

# National Networking Newsletter



Winter 2011

## From the National Networking Coordinator



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With the hustle and bustle of state conferences and the ACTFL Convention behind us, we can return to our classrooms refreshed, reenergized, and ready to implement new strategies and ideas to deliver even better language instruction to our students.

Be on the lookout for the E-NNELL Notes this spring, as we will be making announcements about our slate of webinars and regional professional development workshops.

Once again, NNELL is teaming up with NYSAFLT to offer an outstanding four day long summer Institute. This year's theme is 21st Century Skills. Do consider attending!

Within this newsletter, I hope you find inspiration from your colleagues around the country.

Enjoy!

**Nathan Lutz**

National Networking Coordinator  
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**Be on the lookout  
for our regional  
professional  
development  
workshops**



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## News from the Northeast

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### Maryland News

Sherri Harkins, MD Representative

Spring is on its way and so is NECTFL in Baltimore! The Northeast Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages is coming to Baltimore this April 1 - 4, 2011, at the Baltimore Marriott Waterfront Hotel in Baltimore MD. There are a variety of elementary/pre-K to 8 sessions planned, as well as some amazing pre- and post-conference opportunities. For more information check out [www.nectfl.org](http://www.nectfl.org). Stay tuned for more information on a possible informal gathering of NNELL members attending the conference.

It has been a busy few months in Maryland as we work to maintain and grow our membership. With so many elementary world language programs fighting for their existence, it is important that we follow the work being done as part of Maryland's *Race to the Top* planning. The next several months will be very informative as progress is made in planning and implementation. NNELL state representative, Sherri Harkins, hopes to work with the Maryland Foreign Language Association to keep everyone informed and to assist members as they advocate for their programs.

On a final note, Maryland NNELL state representative, Sherri Harkins who was named the 2011 Maryland Foreign Language Teacher of the Year this past October, has been named the 2011 NECTFL Teacher of the Year. Sherri hopes to be able to use this honor to advocate for early language learning. She will now represent the Northeast region for National Language Teacher of the Year sponsored by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL).

## New York News

Diana Zuckerman, NY Representative

NY NNELL members were active at the ACTFL Conference in Boston in November...

NY NNELL member, Victoria Gilbert, and SE NNELL Representative, Sandra Schoder, from NNELL's Culture Committee presented Culture in the 21st Century. Where is Early Language Learning Going? NNELL's Culture Committee was tasked with designing a web resource for members who wanted to incorporate culture within their target language lesson for early language learners. The presentation at ACTFL involved the committee members sharing theories and views about culture in the early language learning classroom and demonstrating how this web resource can be part of the teaching experience, be used as a teacher development tool and become a platform for sharing.



Victoria Gilbert and Sandra Schoder  
at ACTFL



Gadi BenMark and Yohanna Jimenez at the  
NNELL Swap Shop Breakfast at ACTFL

NY NNELL member, Gadi BenMark, presented 10 Languages at Once: Teach Kids Multi-language Sound Foundation. This is a novel concept and first time at ACTFL. Kids can become "accent-free-for-life" in all of the world's most commonly spoken languages. A new patent-pending method teaches the one aspect kids learn seamlessly and adults always struggle with – pronunciation - across multiple-languages all at once. More information on this innovative approach can be found at [GiftedSpeech.com](http://GiftedSpeech.com). Teachers are welcome to test the product for free through the end of March 2011, using the Access Code ACTFL2010. Yohanna Jimenez won a full year free subscription to Gadi BenMark's GiftedSpeech's multi-language foundation modules at the NNELL Swap Shop Breakfast. Here is what some NY NNELL members had to say about the ACTFL Conference...

