The leaves are falling, the air is crisp, and we’re well into the routine of another school year. October brings a new season and the promise of Halloween treats!

In this edition of the NNELL National Networking Newsletter, you’ll be treated to the early language news from around our country. Our Regional and State Representatives and NNELL members have been busy with meetings, workshops, and networking - all in the name of providing quality language programs to children at the early levels.

NNELL is gearing up for our largest activities of the year at the ACTFL World Languages Convention and Exposition. Among these events is an ACTFL mainstay, the NNELL Swapshop Breakfast. We look forward to a morning of good food, good company, and the wise words of our keynote speaker, Marty Abbott, Director of Education at ACTFL.

In addition to NNELL’s Annual Business Meeting and Representative Networking Session, which is open to the general public, NNELL is fortunate to be sponsoring three workshops at this year’s convention. Please see page 19 for more details.

If you’re unable to attend ACTFL this year, we will miss you, but we look forward to hopefully seeing you next year when we’ll be in Boston.

Enjoy!

Nathan Lutz
National Networking Coordinator
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Here in New Jersey we are continuing to see schools trying to save their FLES programs in the face of budgetary cuts. On October 8th, I conducted the first of my Parent Information Sessions on World Languages in Egg Harbor Township. It was well received despite limited attendance and there was a reporter from a local paper present who did write an article about the session. (She misprinted my role with NNELL, but press for world languages education is important anyway!) Here is the link to that article: http://www.pressofatlanticcity.com/blogs/diane_damico/article_8665e464-b788-11de-be49-001cc4c002e0.html#user-comment-area

I conducted a second Parent Information Session on October 13th for the Bilingual Parents Council in Jersey City, New Jersey. This was a diverse multilingual group of parents and their voices truly need to be heard! I hope to find a site for a third Parent Information Session here in Central New Jersey. I will be making the PowerPoint presentation and accompanying materials available for others to use in order to conduct sessions in their local areas. Please write to parentsforlanguage@gmail.com which is the e-mail I have set up for this project. Additionally, I will be attending the NJEA conference on November 6th where I will do a workshop for the Foreign Language Educators of New Jersey on the topic of Literacy in the world language classroom. I will also attend ACTFL in San Diego where I will present for NNELL on the topic of Musical Learning.
NEW YORK

Diana Zuckerman
New York State Representative
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The New York Chapter of NNELL would like to express deep appreciation to the New York State Association of Foreign Language Teachers, NYSAFLT - a sponsor organization of NNELL, for its constant support and advocacy for early language programs pre-K - 8 in New York State. NNELL members were delighted to have Therese Sullivan Caccavale, Immediate Past President of NNELL, as the keynote speaker for this year’s NYSAFLT Annual Conference in Buffalo. There were many workshops especially for educators and advocates of early language programs at the NYSAFLT conference presented by NNELL members. I would like to invite all NNELL members to check out NYSAFLT’s website www.nysaflt.org and to attend a NYSAFLT conference. Congratulations to NY NNELL members from the Rye City School District. They received NYSAFLT’s Sally G. Hahn Memorial Outstanding FLES Program Award. NY is proud of them and of the many early language programs offered to our students in New York State.

NY will be the location for the 2010 Northeast Conference (NECTFL) & NYSAFLT Spring Colloquium “Simply Irresistible: People, Programs, and Practices that Inspire”. The conference will be held in New York City from March 25th through March 27th. There will be many early foreign language workshops and many NNELL members presenting. Save the dates. Go to www.nectfl.org for more information.

Picture on the left:
Vanessa Franco (Rye FLES Teacher), Sue Hochmuth (NYSAFLT President-Elect), Lauren Gobbo (Rye FLES Teacher), Reina McGoldrick (Rye FLES Teacher) and JoAnne Nardone (Rye Principal) receiving NYSAFLT’s Sally G. Hahn Memorial Outstanding FLES Program Award

Picture on the right:
Susan Bames (NYSAFLT President), Therese Sullivan Caccavale (Keynote Speaker) and Nancy Ketz (NYSAFLT 1st Vice President) at the NYSAFLT Annual Conference in Buffalo, NY (Photo courtesy of NYSAFLT)

Congratulations to NNELL Past President, Terry Caccavale, for being chosen as NYSAFLT’s Keynote Speaker!

To hear her speech, go to the iTunes store and select NYSAFLT Podcasts.
NNELL Maine’s representative, Julie von Kamecke, along with the assistance of former representative, Margot Stiassni-Sieracki, recently hosted a “Getting to know NNELL” evening seminar at the Penobscot School, Rockland’s non-profit center for language learning and international exchange. It was a lively meeting of enthusiastic foreign language teachers on Saturday evening, October 3.

