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NEWS RELEASE

August 18, 2010

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Linguists Critique Arizona Education Policy for Language Teachers

(Washington, DC) – Members of the Linguistic Society of America (LSA) voted overwhelmingly in favor of a resolution discrediting the “Teachers’ English Fluency Initiative” recently implemented by the Arizona Education Department, whereby teachers whose spoken English is deemed to be “heavily accented” or ungrammatical must be removed from classes for English Language Learners. According to the LSA resolution, the Arizona initiative is based on uninformed linguistic and educational assumptions about accents and their role in language teaching and learning; has the potential to unfairly target Latina/o teachers and their students, and furthers harmful “linguistic profiling.”

The full text of the resolution may be found at:

<http://www.lsadc.org/info/lsa-res-arizona.cfm>

A copy of the resolution will be sent to education officials in Arizona.

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The LSA is the largest national professional society representing the field of linguistics. Its mission is to advance the scientific study of language.