"The NNELL Swap Shop is a yearly event that promotes the spirit of collaboration and exchange between world language teachers Pre-K - grade 8 from across the country. The participants ranged from vendors of elementary level materials to college instructors, including teachers, key note speaker Dr. Catherine Porter, and a myriad of prizes! Honoring Dr. Mari Haas with the video presentation by Dr. Lori Langer de Ramirez was the highlight of the event! Next year: DENVER!" - **Al Martino**

"I was thrilled to hear Dr. Catherine Porter speak, because I have been disseminating copies of her article entitled English is not Enough to the elementary teachers whose classrooms are visited by a FLES teacher to address their questions as to why we have a FLES program as well as to give them information they can share with the parents of the students who have the same concerns. It was a delight to meet the author of that excellent article!" - **Lillian Carey**

"It was wonderful to be able to meet ELL colleagues and through vendors and presentations be able to focus on the younger language learners that are often not the focus of larger language teaching conferences. Also, was thrilled to celebrate Mari Haas and her accomplishments. She was the first professional development experience of my career and set the standard for all the others and what I hope to accomplish when I work with teachers these days." - **Victoria Gilbert**

## NEW YORK – continued

"It was good again to see 'family' and be around like-minded teachers. The smiles and 'thank-yous' after the Swap Shop breakfast remind me why it's so wonderful to be a member of NNELL." - **Scott Wilkolaski**

Here are some ways that NY members of The National Network for Early Language Learning (NNELL) and NYSAFLT members are supporting and promoting Early Foreign Language Learning...

Dr. Helena Curtain, Professor Emerita from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and co-author of the seminal book *Languages and Children: Making the Match*, presented an excellent workshop for over one hundred world language teachers on Long Island last fall. Her workshop, which was offered free of charge with the generous support of sponsors Dowling College and NYSAFLT, took place at Half Hollow Hills High School East. Her presentation, entitled "Best Practices in Early Language Teaching" covered topics ranging from "What does successful early language teaching look like?," "How can the target language be used in teaching beginning students?," and "How can we effectively incorporate language, culture and content into lessons?" Dr. Curtain's energetic, entertaining, and enlightening presentation was met with rave reviews by all in attendance. Special thanks to Dr. Lori Langer de Ramirez and Francesco Fratto for organizing and facilitating the event.



Lori Langer de Ramirez, Helena Curtain and Francesco Fratto



Tara Tassani and Helena Curtain

**Global Language Project (GLP)** is an educational movement and social venture that is altering the inequity of access to foreign-language education. Through its Speak to Succeed program, GLP gives underserved New York City public elementary school students the opportunity to achieve fluency in world languages so they can increase their future success in higher education and the job market.



Global Language Project Spanish Program at the YMCA in Harlem, NY



GLP Arabic Program at P.S. 261 in Brooklyn, New York



Global Language Project Chinese Program at P.S. 368 in Harlem, New York

GLP was founded by Angela Jackson, a New York City social entrepreneur and former head of New Channels Marketing at Nokia. Nurtured by her experience traveling for work and living abroad, Angela saw first-hand that children in other countries were not only multilingual at an early age, but that their ability to speak more than one language positioned them more competitively for opportunities in higher education and the global marketplace. From this experience, Angela launched GLP in 2009 to give New York City kids an opportunity to become proficient in a foreign language.

**NEW YORK – continued**

The first program launched in September 2009 at P.S. 368 Hamilton Heights School in Harlem, NY with 30 students. Through the program success and popularity the program currently serves 150 students in five schools, offering after-school language instruction in Arabic, Mandarin Chinese or Spanish. The program features a structured, immersion based after-school language curriculum based on state and national standards. The program serves students from kindergarten to fifth grade. GLP plans to expand out of New York City in the fall of 2011. For more information go to [www.globallanguageproject.org](http://www.globallanguageproject.org) or email [info@globallanguageproject.org](mailto:info@globallanguageproject.org)

NNELL keeps its members informed about the most up-to-date news regarding early language learning Pre-K through Grade 8 by offering professional development opportunities, the online National Networking Newsletter and the journal Learning Languages. NNELL membership runs from September through August so now is the perfect time to renew or to become a new member. NYSAFLT is a long-time institutional member of NNELL. If you would like more information about becoming a NNELL member, please go to [www.nnell.org](http://www.nnell.org) or contact NYS NNELL Representative, Diana Zuckerman, at [dianazuck@yahoo.com](mailto:dianazuck@yahoo.com).

