What is the EL Bridge Online Workshop all about?
The EL Bridge Online Workshop, offered by the College of Education at the University of Iowa, is designed to help you, a math, science, or special education teacher, to develop your skills in addressing the needs of English Learners (ELs). This completely online, 15-week professional development workshop addresses these themes:

1. **Preparing to Teach ELs (4 weeks/lessons):** These first lessons introduce the workshop through encouraging you to reflect on your own prior experiences with and beliefs about ELs, to set goals, and to explore your own school context.

2. **General EL Information (7 weeks/lessons):** These lessons provide concrete, research-based basic information about ELs, EL education (including instructional techniques and assessment), and the specialized terminology used in the field of EL education in the United States.

3. **Content Modules (3 weeks/lessons):** At this point, you will complete three lessons about working with ELs in your content area (math, science, or special education). The goal of these lessons is to familiarize you with the issues about ELs in your area, and to help you adapt your curriculum through guided activities to better serve EL needs in your classes.

4. **Conclusion (1 week/lesson)**

Do I have the right background and qualifications to benefit from this workshop?

1. You must be an education professional working in the state of Iowa.
2. You should be a licensed and practicing K-12 science, math, or special education teacher. This includes elementary teachers who specialize in one of those areas. Individuals with other backgrounds (for instance, university instructors or district-level coordinators who specialize in one of the three content areas) with a strong interest should contact us – we’ll determine other participants on a case-by-case basis.
3. You should be in a working situation where you have English Learners (ELs) in your class or school. Individuals who already have the Added ESL Endorsement (endorsement number 104, K-12 English as a Second Language (ESL)) or substantial training in working with ELs should not take this workshop.

What kind of credit is offered? One license renewal credit through AEA PD Online ($25).

Can I handle the workload of the Workshop?
Teachers who have taken the workshop before have agreed that they work for about 3 hours per week on the course. The workshop lasts from January 27 until May 10 – there are no weeks off. The week activities are posted online on Wednesday, and you must post your responses and completed assignments in the online discussion group by the next Tuesday evening. There is some flexibility if you communicate with us in advance (for instance, if you are going to be going on a trip where you will not have Internet access).

Can I handle the technology of this course?
Consistent Internet access is key to participation in this workshop. The platform we use, the ICON course management system, is not difficult to use. Most tasks require you to download documents, access and navigate websites, and/or post in discussion boards. If you are not familiar with ICON, we can provide you with tutorials.

Sounds good! How do I sign up?
Contact the EL Bridge Online Workshop team at el-bridge@uiowa.edu or 319-335-5261.