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In this issue of NYSAFLT News, you'll get to know Brianna Jaspersohn and catch up with past president Nancy Ketz. You'll also find regional news along with updates from the Public Advocacy committee, information about the DesignSpace website and more!

If you don't see all of these important futures, there's a possibility that the newsletter is being truncated by your email server. Be sure to scroll all the way to the bottom and to click on "View entire message" so that you don't miss a thing!

[Click here to check your membership status.](#)

The President's Corner

I hope that 2021 has started off positively and productively for you. Wherever and whatever you are teaching, I am certain that you are pivoting and learning as you move forward. Wouldn't you agree that at this time of the year we can always use a little inspiration in the classroom? Well, you are in luck, as NYSAFLT is offering several options!



Awards, Grants, and Scholarships: Did you know that NYSAFLT offers many awards, grants, and scholarships? It is a great way to promote your program, your colleagues and your students. Several awards have deadlines in March and April so check out the awards section on [our website](#) and get going!

Webinars: NYSAFLT offers quality one-hour webinars throughout the year, [all for CTLE credit](#). They are free for members and convenient to attend. Our next webinar on **March 15** features **Melanie Thomas**, one of our regional directors for Western New York. She will present "Rethinking Grading Practices in a Communicative Classroom." On **May 4**, past president **Beth Slocum** will present "Shifting Academic Mindset: Lessons learned from Action Research in Actionable Corrective Feedback." Webinars are free to members only and you may watch them for CTLE credit at the time they are scheduled OR as a recording at your convenience.

NYSAFLT Virtual Spring Conference (aka NYSA-Fair): It's not too late to join our co-chairs **Marissa Coulehan** and **Françoise Piron**, who have prepared a fantastic line up of educator-presenters who are ready to share and inspire: all from the comfort of your home!

NYSAFLT Virtual Summer Institute: You can get ready for the new 2021–2022 academic year with workshops on a variety of relevant topics, including the revised New York State world language standards. And it's online, so no need to interrupt your summer plans. Save the dates: **July 29–August 6!**

NYSAFLT Annual Conference: We are planning on a hybrid event in Syracuse this year. Save the dates of **October 22–23**. It is a really valuable way to kick off your academic year!

Consider [presenting](#) at the NYSAFLT Annual Conference. We are always looking for people with passion, creativity and energy! The deadline to submit a proposal is **April 30**.

NYSAFLT Advocacy Center: Check out updates on whom you can contact and how you can help, as the revised world language standards are introduced to the Board of Regents.

Take a moment and take a breath to acknowledge all you have done this year for your students. Now let NYSAFLT help you do something for yourself as you close out this school year!

Cheers,

Sally Barnes

Annual Conference



Greetings, NYSA-friends!

With the near-complete adoption of updated standards for our field, we are looking forward to the 2021 NYSAFLT Annual Conference, *Rooted, Strong, and Growing with New Standards in NYS*, to be held **October 22–23, 2021** at the Holiday Inn, Syracuse, NY. As we align our own state standards with those of ACTFL, we will focus on our own re-education of what proficiency looks like, how we can include culture and equity most effectively in the curriculum, and what language teaching methods can be honed for bringing out the best in any teaching situation.

As always, our vision is to bring together all those involved in the teaching and promotion of world languages, including researchers and educators at every level, across New York State.

The program will include three-hour pre-conference workshops for in-depth learning, as well as a wide variety of one-hour sessions over the course of the conference. We welcome all proposals – those with a connection to our theme, as well as those that address topics of general interest in the field. We encourage both veteran and new teachers to submit proposals; while those who have been teaching for a while can share their successes, our new colleagues can share new perspectives and points of view as well. Need some guidance on how to best write a workshop proposal? Check out this [video](#) for suggestions and inspiration!

We have made provisions for the possibility of going virtual, if need be...BUT I sincerely hope that we can see each other on-site in Syracuse!

Please visit www.nysafilt.org/annual-conference for additional information and to submit your proposal. Do not hesitate to pass the link on to anyone you feel has a message and a voice that needs to be heard! Proposals are due by **April 30, 2021**. Any questions should be directed to info@nysafilt.org.

I'm looking forward to the many things you are doing for world language education in New York State!

