



The English-Speaking Union

# English in Action

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2016



The English-Speaking Union of the United States

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Cover: Ari Dalbert from Honolulu, HI, winner of the 33rd annual English-Speaking Union National Shakespeare Competition.

The English-Speaking Union of the United States  
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*“ . . . participate in  
a vibrant and exciting  
community that has its eyes  
firmly set on the future.”*

## Message from the Chairman

This has been a milestone year in the history of the English-Speaking Union, as many initiatives, which have been developed and nurtured by my predecessors, have now come to fruition. The ESU is poised to face its second century with a renewed vision and confidence.

The reorganization of the 58 branches, which constitute our membership and support our programs, has been well received. The streamlined management and administration of a diverse and vibrant group of ESU communities has been effectively coordinated by our head office, and a new sense of unity prevails. That unity exhibits itself in the variety of exciting programs and offerings that members support and by the fact that so many members across the nation contribute to national initiatives such as the National Shakespeare Competition and the British University Summer School scholarships.

This year's strategic planning has set the tone and the direction of the ESU, and it is incumbent on us to support its initiatives and embrace its vision. Our founder, Sir Evelyn Wrench, had a clear sense of the mission of the ESU. The passage of a century has not obscured that mission, and it

has been my privilege to be part of the strategic planning discussions affirming Sir Evelyn's goals and his sense that through the English language we can transcend race and embrace fellowship.

Our new Strategic Plan reflects our desire to further the use of the English language as a vehicle for communication and outreach to communities within the United States and overseas. Our focus on English in Action as a descriptive phrase identifying what and who we are reflects the educational programs we have developed and the innovations we continue to encourage in providing for non-English speakers and new immigrants, giving them access to opportunity and security.

I urge you to attend our events, at your local branch and at national headquarters, and participate in a vibrant and exciting community that has its eyes firmly set on the future.

**Dr. Paul Beresford-Hill CBE KSt.J**

Chairman | The English-Speaking Union of the United States



*“English in Action”  
perfectly describes the  
English-Speaking Union  
this year.*

## Message from the Executive Director

At all levels, the ESU has been proactively strategizing and restructuring for increased impact as a catalyst for global understanding in our turbulent, shrinking world. While “English in Action” has been the brand name of our preeminent, time-tested, one-on-one conversation program, it also truly depicts the work of our Andrew Romay New Immigrant Center (ARNIC), middle school debate, exchange and study abroad courses for students and teachers — all the programs outlined in this 2015-2016 fiscal year Annual Report.

Through its century of achievement, the ESU has periodically recast itself in response to the changing contexts of society and its constituents and beneficiaries. A major achievement this year was the reformation of ESU branches into Limited Liability Companies (LLCs) to provide enhanced legal and administrative strength nationally and locally. Simultaneously, the ESU National Board of Directors enthusiastically engaged in a series of strategic planning sessions, beginning to clarify and focus the work we do within our mission. We are setting

English into action to promote creative and confident civil discourse, enabling individuals — immigrants, students and teachers — to rise to their full potential, thrive as global citizens, and join worldwide in pursuing conditions for peace. I am deeply grateful that the English-Speaking Union of the United States National Board and Branch leaders are actively reconstructing the ESU to be relevant as a prominent educational charity, to break down barriers of ignorance and misunderstanding in the world ten, twenty, and fifty years from now.

This year, as we built on the strength of the ESU's traditions to expand its programs to meet the needs of today, we marveled that our mission has proven both timeless and timely. Enjoy reading about our progress in this 2016 Annual Report.

**Christopher Broadwell**

Executive Director | The English-Speaking Union of the United States



The ESU employs English as a catalyst to foster global understanding and good will through educational opportunities and cultural exchange programs. In a shrinking world dominated by dollars and digits, bloody national borders

# The ESU Today

and unprecedented numbers of displaced persons, the ESU believes in building a better world through the English language and international exchange. We work to inspire common bonds, person-to-person, one conversation, one presentation and one exchange at a time. By promoting creative and confident civil discourse, we enable participants to rise to their potential as individuals, thrive as global citizens, and join worldwide in pursuing conditions for peace.

More than  
**61,700**  
Served in 2015-16

**8,200**  
middle school students

**40,000**  
high school students

**5,800**  
teachers

**1,250**  
volunteers

**700**  
English learners

**1,250**  
schools

**6,000**  
members

# ESU Mission:

*“The ESU celebrates English as a shared language to foster global understanding and good will by providing educational and cultural opportunities for students, educators, and members.”*

ESU members work together locally and nationally to foster global understanding through a variety of educational, cultural and social programs. The ESU’s national programs are supported by its unrestricted endowment and corporate and foundation grants as well as by the generosity of members.

