic language with cited works and within the word limit.			

Who is Ron Lee?



Ron Lee is recognized as a pioneer in Computer Assisted Language Learning (CALL), starting with the development of his website: <https://www.rong-chang.com> during his PhD studies at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 1994. At the time, Ron created English learning materials including audio files and published them on his website. English learners across the globe accessed his website, which encouraged him to create more online resources, including exercises for listening, speaking, reading, writing, grammar, and vocabulary.

Later on, Ron started another site <https://www.eslfast.com> to host the ever-growing English learning resources he developed. Through ad revenue generated from his websites, Ron is able to keep all the materials on both of his sites fully free and accessible to the public. These mobile friendly materials have benefitted both ESL instructors and students with depth of content and ease of access. Additionally, Ron has created an ESL Robot called “Tutor” to help students practice speaking English. “Tutor” won second place at the International Loebner Prize 2018 Contest, an annual international artificial intelligence contest hosted at Bletchley Park in the UK. Students can practice English and chat with “Tutor Mike” at https://www.rong-chang.com/tutor_mike.htm

CATESOL is thankful for Ron’s support and efforts in furthering the use of technology for ESL and his continuous development of even more ESL resources on his websites.