Julie Von Kamecke, spoke about a national organization, NNELL, the National Network for Early Language Learning. NNELL promotes the teaching of foreign languages to children age Pre-K through 8th grade and encourages the participation of parents, teachers, administrators and policymakers in all its activities. Ms. Von Kamecke, who teaches Spanish at Camden-Rockport Elementary school and Russian at Penobscot School, has volunteered to serve as Maine’s new representative to NNELL. Benefits of participating in NNELL include up to date information for teaching languages to children, access to networks with teachers around the country, media advocacy and program building resources, and a subscription to NNELL’s outstanding teaching journal.

A series of mini-presentations, including ‘Five ways to promote your program’, ‘The escargot project’, and ‘Using music in the FL classroom’ were shared with a small gathering of area teachers. This was a wonderful opportunity to get the word out about NNELL, raising awareness of the benefits of becoming a member, and providing networking amongst teachers.

NNELL-Maine is now on Facebook (search NNELL Maine). It has been a fun way to keep in contact with our slowly but steadily growing membership, as well as welcoming others who are interested in and support early language learning. We would love new fans!

Another goal for NNELL Maine has been to develop closerties with FLAME (Foreign Language Association of Maine). We look forward to being a presence at the spring conference in Portland, Maine, which is one of the few opportunities in the state of Maine for FL teachers to attend workshops dedicated to foreign language instruction.

Teachers agreed to work together to promote NNELL’s mission and to cooperate in planning future meetings, workshops and useful curriculum resources. More information is available at www.nnell.org and by contacting Julie von Kamecke or Margot Stiassni at Penobscot School, tel. 594-1084 / or email: info@languagelearning.org.
Our region has been and will be very active during the summer and fall months preparing fall conferences and attending workshops. At the NNELL Summer institute Beatrix Preusse-Burr, SR Virginia, Jennifer Roth, SR North Carolina, and Sandra Schoder, SE RR have represented the Southeast region and learned all about “culture” in a wonderful workshop with Mimi Met. The NNELL Southeast region state representatives will have their next Skype meeting on October 26 and will meet during ACTFL in San Diego. If you have questions, suggestion, or needs that NNELL can help you with, please e-mail your representative or Sandra.Schoder@gmail.com.

Sylvia Amaya, SR Florida, has helped organize a great FFLA conference and ELL was present with several sessions and the great NNELL luncheon. Jennifer Roth, SR North Carolina has represented NNELL at FLANC and Kathy Young, SR South Carolina, organized a great looking NNELL workshop in her state. Vicki Welch-Alvis, SR Georgia encourages all teachers in her state to read the DRAFT copy of the new Georgia Performance Standards (GPS) and participate in the AATSP poster contest which all Spanish or Portuguese teachers in the Southeast region can participate in. Peggy Dolan, SR West Virginia, shares some information about a growing Spanish program in Ohio County, WV which is good news in these difficult times. Thank you for your support and hard work NNELL state representative of the Southeast Region.

Jennifer Roth, SR North Carolina, and Sandra Schoder, SE RR share the following information (see next page) about the 2010 SCOLT conference “Communication Beyond the Classroom” in Winston-Salem, NC April 15-17. There will be a great selection of early language learning sessions throughout the entire conference and NNELL is recognized as a co-hosting organization, therefore we hope that we will have the largest number of NNELL members ever attending. Let’s show our support even in hard times and wear your NNELL pin (which you can buy at our NNELL booth for $2).
Florida has exciting news to share. On October 16th, at the Florida Foreign Language Conference in St. Augustine, Florida, the first-ever NNELL luncheon was held. Sixteen early language teachers from around the state of Florida attended the luncheon. Among the sixteen teachers attending was the Southeast Regional Representative, Sandra Schoder, who spoke to the group about NNELL and encouraged the teachers to become members of NNELL. Also among the early language learning teachers was Edna Clas-Del Valle the winner of the 2009 Florida Early Language Learning Teacher of the Year award. Congratulations to her on her well deserved award.

During the luncheon, teachers had an opportunity to network and learn about each other’s programs. Many different types of elementary language programs were discussed and materials were shared. Sandra Rosado, a FLES teacher from Pinellas County, shared her musical Power-Points during a short presentation. Sandra and a team of Florida FLES teachers will be presenting at the Southern Conference on Language Teaching (SCOLT) conference this spring.

It was a very successful gathering as we acquired new NNELL members and networking among Florida’s early language teachers was evident. Much was shared and plans are already under way for next year's luncheon in Clearwater, Florida!

GEORGIA

Vicki Welch-Alvis
Georgia State Representative
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A DRAFT copy of the new Georgia Performance Standards (GPS) for K-5 Modern Languages, Five-Day Model is online at: https://www.georgiastandards.org

The Georgia Standards website points out that, “the State of Georgia and the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) have an established history of encouraging school districts to offer world language instruction in the elementary grades. From 1992 through 2006, the Georgia Elementary School Foreign Languages (ESFL) Model Program provided state grant funding to local school districts that were willing to implement high-quality elementary world language programs. The Georgia Performance Standards (GPS) for K-5 Modern Languages, Five-Day Model, continues that tradition. Once finalized, these standards will replace the Quality Core Curriculum (QCC) standards that were written for the ESFL Model Program and will guide local school districts in providing standards-based, proficiency-focused world language instruction.