Members benefit from the personal relationships and international exposure gained from ESU activities and events while they provide financial and volunteer support to sustain ESU educational programs.

# ESU Programs

## Shakespeare Teacher Programs

English in Action (EiA)

Luard Morse Scholarships

Andrew Romay  
New Immigrant Center (ARNIC)

Secondary School  
Exchange (SSE)

British University Summer School  
Scholarships (BUSS)

International Public  
Speaking Competition

Middle School Debate

Walter Hines Page Scholarship

National Shakespeare Competition

National Speakers Program





Engaging  
**448**  
tutors  
and  
**688**  
students  
**28,000**  
volunteer hours



## English in Action (EiA)

Since  
1976

EiA pairs newcomers to the US with volunteers, fluent English speakers, for one-on-one conversation sessions, helping them master conversational English and learn about life in the US while also fostering cross-cultural exchange. A hallmark of the program is its comprehensive tutor training for the volunteers, which emphasizes the best practices in cross-cultural learning and leadership development. Expanded tutor trainings focused this year on cultural competency and working with refugees.

Branch EiA programs include: Portland (OR), Seattle (WA), Columbus (OH), Lexington (VA), Monmouth County (NJ), and New Orleans (LA).



*“English in Action  
is my family  
in America.”*

EiA/ARNIC student



Since  
2013

## Andrew Romy New Immigrant Center (ARNIC)

ARNIC is committed to improving the lives of new immigrants by providing a welcoming environment, resources, and information to help them improve their English to explore work and study opportunities, network, pursue citizenship, and acquire cultural fluency in order to participate fully in American society. Members receive a one-year scholarship to participate in English in Action, ARNIC English language classes, workshops and cultural and civic trips and events.

ARNIC partnerships grew exponentially this year, with deepening relationships with organizations including StreetWise Partners and the New York Junior League both of which have laid the foundation for a special business mentorship program to pair recent immigrants with American professionals.



At the 2016 ARNIC graduation ceremony, Falonne Beljuby Billy Dembi, from the Republic of Congo, spoke on behalf of her fellow graduates, thanking Andrew Romy, the program founder and primary underwriter, the teachers and volunteers for their continuous support and encouragement, saying:

*“This is a brilliant idea to create this program and help new immigrants from all over the world. Mr. Romy planted these seeds in us, watered us and today he can see the fruits of his labor! We are the fruits of this program that helps immigrants and refugees like myself to find friends, learn English and feel more confident in our new country.”*



Serving  
more than  
**500**  
recent immigrants  
from  
**66**  
countries of origin  
since its inception

**365**  
ARNIC members  
in 2015-2016





## Since 2010 Shakespeare Teacher Programs



Engaging  
**270**  
educators from  
**17**  
states  
impacting  
**27000**  
students

English and drama teachers nationwide returned to their classrooms better prepared to teach Shakespeare, after attending English-Speaking Union Teaching Shakespeare Workshops, produced in partnership with the world-renowned Folger Shakespeare Library.

As part of Shakespeare400, the international yearlong celebration of the Bard's legacy, the 2016 workshops focused on teaching the 1623 First Folio, the first collection of Shakespeare's works including the first-known printing of many of his plays. ESU Teaching Shakespeare Workshops underwritten by ESU Branches took place in Honolulu (HI); Syracuse (NY); Fort Lauderdale (FL); Red Bank (NJ); Providence (RI); Kansas City (MO) and New York City. Among the ESU's partner organizations in the workshops were the Kansas City Public Library, the New-York Historical Society, Brown University, LeMoyne College and Two River Theater of NJ. Additionally, ESU Branches in Central Florida, Los Angeles, Oklahoma City and Tulsa (OK) organized independent summer Shakespeare workshops for teachers.