Thank you,  
Diana Zuckerman, NYS NNELL Representative

**New Jersey News**

Amanda Seewald, NJ Representative

Here in New Jersey, Holy Trinity Interparochial School in Westfield demonstrates the value of content based language learning by focusing on the concepts of friendship, helping, peace and equality to mirror the classroom focus on Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday. Grades 1-4 participated in a scaffolded depiction of what these concepts mean to them after discussing them, acting them out, watching innovative animated short videos from Spain, and singing together in Spanish. This unit of study also coincided with Catholic Schools week, during which, the students' families as well as other community members have the opportunity to visit the school and the classroom to see what the students are studying.

The lively and engaging interaction created by this topic helped make the language learning an authentic part of the academic lives of the students. Social Studies and character education ties aligned content with linguistic goals and brought great energy to the classroom. This type of content based experience will broaden with science and math concepts later this year.



Depictions of equality that students found to be most important during classroom discussions

## New Hampshire News

Cheryl Berman, NH Representative

There has been a recent bill brought up in NH Legislation entitled HB39. This will effect all k-12 programs in all of New Hampshire. Many people spoke out!!!

HB 39 proposes to eliminate some of the content, knowledge, and skills that are associated with being an educated citizen in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. This includes Art, Physical Education, health education, technology, and WORLD LANGUAGES. The Bill is in opposition to the Policy and Purpose (RSA 193-E:1) to the Adequate Public Education statute and to the Criteria for an Adequate Education (RSA 193 -E:2). Also, there is no sound educational or policy basis upon which to declare that an arts education, world languages, health education, and technology education, and information and communication technologies are not important to an adequately educated New Hampshire citizen.

The genesis of the adequate education legislation is found in the legislative response to the New Hampshire Supreme Court case *Claremont School District v. Governor*, 635 A.2d 1375, 1381 (1993). Chief Justice Brock writing for the Court asserted

"Given the complexities of our society today, the State's constitutional duty extends beyond mere reading, writing and arithmetic. It also includes broad educational opportunities needed in today's society to prepare citizens for their role as participants and as potential competitors in today's marketplace of ideas. In an expanding world in which citizens interact and compete, is a shrinking curriculum adequate and worthy of the citizens of New Hampshire? The New Hampshire Supreme Court envisions a robust and broad education that prepares its citizens for a complex world."

This information and hundreds of other parents, professors and teachers was presented on January 23<sup>rd</sup> before the NH Legislative Education Committee. Almost everyone in attendance had the opportunity to speak out against this bill. Representatives from the New Hampshire Association of World Language Teachers (Mary Chamberlain and Janis Hennessey) had an opportunity to speak as well. Now this Ed committee takes the bill to the NH State Representatives for a vote. With all the outrage from teachers, parents and professors we are hoping for a strong positive result. I hope to have that answer for you all by next Newsletter.

In NH's SAU 50, many students celebrated Three Kings Day and of course preparing Valentine's cards in French and Spanish for family and friends. Newington students just completed a unit on "Donde Viven Los Monstruos". All with a life size "bosque" in the cafeteria and students creating their own monsters and short stories about their monsters. Our technology teacher will video each student reciting their story before the camera and in front of the forest. This is a 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grade activity that will culminate on March 31<sup>st</sup> at the NPS Student Curriculum Fair.

Allison Litten (NNELL VT Rep) and Cheryl Berman (NNELL NH Rep) are planning a joint Professional Development Day in northern NH either late spring or early fall. This day will be created so that NH & Vt. Teachers can join together for workshop hours and swap shop time for teachers. Dates and details will be announced in the near future. This idea came about at the ACTFL conference in November 2010 boston when the six New England States held an evening get together for wine, hors d'oeuvres and idea exchanges between the New England states.

One World Language School has programs throughout Maine and New Hampshire. We are currently holding classes in Oyster River, Portsmouth, Stratham, Nottingham,(NH) and South Berwick/Eliot, and Berwick (Me.) The One World Language School is a language school for children based in Durham, New Hampshire. We provide French, Spanish, German, and Mandarin Chinese language programs and curriculum materials. These programs have addressed the many families in the seacoast whose belief in learning a second language is necessary for a complete and adequate education for their children beginning in pre-school Co-directors Julie Reece and Brigitte Herz continue to promote FLES programs throughout NH and Maine with great offerings for all ages.

