Ron Lee CATESOL Technology Award

Ron Lee, creator of http://www.rong-chang.com/ and http://www.eslfast.com/ websites and a variety of mobile apps (http://www.rong-chang.com/smartphones.htm), has generously offered to give a technology award of $1,000 to an ESL teacher who is a CATESOL member with a positive attitude towards using educational technology. This award will be given annually and allow the awardees to innovate and create using technology with their students.

Timeline

- Announce in October during CATESOL Annual Conference 2017
- Deadline for submission January 15, 2018
- Award given February 1, 2018
- Awardee presents the award project at a conference or online before or during the 2018 CATESOL annual conference

Criteria for Candidates

- ESL teachers who are currently teaching ESL in an institution in California or Nevada
- Must be a current CATESOL member
- Must present the project either at a local CATESOL event, CATESOL Annual Conference or online to be published and publicized in various CATESOL media.

Criteria for the Project Proposal

Innovation: Project is innovative

The proposal demonstrates that the tools used provide many relevant opportunities for learners to articulate and set personal learning goals, develop strategies leveraging technology to achieve them and reflect on the learning process itself to improve learning outcomes.

Who is Ron Lee?

Ron Lee started in technology by developing the website http://www.rong-chang.com when he was studying at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 1994. At the time he had created some English learning materials with audio and put them online. The site was soon discovered by English learners from other countries, and the number of users increased rapidly. This encouraged him to create more online resources for English learning, including listening, speaking, reading, writing, grammar, vocabulary, and more. He also compiled a list of sites created by other ESL instructors. With more resources developed, He started another site http://www.eslfast.com to host more English learning materials.

All the learning materials on his sites are FREE, and the project is sustainable because the ads revenue can help pay for the costs and expenses of maintaining the sites. Free online learning materials are of great help both to ESL instructors and students. In addition, Mr. Lee won the second place in the Loebner Prize Contest 2016, an annual international artificial intelligence contest being held in Bletchley Park in the UK for his ESL robot "Tutor" (http://www.aisb.org.uk/events/loebner-prize#finals2016) Ron's robot's name is Mike. English learners throughout the world can practice English with Mike at http://www.rong-chang.com/tutor_mike.htm

Ron is an avid supporter of technology for ESL, and CATESOL is very thankful for his support.