## Since 1920 National Speakers Program

The Evelyn Wrench Speaker Tour, named for the ESU founder, presented prominent lectures in the fields of history, politics, the arts, literature and current events in cities across the country through the network of ESU Branches. The ESU national office underwrote the program and planned them with the cooperation of the Branches. This year's Wrench speakers were Richard Buckley OBE, Co-Director of the University of Leicester Archeological Services, speaking on *The King Under the Car Park: The Search for Richard III*; Simon Claxton, Retired English schoolteacher and former ESU Exchange Student on *Meeting William Faulkner: How an English Schoolboy Found a Literary Lion*; The Lord Lisvane KCB, Retired Clerk of the House of Commons on *A Universal Charter? The Legacy of the Magna Carta*; Robert Hulse, Director, London's Brunel Museum on *Isambard Kingdom Brunel: A Victorian Frank Lloyd Wright*; Sir Christopher Hum KCMG, Former British Ambassador to China on *Taking Tea with the Dragon – Will China Rule the World?*; and Paul Edmondson, Head of Research and Knowledge, Shakespeare Birthplace Trust on *Shakespeare at 400: Why?* Andrea Mays, Author and Professor of Economics, Cal State University at Long Beach also toured under the National Speakers Program with *The Millionaire and the Bard: Henry Folger's Obsessive Hunt for Shakespeare's First Folio*.



**7** Evelyn Wrench Speakers traveled to all **8** Regions and spoke to **2,477** members and friends at **47** Branches

## Since 1983 National Shakespeare Competition

Serving more than **300,000** high school students since its inception  
**2,200** teachers and **21,500** students annually  
in **850** competitions in **55** ESU Branch communities



The ESU National Shakespeare Competition is a school-based program for teachers designed to develop speaking skills, critical thinking and an appreciation of literature. Students read, analyze, perform and recite Shakespeare monologues and sonnets in three qualifying stages: at the school, community and national levels. It is the only national Shakespeare competition exclusively for high school students.

The 33rd annual English-Speaking Union National Shakespeare Competition occurred on May 2, 2016 on stage at Lincoln Center Theater in New York and drew 55 nationwide winners of ESU Branch competitions. Ari Dalbert from Honolulu, HI, won the first prize, a full scholarship to the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art Young Actors Summer School in London, England. The second place winner, Zoë Oliver, representing the ESU Greenwich Branch, won a scholarship to the American Shakespeare Center Theatre Camp in Staunton, VA, while third place winner, Cecilia Harchegani, from the ESU San Diego Branch, received \$500 from The Shakespeare Society.



The National Shakespeare Competition participated in Shakespeare400, the international yearlong celebration of Shakespeare's legacy and marked the milestone of exceeding 300,000 student participants since its inception in 1983.

*"I believe this program to be one of the most valuable ways I can demonstrate to students that Shakespeare is still relevant to many people."*  
Competition Teacher



Finals Judges with the competition winners - l to r: Peter Francis James, Louis Scheeder, Cecilia Harchegani, Ari Dalbert, Zoe Oliver, Ralph Alan Cohen, Heidi Griffiths and Dana Ivey



# Since 1957 British University Summer School (BUSS) Scholarships

BUSS Scholarships provide American high school teachers the opportunity to continue their education at prestigious centers of learning in the United Kingdom: Oxford University, Shakespeare's Globe and Edinburgh University. Through nearly 60 years, ESU BUSS scholars from all over the US have returned from their studies to their classrooms invigorated and equipped to share their newly acquired teaching and learning strategies with more than 200,000 students nationwide.



"Incredible, fascinating, amazing and similar adjectives don't quite capture the full impact that it had on us, so instead I'll use Shakespeare's own words:  
*"O wonderful, wonderful, and most wonderful, wonderful!  
 And yet again wonderful! And after that, out of all whooping."*  
 It's as you like it, and we loved it!

Gary Mendoza  
 New Orleans Branch BUSS Scholar



Has served more than  
**2,500**  
 American high school and middle school teachers since its inception

**54**  
 participants in 2015-2016



# Since 1969 Luard Morse Scholarships

Luard Morse Scholarships provide \$25,000 merit awards for top students attending United Negro College Fund institutions, or Howard and Hampton Universities, to spend a semester of study at the English university of their choice.

Talia Sharpp (pictured right, top), a Political Science major from Broadview, IL, and Adaya Sturkey (pictured right bottom), Biology major from Marion, SC, both students at Hampton University, were selected as recipients of the English-Speaking Union Luard Morse Scholarship. Each scholar received \$25,000 toward a semester of study at an English university during the 2016-2017 academic year.

Speaking on behalf of the English-Speaking Union Luard Morse Scholarship Selection Committee, Darrell Hill observed that "Talia and Adaya represent the highest caliber of student scholars in our country." He said that "...the committee members are delighted to welcome them to the family of 75 English-Speaking Union Luard Morse Scholars who, since 1969, have performed with distinction at 19 British Universities, including Cambridge; Oxford University; Kings College, London; and the London School of Economics. We wish them the very best in their future endeavors."