The Georgia chapter of AATSP hosted a fall conference featuring Greg Duncan of Interprep, Inc. Greg's presentation, Talking Up a Storm! Maximizing Speaking in the Foreign Language Classroom, was applicable to all levels and a good cross section of attendees were elementary and middle school teachers. During the conference K-8 teachers were invited to have their students submit posters to this year's Elementary/ Middle school poster contest. The guidelines for this contest are on the AATSP site: http://www.aatsp.org/

Keep in mind your AAT organization when looking for ways to involve your students in activities that promote early language learning outside the classroom.
SOUTH CAROLINA

Katherine Young
South Carolina State Representative
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South Carolina NNELL hosted a workshop on Sat., Oct. 17 at Cardinal Newman High School in Columbia, SC. Michel Baker, a NNELL member and a Spanish teacher at Irmo Elementary School shared how to use storytelling and drama in the classroom. She showed a video file of her class acting out Cristobal Colon’s discovery of America in her 4th grade class. We had new members join and memberships renewed.

There are plans to have NNELL sessions at the state conference in February and another fall workshop in 2010.

NORTH CAROLINA

Jennifer Roth
North Carolina State Representative
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The FLANC conference was a great success. North Carolina is very fortunate to have both NNELL members present as well as a variety of FLES workshops and FLES sessions. I would encourage any teachers within a reasonable distance to come to next year’s conference in September of 2010.

We are also busy preparing for SCOLT in April in Winston-Salem. We will have a NNELL table as well as some NNELL sponsored sessions. We look forward to seeing you there.

WEST VIRGINIA

Peggy Dolan
West Virginia State Representative
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Ohio County School System has continued its elementary Spanish program. It began in 2006 with kindergarten students at all Ohio County elementary schools. Growing with that same group of students, the program now services all students k-3. The plan is to keep growing until there is a seamless k-12 curriculum in Spanish, while also offering 4 levels of 3 other languages at the high school.
Communication Beyond the Classroom
2010 SCOLT/FLANC/AATSP-NC/NNELL Conference
April 15-17, 2010
Winston-Salem, NC

Conference Features

- Site visit to dual immersion language program
- Thursday Leadership Certificate Strand
- Half-day pre-conference workshops
- Special Post-Secondary Roundtable Discussion Coffee Klatch
- Special Elementary/Middle School Strand of Presentations
- NNELL-Sponsored Sessions
- Over 45 exhibit booths
- 90 + presentations
- SCOLT Awards Luncheon
- FLANC Luncheon
- FLANC’s Famous Raffle
- Special AATSP-NC Sessions
- Greetings from the 2010 ACTFL Language Teacher of the Year and the 2009 SCOLT World Languages Teacher of the Year, Linda Zins-Adams
- Selection of the 2010 SCOLT World Languages Teacher of the Year & Recognition of All State World Languages Teachers in SCOLT Region
- Celebration of SCOLT’s 45th Anniversary

Elementary Dual Language Immersion Program

Ashley Elementary School offers two distinct programs of Spanish language study. In addition to the more traditional FLES option, in which students take Spanish classes three times a week for a total of 90 minutes, Ashley offers a separate dual immersion program. In this dual immersion program, native English and Spanish-speaking students in grades K-5 learn curricular content in both languages. The program is carefully designed to provide a thorough bilingual learning experience, so that students grow to be not only bilingual, but also bicultural and biliterate. With visiting teachers from various Spanish-speaking countries, the dual immersion experience is authentic, engaging, and unique. In Kindergarten, students learn 80% of the day in Spanish. Students learn 70% in Spanish in first grade, 60% in Spanish in second grade, and 50% in Spanish in grades 3-5.

Ashley Elementary is also a member of the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme with a teaching philosophy that focuses on the total growth of maturing and developing children. The curriculum addresses students’ educational, social, physical, emotional, and cultural needs and integrates the educational research, practice, knowledge, and experience of international schools with the North Carolina Standard Course of Study (NCSCS). The result is a relevant, engaging, accelerated, and creative educational program. Specific questions, designed for exploration, inquiry, and study, guide instruction. The goal of the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme is to develop students’ abilities to ask questions and to become involved in the concerns of the global community.
Friday, April 16, 2010

**The Language of Literacy: Communication Beyond the FLES Classroom:** Lynn Fulton-Archer, SCOLT Past President

The language of “Literacy” is one that elementary teachers and administrators speak with ease, but one that world language teachers oftentimes struggle with. Learn to communicate with grade-level teachers about how your world language program supports their literacy goals. This session will share information about four basic building blocks of any literacy program including exposure to language, awareness of print, access to texts and comprehension instruction and will provide practical ways to embed these in the world language classroom.