Jenny Delfini

ROOTED, STRONG AND GROWING *with new standards in NYS*



Member Spotlight

In this issue of NYS AFLT News, **Brianna Jaspersohn** shares her NYS AFLT story!

While attending NYS AFLT conferences or workshops you may have heard the phrase "tapped me on the shoulder." This is how my NYS AFLT story began six short years ago. I was tapped on the shoulder by **Françoise Piron**, a colleague, mentor, and friend whom I had gotten to know during our regional assessment writing workshops. Swaz convinced me that NYS AFLT was a must-do as a French teacher and that I needed to attend the annual conference and become a member as soon as possible. As a result of her urging, in the fall of 2015 I was fortunate enough to attend the annual conference in Saratoga Springs.



Realizing that I wanted to be more involved, I volunteered that year at the hospitality booth. The following year, I began, in the words of **John Carlino**, my role as a "face of NYS AFLT." That was my first year as the AV volunteer working with **Mike Mitchell**. Since then, I have continued to serve on the AV committee and last year in 2020 I began my first year as a regional director for Central New York. Though I still think of myself as a NYS AFLT newbie, I feel incredibly blessed to have been brought into the NYS AFLT-family. NYS AFLT has helped me so much as a professional and I am honored to help the organization in some small way.

Attending NYS AFLT annual conferences inspired me and several other colleagues in northern New York to create the Foreign Languages of Northern New York Leaders (FLANNYL) in 2017. Our goal is to increase connections between the world language teachers of the northern New York area, as many of us are often departments of one at our small rural schools. Through FLANNYL connections I have met so many amazing colleagues in the region and learned so much that I have brought back to my own classroom.

As a northern New York native, I still call this beautiful area home. Though a product of a very small school in Belleville, NY, I was lucky to have amazing world language teachers in elementary and high school and my love of languages started at a young age. In addition, my family hosted several foreign exchange students growing up and I knew I wanted to learn about other people and places in the world. My interests in other cultures grew when I attended Hartwick College in Oneonta, NY. At Hartwick, I participated in some really unique travel and study opportunities. While an undergraduate student, I worked on the 2004 presidential primaries in New Hampshire, studied literature in Ireland, student-taught on the island of Anguilla, and attended the Université de Québec à Chicoutimi. In 2007, I graduated with a degree in French and German. Upon graduation, I was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship and spent the following year as an English teaching assistant in Gevelsberg, Germany. This experience was a defining moment for me both as a person and as a teacher.

Currently, I am in my 11th year teaching French at LaFargeville Central School and it may be the most challenging time of my career thus far. In a school that has two world language teachers, I am the only French teacher. The connections I have made regionally and statewide have been invaluable to me. I have learned so much from my colleagues near and far and am excited to continue my involvement in NYS AFLT for years to come. Outside of the classroom, I am an advisor of our school's drama club, The Opening Knights, and have co-directed our last 9 musical productions. While the COVID pandemic has put that pastime on hold, I look forward to working with students in our music department in the future.

On a personal note, my husband Robert and I recently purchased our first home and have been working hard to make it our own. We have a 3-year-old named Phoebe who is excitedly awaiting the arrival of her new baby sister in May. We enjoyed having lots of extra time to spend together this past year but are looking forward to being able to see extended family, travel together, and make memories outside of the home again soon!

Where Are They Now?



In this issue, we check in with past president **Nancy Ketz!**

My career path is probably quite different from most others: it was a series of challenges, lucky breaks, shoulder-taps, and being in the right place at the right time. The year I graduated from SUNY Albany, State Ed had just dropped the language requirement, so jobs were hard to come by. I was lucky to be hired 2 days before the school year started, by a tiny rural district. I was the entire language department and had 6 preps every night for French, grades 7-12. I had no colleagues, no Internet and no knowledge of any professional organizations. Much of my early career was based on trial-and-error survival teaching. I desperately needed help!

Things changed in 1988 when I won a State Ed scholarship to study at the *Centre de Recherches et d'Applications Pédagogiques en Langues* at the Université de Nancy. My fluency improved that summer, and I learned dozens of techniques to promote speaking skills. The only caveat to this award was the requirement to present to a professional group. Still not

aware of any organizations, I was lucky that the superintendent's conference day that year was a county-wide, subject-specific meeting. I was put on the agenda. As I watched the teachers enter the room, it was obvious that they had a lot more experience than me. My survival skills kicked in. I switched from a lecture on techniques to an invitation to share ways that they have used similar methods. I quickly learned that we are all experts with something to share, and we all walked away with a much richer arsenal of ideas than I could have ever presented alone. I got a taste of the importance of professional collaboration, and I wanted more. This was the point where I felt I changed from a solo survival teacher to a budding professional.