I hope to see many of you at the 2011 NECTFL Conference in Baltimore, Maryland. Lots of great FLES offerings there and a wonderful new city to explore!

## Pennsylvania News

Heather Hendry, PA Representative

Greetings old and new members! I am writing to inform you of the current opportunities available to you in Pennsylvania for professional development, networking, and advocating for an early start to foreign language learning.

### WORKSHOPS:

- **IUP Spring Methodology Conference on Foreign Language Teaching**

This year's IUP Spring Methodology Conference will be held on Friday, April 29, 2011 at Chestnut Ridge Gold Club and Resort in Blairsburg, PA. Many interesting sessions will be presented on topics such as culture, technology, and assessment. For more information on registration and on the sessions available go to <http://www.chss.iup.edu/spanish/methodsconf/>.

### INTERESTING ONLINE RESOURCE

- **What We Can Learn From Foreign Language Teaching in Other Countries**  
<http://www.cal.org/resources/digest/0106pufahl.html>

Ingrid Pufahl, Nancy Rhodes, and Donna Christian from the Center for Applied Linguistics (CAL) summarize a research study that they conducted on, "What we can learn from foreign language teaching in other countries." By going to this link, you can read about what foreign language teachers from other countries perceive to be the most important factors in designing and sustaining a successful foreign language program. Pufahl et al. asked teachers from 19 different countries questions such as, "What do you think are three of the most successful aspects of foreign language education in your country?" The findings elicited from this survey identify eight exemplary characteristics for successful foreign language education, one of which is an early start! These eight characteristics are:

- 1) An early start
- 2) A well-articulated framework
- 3) Rigorous teacher education
- 4) Comprehensive use of technology
- 5) Effective teaching strategies
- 6) Strong policy
- 7) Assessment
- 8) Maintenance of heritage, regional, and indigenous languages

To read more about the results of this study, navigate to the link!



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## News from the Southeast

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### GEORGIA NEWS

Vicki Welch-Alvis, GA Representative

There's still time for advanced registration to Georgia's premier language event! This year's Foreign Language Association of Georgia Conference is meeting March 4-5 at a convenient location for all NNELL members - a hotel adjacent to Atlanta's airport. Two pre-conference workshops are specifically geared toward P-8 foreign language educators, "A Make & Take Adventure!" and "Connecting Students to the World and Each Other through Pair and Small-Groups Work." Come and meet and get to know FLAG's Teacher of the Year, K-12 teacher Joe Uriz! For more information and registration go to

<http://www.flageorgia.org/conference/2011Conference/conference-11.htm>



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## News from the Central States - East

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The East Central Region is alive and kicking with activities and happenings in K-8 World Language education! Here in Indiana, the Central States Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages took place Mar. 3-5 and IN-NELL hosted a workshop featuring Laura Terrill.

This is a CSCTFL first to host a NNELL workshop during the language immersion workshops on Thursday. In addition, the NNELL Swapshop Breakfast was once again a great opportunity to share ideas and network with colleagues as well as recognize outstanding educators in the field of K-8 World Language teaching with presenters Lynn Sessler and Mandy Madderom from Wisconsin and Janna Chiang, Andrea Suarez, and Nadine Jacobsen from Kentucky. As you can see below, this is only a sampling of what is going on in the East Central Region!

## Michigan News

Norma Richardson, MI Representative

This summer, from June 22-24, Central Michigan University will hold its fourth annual Grandparents and You Day. Alumni and friends will bring their grandchildren, ages 8-12, to stay on campus and attend interactive sessions conducted by various departments. The activities offered by the Department of Foreign Languages, Literatures and Cultures will be planned and conducted by the students in my methods class: Foreign Languages in the Elementary School. Using Helena Curtain's model for a fantasy trip, as presented in her textbook *Languages and Children: Making the Match*, the children will "travel" to Spain, Germany and France and engage in a variety of cultural activities in the target languages.