**Differentiating Instruction in the Spanish FLES Classroom:** Mario Nuñez and Marcia Spielberger (Santillana/Exhibitor)

All students do not enter a FLES classroom alike. The ability, proficiency, and interest level are unique to each individual child. Differentiating instruction means providing instruction that is appropriate for all types of learners, including students with special needs and special support services, advanced learners, and heritage language learners. Presenters provide research information on FLES programs and background information on how differentiated instruction works. They demonstrate how to incorporate it into a curriculum, learning strategies, activities and instructional materials.

**Música Maestros:** Sylvia Amaya, Sandrad Rosado, Lilly Lewis, Nilsa Gomez (FL)

Come experience fun and effective methods that energize students to use presentational, interpersonal, and interpretative modes of communication through musical activities. Songs written by the Pinellas County FLES team provide the context for lively context-based language lessons. Participants will engage in model mini-lessons that include power point presentations, realia, props and sing-alongs. Handout available.

**Become Your Best Advocate—Articulation & Advocacy:** Sandra Schoder, Beatrix Preusse-Burr, Carmen Carracelas (NNELL sponsored)

This regional NNELL business meeting and networking session addresses advocacy strategies, articulation within and between programs, and the needs of educators and administrators involved in teaching world languages in grades PreK-8 in the Southeast area. The presenters introduce early language learning programs and initiatives in Fairfax County, VA and the Northeast. Bring your questions, ideas, and concerns so we can support you on your journey in the field of early language learning.

**The Arts Take You Beyond the Classroom:** Sandra Schoder (NNELL)

Learn strategies for integrating the arts in lessons, thematic units, or textbook work. See how visual arts, photography, music, movement, dance, literature and poetry enhance not only cultural understanding and knowledge, but rather language learning, fluency, literacy, and motivation of learners. Participants engage in a variety of creative, hands-on, minds-on activities which combine the arts, fun, and joy. A handout includes a list of activities ready to apply to the classroom. (Double Session)
Spice up your Classroom! Tammy Kasserman (NC)
Add some spice to your classroom to engage students in interactive learning using the target language. Activities are in Spanish but can be adapted for all languages. Handout available.

Over the river and through the FLES classroom: Cornelia Okraski (NC)
Discover fun ways to use vocabulary for woodland animals such as porcupines, squirrels and owls in order to build communication. Activities provided include speaking and listening exercises, games, crafts and songs. A variety of teaching materials (props, puppets, story ideas) are highlighted. The presentation focuses on pre-literate (pre-K through grade 2) French instruction with similar materials in Spanish. Activities are easily adapted to older FLES students and other languages.

Cartooning for the Non-Artist in the FL Classroom: Rebekah Martin-Fong (GA)
Whether your works of art are sold in galleries or your artistic talents are limited to stick-people images, cartooning for both you and your students is a fun and easy way to address multiple intelligences as well as keeping students engaged resulting in some finished student-created products for your units. Come find out how you can learn to cartoon with zeal and ease. Find out how to access free resources. Return to the classroom loaded with an arsenal of terrifically fresh and innovative ways to introduce and use cartooning throughout the year.

Interactive Content Based Second Language Teaching and Learning in the ES Classroom: Ashley Garcia & Ramon Alonso (NC)
Participate in an interactive presentation that requires movement/actions. The participants are “guided” on a tour/tours of the Solar System and/or the Earth demonstrating a few ways in which a Second Language can be taught using PowerPoint presentations, telling stories, going on virtual “tours” and incorporating important Standard Course of Study objectives of the Second Language and of other Core subjects. The presentation languages are English and Spanish, although the participants need not know Spanish. Major ideas, concepts and discussion will be in English. The language demonstrations are in Spanish with many visual aids.

Increasing Communication in the Elementary Spanish Classroom: Amy Talley (NC)
Student use of the target language is a necessary component of effective foreign language classrooms. To develop fully students' second language proficiency, development of interpersonal communication skills is critical. In this session, the presenter demonstrates how the incorporation of information gap activities and partnerships between grade levels (especially in elementary school) can increase students' interpersonal communication skills.

FLES Swap Shop:
For this year’s FLES Swapshop, we are going digital and green at the same time. Please send your original lesson plan and materials as a Microsoft Word, OpenOffice, or PDF attachment to: Sandra Schoder, NNELL Southeast Regional Representative (sandra.schoder@gmail.com). Send information by March 31, 2010. Please include on the lesson plan or the activity:
  - the grade level for which it is intended
  - objectives
  - your name and email address
  - a statement giving permission to other teachers to use the lesson plan in the footer of the page
News from the Central States - East

Lynn Sessler
Central States East Regional Representative
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The 2010 Central States Conference (CSC) will be held at the Hyatt Regency in Minneapolis, MN from March 4-6, 2010. The theme this year is “2020 Vision for 2010: Developing Global Competence”. We look forward again to joining our colleagues from the Central States West Region at this annual conference which will include many sessions for FLES educators.

Again there will be a FLES Swap shop breakfast on Saturday morning from 7:30-9:00 AM hosted by the Central States West Regional Representative. For information on conference registration deadlines, tickets for the FLES breakfast and workshops/sessions at the conference, please go to: www.csctfl.org.