The following year I transferred to the Holland Patent CSD, still small and rural, but with a collaborative 5-teacher LOTE department. I had the privilege of working with **Rose Hosp**, who not only shared with me her expertise on teaching and classroom management, but also introduced me to 2 organizations that proved to be the connections I had been seeking for so long. I learned about NYSAFLT and attended my first annual conference at the Concord. My memories were of a tacky hotel, but also amazingly confident, experienced, respected professionals who didn't hesitate to share and encourage. This first conference confirmed for me that I was in line with the best practices of teaching, but I also walked away with a wealth of new ideas that I was eager to implement into my lessons. This was the first of many years as an attendee.

Rose also introduced me to the NYSUT-sponsored teacher center. I joined her on this committee and soon learned about a small grant opportunity with the NYS Academy for Teaching and Learning. The requirement was to create a unit aligned to the NYS Learning Standards. With only 2 LOTE standards, I had no trouble creating a "movies" unit. It was recommended to have someone from a different discipline proof-read before submitting. Imagine my surprise when the biology teacher who proofed for me mentioned that my unit incorporated standards from math, science and technology. This was a "light-bulb" moment. I researched all 28 NYS standards and realized that LOTE incorporates all of them! I presented my unit to the NYSATL peer review, was inducted into the academy, and decided it was time to go to the NYSAFLT annual conference, not as an attendee, but as a first-time presenter.

Presenting at the NYSAFLT annual conference was the beginning of many "shoulder-taps" and open doors. It was at that conference that I re-connected with Elizabeth Sheffer, NYSUT director for Subject Area Committees (including LOTE) and former classmate from the 6th grade. I soon found myself on the SAC, collaborating on numerous workshops with NYSAFLT superstars **Linda Zusman** and Jan Strauss. My focus, of course, was LOTE's connection to the 28 standards. Another door opened when I was asked to convert my workshop to a journal article. This was the 1st of 4 articles I've had published so far.

It was around this time when I became aware of National Board Certification, which would soon be available to world languages. I had 2 years to think about it, but I knew that learning, leading and professional collaboration were a big part of it, and I hadn't done much as a leader or collaborator to this point; I was still learning! An opportunity arose when our BOCES Teacher Center was looking for a facilitator for a county-wide LOTE network. With the teaching center, I organized and facilitated this group for its first 3 years. I had the pleasure of working with experts from local districts, including Liz Sacco, **Lucille Matt**, and of course, the infamous **Lou Baskinger**! I was unknown at first, but not for long. Our first year was devoted to trying to save our language programs' upper levels. 30 teachers worked on a presentation for our county's guidance counselors. Unfortunately, the counselors only wanted a 10-minute presentation from 2 people, so Lou and I focused on our 3 biggest arguments and it worked! Students had been dropping language study after Level III, but as a result of our presentation, the districts chose to strengthen Level IV-V by offering college dual credit with MVCC. These programs are still thriving! My gradual growth in leadership encouraged me to challenge the National Board Certification, which I achieved in 2003. This, in turn, led to several years as a mentor to new NBC candidates as well as my second journal article, a collaboration with Maureen Shiland and Dr. Stacy Bernstein.

I continued to present at the NYSAFLT annual conference and summer institute. At this point, **Lou Baskinger** nominated me for the NYSAFLT board of directors and I won the election. Lou, as the new president, informed me that all board members chair a committee and the only committee vacant was advocacy. I had no clue what this involved, but I had to organize a lobby visit in Albany. I relied on collaboration and after a series of meetings with the NYSUT Lobby Counsel, who guided me through the process, over a dozen NYSAFLT members participated. This eventually led to numerous legislative visits, phone calls, letters, etc, and eventually regular attendance at Board of Regents' meetings. This was a dangerous time for LOTE; there was talk of dropping the comprehensive and proficiency exams, which eventually were cut. As chair of the advocacy committee, I was also responsible for a committee to work up articles for the website and gather articles for hand-outs, continuing the diligent work started by **Judy Martialay** and Louise Terry, and eventually handing off these responsibilities to the competent hands of **Marie Campanaro** and **Barb Patterson**. I learned so much from my work with advocacy, and this also led to several advocacy workshops at the annual and regional conferences, as well as another article for the journal.