## Ohio News

Judy McCombs , OH Representative

Debbie Robinson and Ryan Wertz, the World Language Consultants for the Ohio Department of Education, are in the process of revising Ohio's Foreign Language academic content standards. Hopefully they will be adopted by the State Board of Education in June of 2012. "The most notable change will be the compression of the current five goal areas of Communication, Cultures, Connections, Comparisons and Communities into two: Communication and Cultures."

OFLA, the Ohio Foreign Language Association, will hold its annual conference in Columbus again this year. The conference will be held April 7-9, 2011. The theme for this year's conference is "Making Connections- Personal, Professional, Pedagogical." If you would like to register for the conference check out the website at [www.ofla-online.org](http://www.ofla-online.org). The keynote speaker this year will be Alexandra Robbins. She is an author, journalist, and lecturer. Her website is <http://alexandrarobbins.com>. Check it out to learn more information about this distinguished keynote speaker. Additionally, special guest workshop leader, Barb Cartford, 2010 Minnesota Teacher of the Year, will also be in attendance presenting 2 workshops that will engage participants in story telling, as a method to teach students a second language. Her website is [web.me.com/barbaracartford](http://web.me.com/barbaracartford).

And finally, I ask this question of all readers: "What kind of teacher are you?" I say to you, "Be the kind of teacher that students will always remember for good." Be the kind of teacher students will look back on fondly when they reminisce about their school career.

Be the teacher your students will want to go find and thank. Be the teacher that impressed his/her students in such a way that they continued their language learning in college and went off to see the world they learned so much about in a classroom!

Hasta la vista,  
Judy McCombs

## Kentucky News

Nadine Jacobsen, KY Representative and KY NELL

Winter may have cancelled face to face opportunities to network and collaborate, but the internet goes on. Kentucky is a buzz online with twitter, Facebook, wikis and more and nobody can keep the conversation going like NNELL members Thomas Sauer and Janna Chiang. Log on and get connected with the most up-to-date technology, links and advocacy opportunities with twitter @KWLAnonline and on Facebook you will find Kentucky-NELL and the Kentucky World Language Association. ACTFL in Boston was amazing especially for Kentuckians Dr. Jacqueline Bott Van Houten, now president of NNELL, and for Superintendent Stuart (Stu) Silberman, the 2010 winner of NNELL's Award for Outstanding Support of Early Second Language Learning. Kentucky is lucky to have him and Fayette county schools in particular. Under Stu's leadership he has helped his district win two FLAP grants and lobbied for a 2.5 million dollar congressional appropriation to pay for programs in Japanese and Chinese. In his district, World Language programs have quadrupled since 2004 with 13 new elementary programs including three which are immersion all initiated this year! Thank you Stu and NNELL member Alicia Vinson for all your hard work in Fayette County, Kentucky! Andrea Suarez and I look forward to seeing everyone in Indianapolis for the Central States Conference.

## Wisconsin News

Amanda Madderom, WI Representative

FLESFEST 2011 is fast approaching on Saturday, March 12. Language teachers from preschool to the university level will meet for the day to learn more about *Walking the Talk: from Planning to Practice*. Our keynote speaker is Helena Curtain, and we have four breakout sessions by practicing teachers to supplement Helena's talk. The first session will walk people through the Wisconsin Integrated Performance Assessment template. The second session will be about backward planning and how to put your textbook in context. The third session will be about using technology in assessment, and the final session will explore the benefits of using music to motivate your students and get them communicating in the target language. We will also be doing a make-and-take puppet project at the end of the day. Join us if you're in the area!

We are also currently planning FLESFEST 2012 for Saturday, March 3, 2012! This is when the Central States Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages will be in Milwaukee, WI. We will be providing a strand of FLES sessions on the Saturday of CSC. The annual NNELL Breakfast will kick off the day, and then we will follow with a similar program we've used for FLESFEST: keynote speaker, breakout session, lunch, and more breakout sessions. Donna Clementi and Paul Hoff have agreed to be our keynote speakers on the topic of culture in the classroom. We are still looking for breakout session proposals, so if you have an idea, please e-mail me right away!