CSC also provides support for Professional Development Projects. If you are looking for professional development funds for a project, check out what’s available on the CSC website: http://www.csctfl.org/CSC_grant_guidelines.htm. Deadline for submissions is January 15, 2010. Please contact Stephanie Dhonau for more information: sadhonau@ualr.edu

We want to welcome as the new NNELL state representative for Michigan. A heartwarming thank you for all the work done by Stacy Witkowski as the former Michigan state representative, for her time and commitment to early language learning and networking in the state of Michigan and beyond.

WISCONSIN
Mandy Madderom
Wisconsin State Representative
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We are very excited to be planning our 22nd annual FLES FEST in Wisconsin! The theme will be: “Assessment: Motivating Learners for Success,” and Paul Sandrock from the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction will be our keynote speaker. We hope to have many elementary, middle and high school teachers, as well as pre-service teachers and college instructors/supervisors, join us on Saturday, March 13, 2010 at UW-Waukesha.

We are also preparing for Wisconsin’s Association for Language Teachers’ annual fall conference. We have several FLES sessions at WALT this year, including a NNELL/FLES Networking session, Using Wisconsin’s Linguafolio K-8, That’s Kids’ Stuff - and It Works, How to Implement an Elementary World Language Program, and we are continuing the FLES Series with a session each year on one of the communication modes, this year focusing on the Interpersonal Mode of communication. The FLES Series will focus on a different mode of communication every year (2008: Interpretive mode, 2010: Presentational mode).

Mandy has also been working hard to set up a website for WI-NELL.ORG. She has been working with local universities to create the site and store the files for us. It will be linked to NNELLorg and also to WALT.org. Our FLESFest planning committee has helped revise the content of the website to include important contact information, upcoming conferences, on-line teaching resources, and pointers about starting and sustaining FLES programs.
Indianapolis rocked the weekend of October 2, 2009 with Helena Curtain performances Friday and Saturday. The Indiana Network for Early Language Learning (IN-NELL) organized the event in an effort to support and promote early language learning in central Indiana. On Friday morning, October 2, Helena Curtain held a roundtable with central Indiana superintendents, principals and district language supervisors. Washington Township Schools, Indianapolis, hosted the event at their Administrative Service Center. Among those represented at this key meeting were the two largest school districts in the area. Several of the attendees were so impressed with what Helena had to say, that they called several of their teachers and asked them to attend Helena’s NNELL regional workshop on Saturday, resulting in 10 on-site registrations the next day! Helena quickly engaged the administrators and generated much interest in NNELL and IN-NELL. We are hoping to follow through with this in the spring to determine if new programs have been planned, or existing programs improved.

On Friday afternoon, IN-NELL sponsored Helena at a mini-in-service at Park Tudor School, Indianapolis. Helena’s audience was Pre K - 12 and Helena stimulated some very in-depth discussion regarding methodology and what constitutes good pedagogy. A catered lunch at the Historic Landmark at Foster Hall, built in 1925, was also held and this was the summer entertainment venue of Eli Lilly in Indianapolis. On Saturday Helena presented one of her very powerful regional workshops, sponsored by NNELL. In attendance were professionals from Missouri, Ohio, and Illinois, in addition to teachers from throughout Indiana. Represented were practitioners from Pre K through 16! Languages taught among this group were French, Spanish, German, Portuguese, Chinese, Japanese, and ENL. It was an exciting, engaged and diverse audience of 60 plus and Helena immediately engage the entire audience with her TPRS expertise and stories.

Park Tudor School, Indianapolis, hosted the event in a lovely setting in the Wood Room. During breaks and lunch all had time to visit Santillana Books and The Village Experience, a fair trade retail store with products from around the world.

Judging by some of the comments overheard, Helena was outstanding. “I have been teaching for 30 years,” commented one teacher, “And I still learn something every time I attend one of her workshops.” Many teachers new to the profession left happily with a plethora of new ideas for a very productive
**MICHIGAN**

**Dr. Norma Richardson,**
Michigan State Representative
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The Michigan World Language Association’s annual conference was held on the on Thursday and Friday, October 15 & 16 at the Causeway Bay Hotel in Lansing. Norma Richardson led a NNELL Networking Session which was open for all K-8 educators, supervisors or trainers to discuss issues related to early language learners. She included information such as fliers and membership forms for joining NNELL and demonstrated a few integrated activities for the elementary world language classroom for math and science, including the use of big books and other literacy materials. Janet Glass also conducted the workshop “From Talk to Tech” and demonstrated 20 standard-based activities from a thematic unit.

Helena Curtain also presented a NNELL Regional Workshop on May 15 in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Her topic was: Balanced Approach to Pre-K-8 Foreign and Second Language Classrooms: Integrating Instruction.