With encouragement from NYSAFLT professionals, my leadership and collaboration had grown. It was at this point that **Joanne O'Toole** invited me to consider running for 2nd vice president. I was hesitant at first, but figured I would have 3 years of learning before the presidency, so I agreed. I hadn't anticipated that, due to a resignation, I would be promoted to the office of 1st vice president, and my first responsibility on the executive committee was to chair the annual conference. I was terrified at first but of course, the conference committee had everything under control; with cooperation, collaboration and patience, everything came together as usual.

The next few years on the executive board were amazing, continuing with keynotes and presentations on standards and advocacy, attending many of the regional conferences from Valhalla to Beekmantown, from Saratoga to Hamburg, from Gouverneur to Watkins Glen. Everywhere I went, I met vibrant, innovative professionals. Gradually my original presentation on the 28 NY standards had now morphed into connecting with the new Common Core Standards.

Looking back, it's amazing to see how my career evolved. Having craved professional collaboration during my first years of teaching, I'm able to see very clearly just how crucial it is; not just for learning new things, sharing, and gaining confidence, but for the opportunity to meet professionals who could mentor, guide, and encourage me to achieve my potential. It's obvious to me now that others recognized my possibilities before I did, and I'm eternally grateful to the amazing NYSAFLT professionals who encouraged me along my path.

After retirement and completion of the NYSAFLT executive cycle, I've been volunteering for AARP as a legislative lobbyist for senior issues (using my advocacy skills) and as a Speakers' Bureau presenter, while also full-time caregiving. For the past 3 years, I've been taking classes at MVILR (Learning in Retirement) where I also facilitate the "Conversational French" classes for senior citizens who studied French 50 years ago and want to resurrect and improve their skills. I'm currently the president-elect of MVILR, ready to lead our transition from Zoom lectures back to live interactive classes. I'm also on the board of directors and secretary for CNY Arts. My guilty pleasure has been international travel, including visits to Tunisia, Botswana, Panama, Spain, Portugal, Malaysia and Vietnam. When the pandemic restrictions are lifted, Morocco is next on my list.

Regional News



Mid-Hudson Westchester

PWRFL has had a busy start to 2021 and has already offered two virtual workshops: "Projects that Are Easy to Grade" and "PearDeck Part 2." We are excited to continue our webinar series for this year with a presentation in February on Nearpod by Fatima Elmouchtari. On **March 4, 2021** from 4-5p.m. we will offer "Using Brackets in the Classroom (music, commercials and more)" by **Deirdre Kelly**! All members of PWRFL are eligible to receive one hour of CTLE credit for attending our virtual webinars! Anyone who has not yet signed up for PWRFL for this school year can register on our [website](#)!

NYC- Long Island

LILT Updates:

Long Island Language Teachers will be holding a virtual video contest and a poster contest for students this winter. Teachers are encouraged to submit their students' work in both competitions. The theme for this year's poster contest is "Languages Break Barriers." These competitions are a great way to encourage students to be creative and proud of their accomplishments. Visit www.liltfl.org for more information.



LILT has also been running virtual professional development sessions to help support the language teachers on Long Island. **Anna Domingo** recently ran a session entitled "Movie Talks: An Un-intimidating Introduction." In her session participants were introduced to movie talks and learned strategies for using this tool to engage learners and reach 90% target language use in the classroom. **TinaMarie DeFalco** also presented a session entitled "40-4-3: 40 Minutes, 4 Skills, 3 Modes of Communication." TinaMarie spoke about differentiating student-centered instruction through the application of the four skills of language learning.

World language administrators PLC:

Jill Schimmel, Senior Director of World Languages at the NYCDOE DML has created a monthly PLC for world language administrators. We extend a thank you to Leo Smith Serra and **Vivian Selenikas** from Long Island City High School for sharing information about the thoughtful programs designed to serve heritage and native Spanish speakers in their community. During the **December 9** session, we deepened our shared understanding of resources available from the Division of Multilingual Learners to support MLLs/ ELLs across all content areas, re-established our learning community, to reflect on our own roles, as well as discussed promising practices around feedback on teacher practice in remote learning. We also considered ways to "know your teachers well" to inform professional learning to guide them along the Educator's Path to Proficiency

The **January 26** PLC meeting featured Elizabeth Messmann at FDR High School, sharing her world language/ENL department's journey to develop curricular units in alignment with the principles of CRSE and the upcoming standards shifts.