Mandy Madderom

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### Minnesota News

Kathy Olson-Studler, MN Representative

The NNELL Minnesota Swapshop breakfast and workshop has already been organized for Oct. 2011, as an integral aspect of the MCTLC fall conference. This year, Kim Miller, will be presenting a workshop on immersion education, together with time for networking. In Oct. 2010, Linda Chang, Ed Rosheim and Kathy Olson-Studler prepared a workshop on content-based curriculum and instruction at the annual NNELL Mn. Swapshop breakfast at the MCTLC fall conference. We were fortunate that EMC Paradigm Company sponsored the breakfast and the door prizes again this year!

On February 12<sup>th</sup>, Kathy Olson-Studler represented NNELL by attending the MCTLC board meeting at Moundsville High School. Betty Lotterman is the new president of the board as of January 1, 2011. At this meeting, MCTLC board members including the NNELL MN. rep--wrote letters or postcards to state legislators urging them to advocate for adequate funding for state language programs in these challenging economic times. We felt it incumbent on us to make our perspectives about the importance of K-12 language and culture study known to legislators. The House bill before the legislation is: H.R. 6036 Excellence and Innovation in Language Learning. I want to encourage NNELL members who read this to send a postcard or a letter to your state and U.S. senators, advocating for passage of this bill which will have a huge impact on us as language educators.

To celebrate February as National Language and Culture month we created an interactive bulletin board at our school, St. Paul Academy and Summit School, celebrating all the languages spoken at home by our students and teachers. This year we discovered that over 29 different languages are spoken by the teachers, children and families in our community. We featured photos of all the children and covered up the language they teach, so the bulletin board could be interactive—students try to guess the language and then they lift the tab to check their answers to see if they are correct. I want to encourage you to also celebrate the great diversity in your school community during this month of February which has been designated as by ACTFL as National Languages and Cultures Month.





## News from the Pacific Northwest

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We are looking for a Regional Representative for the Pacific Northwest and State Reps for Hawaii and Idaho, Texas, and Utah. If you are interested in one of these positions, please contact Nathan Lutz at [nlutz@mph.net](mailto:nlutz@mph.net)



## SOUTHWEST STATE REPRESENTATIVES

### ARIZONA

Carol Gaab  
[gaab@cox.net](mailto:gaab@cox.net)

### CALIFORNIA

Akiyo Hirose  
[ahirose47@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ahirose47@sbcglobal.net)

### COLORADO

Kathy Duran  
[kathy.duran@dcsdk12.org](mailto:kathy.duran@dcsdk12.org)

### NEVADA

*Representative needed*

### NEW MEXICO

*Representative needed*

### OKLAHOMA

Peggy Boyles  
[boylespeggy@yahoo.com](mailto:boylespeggy@yahoo.com)

### TEXAS

*Representative needed*

### UTAH

*Representative needed*

## News from the Southwest

### Kathy Durán

Central States West Regional Representative

[kathy.duran1@gmail.com](mailto:kathy.duran1@gmail.com)

We are looking for State Reps for Nevada, New Mexico, Texas, and Utah. If you are interested in one of these positions, please contact Nathan Lutz at [nlutz@mph.net](mailto:nlutz@mph.net)

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## Important Dates

CSCTFL, Indianapolis, IN  
 SCOLT, Baton Rouge, LA  
 NECTFL, Baltimore, MD  
 SWCOLT, Fort Worth, TX  
 NNELL-NYSAFLT Summer Institute, Oneonta, NY

3-5 March 2011  
 10-12 March 2011  
 1-4 April 2011  
 7-9 April 2011  
 2-5 August 2011

DECEMBER 2010						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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28	29	30	31			

  

JANUARY 2011						
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FEBRUARY 2011						
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MARCH 2011						
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30	31					

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 for our regional professional  
 development workshops

[www.nnell.org/default.asp?p=featured](http://www.nnell.org/default.asp?p=featured)

## Attention State Representatives

Thank you for your submissions of state news for this newsletter! The next deadline for news to your Regional Representatives is **May 10**. This Spring Edition will be the final edition of the National Networking Newsletter for the academic year.