Talia looks forward to attending the University of London, and Adaya, Oxford.



Has sent  
**77**  
 Scholars to  
**19**  
 English universities since its inception

# Since 1928 Secondary School Exchange (SSE)

SSE is a merit-based scholarship that provides tuition and room and board for US students to spend a semester or year between high school and college (known as a "gap year") at a British or Argentine boarding school, and for UK students to spend their gap year at select US schools.



**18** US participants studied in the UK and Argentina;  
**19** UK participants and **1** Argentine participant studied in the US

Serving  
**38**  
 students and  
**40**  
 select independent schools in the US, the UK and Argentina



## Since 1924 Walter Hines Page Scholarship

Named for the Honorable Walter Hines Page, American Ambassador to the Court of St. James's during World War I, this scholarship offers British and Argentine educators the opportunity to explore and exchange educational expertise as they travel to the US to study an aspect of education relevant to their own professional interests and development. Sponsored by the ESU of the Commonwealth and ESU Argentina, this international exchange of techniques and ideas benefits the educators – and their students – on three continents.



Awarding  
**3**  
educators  
from the UK  
and  
**1**  
educator from  
Argentina  
travel grants to  
the US with  
**16**  
ESU Branches  
hosting them

## Since 1981 International Public Speaking Competition

Fifty English-Speaking Unions around the world send young competitors to the ESU of the Commonwealth in London for a week in which they compete at public speaking and participate in a range of activities centered on communication and cultural exchange. The ESU sent Shelby Ragin, sophomore at The Peddie School in Hightstown, NJ, to London to represent the US this year.

Competitors visited and participated in workshops at Shakespeare's Globe, attended a theater performance in London's West End, and worked with some of the ESU of the Commonwealth's most experienced speech and debate mentors.



Serves  
more than  
**40,000**  
young people  
from  
**50**  
countries  
around the globe

## Since 2011 Middle School Debate

ESU Middle School Debate is an educational initiative for students in grades 5 to 8 – launched with support from the National Endowment for the Humanities – designed to help young adolescents develop critical thinking and language arts skills. The ESU partners with the Claremont McKenna College Middle School Public Debate Program, international leaders in the field, to establish inter-school debate programs in ESU Branch communities.

The ESU Middle School Debate Program grew significantly this year. It now includes three leagues in New York, two in New Jersey, and one in Washington, DC. More than 50 public, private, parochial, and charter schools participated, engaging more than 1,700 teenagers in weekly after-school debate activities, a record number for the program.

The ESU organized 23 day-long Saturday tournaments across the six leagues. A total of 45 schools participated in at least one tournament, 29 of which went on to compete in the second ESU Northeast Regional Championship Tournament in April. More than 800 students debated. The ESU trained 260 volunteer judges for the tournament debates. This level of support from volunteers and partners enabled more than 1,500 debate rounds for a total of 45,000 minutes – equivalent to more than a full month spent debating. Additionally, the ESU organized two teacher debate workshops, attended by 70 middle school teachers from 42 schools in New York and New Jersey.

The Sandhills (NC), Columbus (OH) and Greenwich (CT) Branches administered independent student debate programs.



Serving more than  
**1,700**  
**1,530**  
individual debates  
in 2015-2016



*“Debate not only makes me a better student,  
it makes me a better human being.”*

Student Debater | Broad Street Middle School, Bridgeton, NJ



# ESU Branches

Headquartered in New York City and incorporated in the State of Delaware, the ESU coordinates its programs through its network of Branches nationwide. An independent American corporation, The English-Speaking Union of the United States also works in fellowship with more than 50 independent ESUs around the world, most closely with The English-Speaking Union of the Commonwealth in London.

The ESU Branches are the local delivery system of the ESU mission through their programs. Their committed volunteers are invaluable in sustaining the educational and cultural functions of the Branches in promotion of the mission.



## Branch Activities

**55** branches participated in the **National Shakespeare Competition** engaging **21,578** high school students nationally. **26** branches provided fellowships for **42** **British University Summer School** scholars. **8** branches held **Shakespeare Teacher Programs**. **7** **Evelyn Wrench** speakers traveled to all **8** Regions and spoke to **2,477** members and friends at **47** branches. **16** branches hosted foreign educators through the **Walter Hines Page** program and **8** branches administered **English in Action** sessions.

ESU Branches disburse  
**\$350,000**  
in education funding  
annually.