NYC Russian Olympiad:

Every year, Staten Island Technical High School in collaboration with ACTR hosts the NYC Russian Olympiad. ACTR Olympiada of Spoken Russian is an amazing celebration for the learners of the Russian language and culture in New York City. This school year, it will be conducted VIRTUALLY on **March 25-26, 2021**.

The Olympiada of Spoken Russian is a unique national event for Russian language learners and heritage speakers. There are 3 commissions that the students compete in and the students are registered by level depending on their Russian language proficiency and experience. Each regional contest should follow the format of the International Olympiada:

Commission I: Speaking about yourself, everyday conversation
Commission II: Civilization
Commission III: Reading and discussion; recitation of a poem

If you would like more information about the competition itself, please visit <https://www.actr.org/olympiada-of-spoken-russian.html>

AP for All:

AP for All (Office of Equity and Access-NYCDOE) is very excited to continue engaging with its diverse and dedicated Spanish teacher community through professional development sessions, after school meetups, and lab classroom intervisitation. In Semester 2, we will start our PD series, focused on fostering equity for all students, with two interactive sessions, "Building Classroom Community Online" (February) and "Afro-descent From New York to Santiago to Your Classroom" (March).

Likewise, we are elated to continue hosting our Spanish AP Teacher Learning Community (Comunidad Colaborativa de Profesores de Español de NYC) virtual meetups, an opportunity for New York City Spanish teachers to connect, collaborate, support, and grow with other educators. We plan to host 21 sessions this year!

Finally, we also cannot wait to start our Spanish Lab Classroom Intervisitation Cycle 2 (10 sessions, from February to April 2021), following a very successful Cycle 1 series (2020). The intervisitations are a professional learning experience for Spanish educators through virtual intervisitations centered on Spanish content-related pedagogy, focusing on student engagement and checking for understanding in an online learning setting, using an SEL (Social Emotional)/CRT (Culturally Relevant Teaching) lens. The expectation is that participants look for effective practices to implement in their classrooms. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact **Marisol Manriquez-Weiner**, the Spanish Content Specialist for AP for All at Mweiner@schools.nyc.gov.



Western New York

Virtual greetings! (That feels like all I do these days.) My name is **Melanie Thomas** and I am pleased to be serving as the new regional director for Western New York along with **Michael LaPaglia**. I teach Spanish at Spencerport High School. I received my Bachelor of Arts from SUNY Oswego and my Master of Teaching Languages from the University of Southern Mississippi where I learned about Second Language Acquisition. In Spencerport, I serve as the department teacher leader, the advisor for Hispanic Honor Society and the Seal of Biliteracy coordinator.

I also work with **Beth Slocum** as the NYSAFLT Leaders of Tomorrow coordinator. I am very excited to become involved in this new role with NYSAFLT this year. I love working with language teachers and am passionate about authenticity in language education...authentic language, authentic relationships, authentic materials. I truly appreciate this community and look forward to working more closely with the teachers of the Western New York region over the next few years! Please feel free to reach out to me to share and celebrate classroom activities, student successes, and department happenings.

AATF of WNY

The AATF-WNY is planning a virtual Soirée Poésie-Musique in March with awards available for participants. Students and teachers will be encouraged to submit videos of students reading poetry, singing/playing a song or reading prose. The best videos will be uploaded to our YouTube channel for viewing on **March 18, 2021**.

Public Advocacy

NYS Board of Regents

The proposed name change of LOTE to WL, the revised world language standards, and the timeline for each was **presented** to the Board of Regents by **Candace Black**, Associate of Instructional Services, NYSED OBEWL, on **December 14, 2020**, along with **Dr. Joanne O'Toole**, and Rachael Wolfe, a Seneca language teacher from Salamanca HS. Approval for these changes has been moved to March of 2021 - so there is still time to contact your NYS Board of Regent member to let them know you support these changes.