**TENNESSEE**

**Christina Amezquita**
Tennessee State Representative
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**Pattie Davis-Wiley**
Tennessee State Representative
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There will be a half-day NNELL/FLES workshop and NNELL Networking Luncheon at our annual TFLTA conference in Nashville, November 13 and 14, 2009. Last Spring in early March, there was also an all-day, Saturday NNELL workshop, held for elementary and middle school World Language teachers at Belmont University in Nashville, TN (co-sponsored by TFLTA). Patricia Davis-Wiley, professor at the University of Tennessee was the keynote speaker at this event. Honored in our state is our co-representative, Christina Amezquita, a Kindergarten teacher at Glendale Spanish Immersion Elementary in Nashville, TN, who was named News 2 Educator of the Week. She has been teaching languages for 13 years. She loves helping young children learn to love languages and appreciate other cultures.

News from the Central States - West
Lindsey Cornwell
Central States West Regional Representative
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Exciting events and happenings in the Central States West: new programs, maintaining of successful programs, state and regional conferences coming up soon! We continue to work on membership in the Central States as the new school year starts, and will soon enjoy collaborating in person as our conferencing season begins!

IOWA
Jeanette Borich
Iowa State Representative
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Jeanette Borich, Iowa’s NNELL representative, has been working tirelessly to increase membership enrollment with ELL and dual language immersion teachers. She also sent several emails to organizers of the Iowa Culture and Language Conference (mostly for ELL teachers and administrators). She hosted an NNELL networking session at the Iowa World Language Association’s Annual Conference at 4:40 on October 9 in Des Moines.

We appreciated meeting both Patricia Gallegos and Beatriz Vega from San Luis Potosí, México. Here is the link to their school website that has additional information about their school student exchange programs: http://www.incerapostolica.edu.mx/index.html

Congratulations to Dr. Marcia Rosenbusch, director of the National K-12 Foreign Language Resource Center at Iowa State University and the first editor of NNELL’s journal, for her keynote speech at the IWLA conference!

NNELL CULTURE COMMITTEE UPDATE

The NNELL Cultural Committee is a result of the NNELL summer institute “Teaching Culture: Developing In-Depth Perspective” 2009. Through the exploration of the topic a goal to expand the NNELL website for the good of its members in providing a culture-guide teacher development tool was set. This tool will support experienced and beginning language teachers to explore samples of teaching and offering resources about teaching culture in the target language classroom.

The NNELL Cultural Committee is headed by Kathy Durán, NNELL Southwest Regional Rep and Sandra Schoder, NNELL Southeast Regional Rep who both were present at the summer institute and participated in the round table discussion. The following committee members have been selected: Concepcion Marín (IN), Cheryl Pappademas Berman (NH), Victoria Gilbert (NY), Yan Wang (KY), Gustavo Barros (WV), and Akiyo Hirose (CA). Welcome to the committee and thank you very much for all submissions we have received. We had a large response from many of our members and it was a hard decision to narrow the interested members down to a reasonably sized committee.
MINNESOTA

Kathy Olson-Studler,
Minnesota State Representative
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NNELL MN Swapshop and networking session coming up!

Greetings from Minnesota! Welcome back to the classroom! In Minnesota we are busy getting ready for the fall MCTLC world language and culture conference. EMC Paradigm will be sponsoring a NNELL MN swapshop and networking breakfast at the Earle Brown Heritage Center in Broolyn Center, Mn. on Friday, October 16. Paulino Brener, from Argentina and Linda Chang, from China will teach a dance (“Camavalito”) and culture of Carnaval in Jujuy, Argentina and Linda will present on content-based teaching. There will also be a NNELL table at the conference for disseminating information about this great professional organization and recruiting new members.

The theme of the 2009 fall MCTLC world language and culture conference is: “Exploring the Multilingual Universe” at the Earle Brown Heritage Center, Brooklyn Center, High School, and the Embassy Suites. Dr. Teresa Kennedy whose expertise is content-based education, will be the keynote speaker at this state language conference. She is the the Deputy Director of the GLOBE program (www.globe.gov). We are really looking forward to hearing her speak! For more information on the great conference planned go to www.mctlc.org

New FLES program in Minnesota! Fall 2009

Congratulations to the new Spanish FLES program implemented by Moundsview Elementary this fall! Minnesota continues to be a leader in implementing new immersion and FLES programs in foreign language education. We are grateful for such supportive administrations.

Annual Mexico Exchange at St. Paul Academy and Summit School

At this juncture, St. Paul Academy and Summit School is busy preparing its 20th annual Mexico Exchange with students, a teacher and the Head of their partner school from Guadalajara, Mexico from October 24-Nov. 1. This unique opportunity allows students from both cultures to meet each other and to practice the languages they are studying, to participate in classes sharing the Spanish language and culture and to visit cultural sites in and around the Twin Cities and Duluth.

Central States Conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota this spring!

I want to invite you to Minnesota from March 4-6, 2010 for the Central States Conference to be held at the Hyatt Regency, Minneapolis, Minnesota. The theme is: “2020 Vision for 2010.” There will be a NNELL Breakfast and Swapshop offered! If interested, go to www.cscfl.org for more information on this great conference.