<b>ALABAMA</b> Birmingham	<b>KENTUCKY</b> Louisville	<b>OKLAHOMA</b> Oklahoma City Tulsa
<b>ARIZONA</b> Tucson	<b>LOUISIANA</b> New Orleans Shreveport	<b>OREGON</b> Portland
<b>CALIFORNIA</b> Desert (Palm Springs) Los Angeles San Francisco	<b>MASSACHUSETTS</b> Boston	<b>PENNSYLVANIA</b> Central Pennsylvania Philadelphia
<b>COLORADO</b> Denver	<b>MICHIGAN</b> Detroit	<b>RHODE ISLAND</b> Newport
<b>CONNECTICUT</b> Greenwich	<b>MISSISSIPPI</b> Jackson	<b>SOUTH CAROLINA</b> Charleston Columbia
<b>DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA</b> Washington DC.	<b>MISSOURI</b> Kansas City St. Louis	<b>TENNESSEE</b> Memphis Nashville
<b>FLORIDA</b> Central Florida Jacksonville Miami Naples Palm Beach	<b>NEW JERSEY</b> Monmouth County Princeton	<b>TEXAS</b> Austin Dallas Houston
<b>GEORGIA</b> Atlanta Savannah	<b>NEW YORK</b> Albany New York Syracuse	<b>VIRGINIA</b> Charlottesville Lexington Richmond Southwest Virginia (Roanoke)
<b>HAWAII</b> Honolulu	<b>NORTH CAROLINA</b> Charlotte Colonial (New Bern) Greensboro Research Triangle (Raleigh) Salisbury Sandhills (Pinehurst)	<b>WASHINGTON</b> Seattle
<b>ILLINOIS</b> Chicago	<b>OHIO</b> Cincinnati Cleveland Columbus	
<b>INDIANA</b> Indianapolis		





## Honoring ESU President Emerita Doe Thornburg

# Resolution of

The Board of Directors of The English-Speaking Union of the United States

June 6, 2016

### Whereas:

Marie Dora Thornburg OBE has dedicated her personal and professional life to forging global understanding and has vigorously advanced the work of the English-Speaking Union of the United States through more than 50 years as Member, Regional Chairwoman, Delegate to the ESU International Council, National Board President and now President Emerita.

### Whereas:

As a National Board Member since 1989, Doe, with grace, poise and resolve, has served as an ambassador representing the organization to its members across the country and to scholars, educators, diplomats and men and women like herself interested in establishing peaceful common bonds across international boundaries.

### Whereas:

The indefatigable Doe has announced that she can no longer be present at all ESU National Board events.

### Now, therefore, be it resolved that:

The English-Speaking Union of the United States National Board of Directors recognizes Doe Thornburg's ever present spirit as President Emerita and acknowledges Doe as the epitome of the ideal ESU member dedicated to celebrating English as a shared language to foster global understanding and good will.

Dr. Paul Beresford-Hill CBE, KSt.J  
Chairman

Dr. E. Quinn Peeper  
President

Christopher Broadwell  
Secretary of the Corporation  
Executive Director



The English-Speaking Union  
Education. Scholarship. Understanding.

# ESU Annual Conference

New York City | October 10 - 12, 2015

## The ESU National Conference and Annual General Meeting

The 2015 ESU Conference, with the theme *George Washington Takes New York City*, took place on October 10 - 12, at the Hilton Doubletree Metropolitan Hotel in midtown Manhattan. Branch leaders were specifically invited to a day-long Conclave with the National Board Members on Saturday just prior to the formal opening of the Conference.

Organized by National Headquarters staff, the ESU National Conference comprised a series of meetings, lunches, dinners, receptions and tours over the Columbus Day weekend. Members assembled on Saturday evening after the morning Board meeting and afternoon Presidents Conclave, for a reception and opening dinner in the hotel's Chrysler Room, with close-up views of the Art Deco style Chrysler Building to the south. Noted author and prominent historical biographer, Flora Fraser, spoke after dinner about her new biography *The Washingtons, George and Martha: Join'd by Friendship, Crown'd by Love* being published by Knopf.

Sunday was a busy day, including regional meetings, and a buffet luncheon with Director General of the English-Speaking Union of the Commonwealth, Jane Easton, providing remarks and offering a suggested new vision for the ESU under the rubric "Discover Your Voice," and the Annual General Meeting. In the evening, National Patron donors journeyed by chartered coach to the historic Morris-Jumel Mansion, a house museum property of the Historic House Trust of New York City, located in the Washington Heights section of Manhattan. During the American Revolution, George Washington and his patriot officers moved into the house, making it their headquarters for five weeks in the autumn of 1776. It was a strategic location, because the house offered a full view of Manhattan and both the Hudson and Harlem Rivers. There, ESU National Patrons enjoyed a lavish reception co-sponsored by the New York Branch, as well as informative guided tours of the property lead by the museum's curatorial staff.

The conference concluded on Monday with a bagel breakfast sponsored by the New York Branch at National Headquarters and a walking tour of sites connected to George Washington in the Wall Street area of Manhattan.





# With Thanks

## NATIONAL PATRON PROGRAM

The English-Speaking Union extends its gratitude to, and is pleased to recognize, the following individuals who generously participated in the English-Speaking Union National Patron Program during 2015-2016. Their generosity provided critically needed unrestricted operating support for the ESU and its Branches during the year.

### WALTER HINES PAGE SOCIETY \$10,000 TO \$14,999

Dr. Paul Beresford-Hill CBE KSt.J  
Mr. Donald A. Best/The London Best  
Charitable Gift Fund  
Mr. William R. Miller CBE KSt.J  
Dr. E. Quinn Peeper and  
Mr. Michael D. Harold

### NATIONAL FELLOWS \$5,000 TO \$9,999

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# Financial Report

Condensed Statement of Activities

unaudited

For the year ending June 30, 2016

## OPERATING REVENUES

Private support	\$ 719,492
Earned revenue	977,591
Investment return used for operations	628,584
Contributed goods and services	52,500
Investments released from restrictions	70,700

**TOTAL OPERATING REVENUES \$ 2,448,867**

## OPERATING EXPENSES

### Program Services

Membership and branch services	\$ 650,053
New immigrant language services	577,851
Shakespeare programs	236,190
Educational exchange programs	355,134
Other educational services	81,612

**Total Program Services \$ 1,900,840**

### Supporting Services

Management and general	\$ 413,267
Fundraising	134,760

**Total Supporting Services \$ 548,027**

**TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES \$ 2,448,867**

Excess Operating Revenues over Operating Expenses —

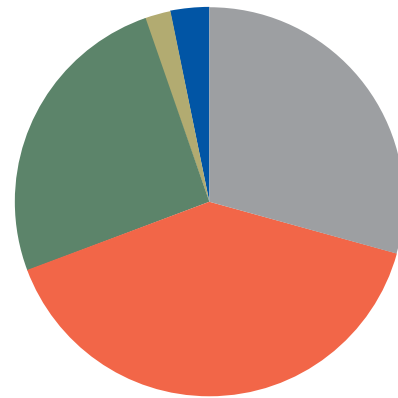
Endowment, investments, capital and other non-operating activities 12,164,728

Increase (decrease) in Net Assets (867,321)

**NET ASSETS AT BEGINNING OF YEAR \$16,479,939**

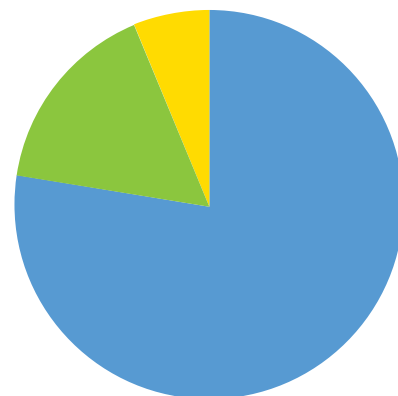
**NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR \$ 15,612,939**

Complete financial statements are available on our website:  
[www.wsuus.org/about/financial\\_statements/](http://www.wsuus.org/about/financial_statements/)



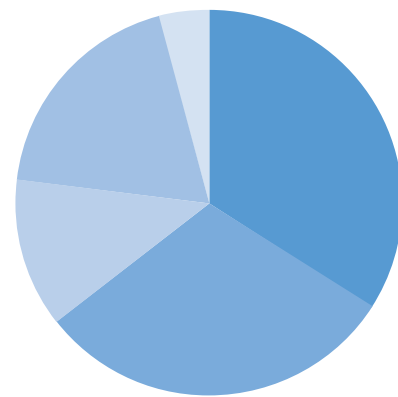
## Operating Revenues

Private support	29%
Earned revenue	40%
Investment return used for operations	26%
Contributed goods and services	2%
Investments released from restrictions	3%



## Operating Expenses

Program Services	78%
Management and general	17%
Fundraising	5%



## Program Services

Membership & branch services	34%
New immigrant language services	30%
Shakespeare programs	13%
Educational exchange programs	19%
Other educational services	4%



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# Annual Report 2016

## English in Action



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