See you at the ACTFL conference in San Diego in November 2009! “Speaking up for Languages: The power of many voices.”

I look forward to networking with all my professional colleagues from across this great nation at the ACTFL conference in San Diego, California in November 2009!
News from the Pacific Northwest

Dr. Carolyn Taylor
Pacific Northwest Regional Representative
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PNCFL Annual Meeting
This year marks the 60th anniversary of the Pacific Northwest Council for Languages. Come visit the PNCFL booth in San Diego at the expo center at ACTFL to help celebrate this momentous occasion. PNCFL held its annual meeting in Boise, Idaho October 2, 2009 during the Idaho Association of Teachers of Languages and Cultures (IATLC) conference. The PNCFL Teacher of the Year is Renee Fritzen, Spanish teacher at Campbell County High School in Gillette, Wyoming. Renee believes that creativity in the classroom keeps students motivated to continue their language study. She is a strong proponent of integrating the arts into the foreign language curriculum to foster growth of the “whole learner”.

ALASKA
Janice Gullickson
Alaska State Representative
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HAWAII
Representative needed

IDAHO
Representative needed

MONTANA
Lynette Pottenger
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OREGON
Representative needed

WASHINGTON
Michèle Anciaux Aoki
Washington State Representative
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WYOMING
Cassandra Celaya
Wyoming State Representative
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Toni Theisen, ACTFL Teacher of the Year presented an engaging session on using 21st century tools to support and challenge 21st century learners. Toni highlighted ways to integrate Wikispaces, Vokis, Toondoo, Wordle, Flickr, Piclits, Google docs, Twitter and Facebook into proficiency-based, authentic language learning contexts. Her materials can be accessed at http://tonitheisen.wikispaces.com.

In his conference session, Greg Hopper-More, PNCFL Executive Director, shared information about resources and professional development opportunities for teachers in the PNCFL region. PNCFL, together with the Center for Applied Second Language Studies (CASLS) at the University of Oregon, have partnered in instituting the Western Initiative for Language Leadership (WILL) for second language teachers in the Pacific Northwest. This professional development opportunity brings together language teachers who participate in developing action research and leadership projects over a two summer period. Results from these projects are shared at state conferences, and past participants are invited to serve as mentors to the next group of teachers. For more information about WILL, visit http://www.pncfl.org.

Another exciting CASLS initiative is A National Virtual Language Lab (ANVILL), which enables users to access online language learning tools free of charge. To learn how to incorporate ANVILL into your classroom and apply for an account to access the resources, go to http://casls.uoregon.edu/anvill.php.

The following presentations were given at the Wyoming Foreign Language Teachers’ Association conference October 15-17, 2009 and are available to download at http://www.wflta.org.

- Patti Lozano ~ FL Learning through Music & Drama
- Loving Learning Languages Presentations: Sessions I & II
- Laura Terrill ~ Literacy in the FL Classroom
- Focus on Literacy Presentation
- Strategic Writing Presentation
- Kyle Ennis ~ Avant Assessment
- Assessment Rater Training Presentation
- Dr. Carolyn Taylor ~ The Wyoming-Bolivia Partnership
- Project Citizen as a Vehicle for Cross-cultural Interdisciplinary Collaboration between Teacher Education Programs
WASHINGTON

Michèle Anciaux Aoki
Washington State Representative
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Early Language Learning is going mainstream in Washington State. There are now regular sessions on FLES and immersion at our regional and state Washington State Association for Language Teaching (WAFLT) conferences, as well as many workshops oriented to early language learning throughout the year. We have a group of several dozen Chinese teachers going through Alternate Route Certification (to earn a K-12 World Language Endorsement in Chinese) and many of them are choosing to also get a K-8 Endorsement so they will be able to teach in our expanding Chinese immersion programs at the elementary level. As part of their program they have been developing curriculum for, then teaching in, a Startalk language camp for children coordinated by Betty Lau in Seattle.

This summer, I collaborated with our Bilingual Education program at the state level to sponsor a "2-day, 2-way" workshop for teachers and administrators involved in two-way dual language programs (basically, Spanish in our state), as well as immersion programs (Spanish, Japanese, and Chinese -- in the public schools). The first day featured Mimi Met in a workshop on "Enhancing Multilingual Outcomes for Bilingual and Monolingual Students" that focused on developing academic literacy to support two-way dual and immersion programs beyond the elementary years. The second day I presented a familiarization workshop on the Center for Applied Linguistics ELLOPA and SOPA (Early Language Learning Oral Proficiency Assessment and Student Oral Proficiency Assessment). The Bilingual teachers, in particular, were intrigued with the orientation of these assessments to help students show what they CAN do in the language, rather than focusing on their errors.

In September, Seattle Schools sponsored a NOELLA Scoring Conference with Kyle Ennis from Avant Assessment (which is well-known for offering the STAMP assessment). During the workshop, Kyle trained Japanese, Chinese, and Spanish teachers to rate NOELLA (National Online Early Language Learning Assessment) samples in writing and speaking. Then the teachers actually rated, in groups, all the pilot samples collected from our participating language programs from the spring. It was a very interesting process. Everyone agreed that it was faster and more accurate to rate in a team rather than on their own. Although the samples were from 3rd graders and a few immersion 5th graders, and not terribly sophisticated yet, the teachers really got the message that they need to give their students more opportunities to do free writing (without scaffolding). They can do it! It was especially cute to see what the 3rd grade Chinese students produced, having never learned to type on a computer in Chinese before. Kids are ingenious! (Of course, in the future when we use NOELLA, we'll make sure that the teachers do familiarize their students with computer input in advance.)

One of the most joyous events this fall was the screening of the wonderful documentary on Chinese and Spanish immersion programs in San Francisco, "Speaking in Tongues." It was sponsored by the Northwest Film Forum, and Sponge School organized a panel following the afternoon showing with principals from several immersion programs and local experts on immersion, as well as the film's directors. Watching the film was like seeing "our" stories from immersion programs unfold before our eyes. What a great resource. If you have not seen it yet, by all means obtain a copy and show it everywhere. I'm sure the directors would love to hear from you.

http://www.patchworksfilms.net/
News from the Southwest
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Southwest Regional Representative
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COLORADO
Kathy Duran
Colorado State Representative
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Spotlight on Global Village Academy:

Global Village Academy (GVA) first opened in 2007 in Aurora, Colorado (Denver Metro area). GVA has 518 students and offers language immersion education in Mandarin, Spanish, French, and English. GVA is developing world language immersion education as a school reform model, combined with cultural competency, international education, and 21st Century skills.

GVA was recently awarded a five-year $1.4 million grant in September of 2009. GVA plans to replicate their model to other schools in the Denver area, partner with the Community College of Aurora to offer Chinese language courses for eligible high school students, and providing teachers with intensive professional development in Chinese immersion.

GVA was also awarded a $80,000 StarTalk grant to offer language immersion training in Mandarin for up to 20 teachers from Colorado and $100,000 to develop training materials.

For more information please visit the website: www.globalvillageacademy.org.
Increasing Students' Communication through Partner Gap Activities  
Fri, Nov 20 - 6:15pm - 7:15pm / San Diego Convention Center, Room 25B  
Presenters: Tamera Dann and Lindsey Cornwell

This session showcases the use of information gap activities, which increase the amount and level of communication in world language classes. Presenters will share examples of gap activities, along with ideas and materials for immediate implementation. Attendees learn how to develop activities that can be easily incorporated into their curriculum.

NNELL Annual Swap Shop Breakfast  
Sat, Nov 21 - 7:30am - 9:30am / San Diego Convention Center, Ballroom 6E

This annual breakfast provides attendees an opportunity to network with early language learning professionals. A plethora of activities from colleagues in the profession will be shared. Keynote speaker Marty Abbott will speak on advocacy.

NNELL Annual Business Meeting and State/Regional Representatives Networking Session  
Sat, Nov 21 - 10:00am - 11:15am / Marriott Hotel, Torrey 2

Everyone is invited to attend this session to gain important insight into the mission and workings of NNELL. Regional and state representatives will be introduced and report on initiatives supporting early language learning. Participants will be able to discuss the implementation and maintenance of programs.

Starting a State Early Language Learning Network  
Sat, Nov 21 - 1:00pm - 2:00pm / San Diego Convention Center, Room 22

Presenter: Joanne Jones, Pamela Gemmer, Frank Regich, and Nicci Saari

This presentation will feature the genesis of the Indiana Network For Early Language Learning, one of the most successful early language learning organizations inspired by the National Network for Early Language Learning. We will explore the “How to’s” of organizing, recruiting, leadership, and advocacy.

Let's Make Music: The Power of Many Voices  
Sat, Nov 21 - 4:15pm - 5:15pm / San Diego Convention Center, Room 22

Presenter: Amanda Seewald

This session will focus on the value of music as a tool for instruction and learning. Participants will have a unique opportunity to work interactively on song development with other teachers. Each participant will come away with materials for classroom use as well as guidelines and ideas for curriculum integration.
Important Dates

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Dates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACTFL Convention, San Diego</td>
<td>November 20-22, 2009</td>
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<tr>
<td>MLA, Philadelphia</td>
<td>December 27-30, 2009</td>
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<td>CSC TFL, Minneapolis</td>
<td>March 4-6, 2010</td>
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<tr>
<td>NECTFL, New York</td>
<td>March 25-27, 2010</td>
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<tr>
<td>SWCOLT, Albuquerque</td>
<td>April 8-10, 2010</td>
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<td>SCOLT, Winston-Salem</td>
<td>April 15-17, 2010</td>
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NNELL Regional Professional Development Workshops

NNELL is busy planning its slate of 2009-2010 Regional Professional Development Workshops. Stay tuned to www.nnell.org for important announcements as they develop.

Attention State Representatives

Thank you for your submissions of state news for this newsletter! The next deadline for news to your Regional Representatives is January 29.