We have very little communication to the Board of Regents from the NYS downstate area, since regional conferences were canceled due to COVID before the original postcard campaign could be carried out. Easy steps for finding and emailing your **Regent** can be found

at these links along with a letter [template](#). Letters written by your organization's leadership (as well as its members) will have a powerful impact on our mission.

NYSUT Special Area Committee (SAC)

The New York State United Teachers (NYSUT) World Language Subject Area Committee (SAC) is an advisory body of educators that develops positions and recommends actions NYSUT should consider. The members drive the committee's agenda so that it is reflective of the local, state and national issues impacting world languages.

Susan Lafond, Assistant in Educational Services at NYSUT, now heads this committee. We are fortunate that Susan has experience as a world language educator since she was a French, Spanish and ENL teacher at Guilderland High School. For this new term, we have representatives from all around the state. There are six returning members: Tiffany Bratz, Lela Dunbar, **Barbara Patterson** (committee chair), Janice Strauss, Scott Wilkolaski and **Diana Zuckerman**. In addition, we welcomed nine new members: Jean Cowan, Maria Elena Guzman, **Denise Mahns**, Michael Matz, Kellmie Moreno, Jane Murlin, Angelique Perez, Priscilla Sanchez and Sabine Wintermute.

The committee met virtually in February with a presentation from **Candace Black**, World Languages Associate, on the proposed world language standards and to develop goals for the 2020–23 term. The topics of interest, in no particular order are: edTPA, teacher recruitment, supporting the new standards, resolution of the term "core," a world language pamphlet, retention of students between checkpoints, and promoting early language learning and long sequences. In future meetings, we will prioritize and address these topics. You can express your concerns and solutions on these topics to the above members or send them to lmsspanish32@gmail.com.

Speak up for NYS Schools

Let your legislators know that our schools need to be a budget priority in 2021. Visit NYSUT's ["Take Action"](#) page and ask for funding to be restored to public schools and institutions of higher learning!

"CORE" No More!

It's time to eliminate the term "CORE" from our vocabulary.

The No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) of 2001 defined some academic subjects as "CORE." This labeling of certain subjects as "CORE" created a perceived hierarchy and placed a value judgment on courses that resulted in divisiveness among educational stakeholders.

Students need a well-rounded education, encompassing all subjects and disciplines, in order to be successful in the 21st century. Diverse educational choices provide students with opportunities to flourish using skills and talents from areas they might otherwise never have explored.

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) of 2015 does not use the term "CORE" when addressing courses of study. It is time for us to align our language with the ESSA. All courses are academic. Henceforth, use the term academic areas, academic courses, academic subjects, academic classes, or academic programs. We also need to educate our administrators and colleagues on the elimination of the word "CORE" and lead by using the appropriate terms. World language courses are academic courses and are as important to a student's well-rounded education as others.

On the National Level

Every year, world language educators from across the U.S. gather in Washington, D.C., through the Joint National Committee for Languages - National Council For Languages and International Studies (JNCL NCLIS) to advocate for world language education. This year's advocacy days were completely virtual and NYSAFLT was well represented with president **Sally Barnes**, executive director **John Carlino**, first vice-president **Marissa Coulehan**, and our advocacy committee co-chairs **Barbara Patterson** and **Marie Campanaro**. Other NY language teachers rounded out the team, including Dr. Erin Kearney.

The entire NY team virtually met with the staff from the offices of Senators Charles Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand, and then split forces to meet with the following members of the U.S. Congress: Brian Higgins (D-NY26), Mondaire Jones (D-NY17), John Katko (R-NY24), Carolyn Maloney (D-NY12), Sean Patrick Maloney (NY-18) Joe Morelle (D -NY25) and Lee Zeldin (R-NY3).



Virtual participants of JNCL NCLIS advocacy days.

Here are the main issues we asked of our legislators, with a brief summary for each:

#1 Support the World Language Advancement and Readiness Program (WLARA)

Congress included \$15 million in 2021 to begin the [World Language Advancement and Readiness Grant Program](#). The bill was introduced as a response to the 2017 report of the [Academy of Arts and Sciences](#) which details the critical shortfalls of language and cultural skills in the U.S., and specifically targets the needs of the U.S. military and intelligence sectors. The funds will support world language programs in Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) schools and schools which host Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) programs. Although the focus of these monies is defense, schools which host Junior ROTC programs are also eligible for funding, and will therefore open opportunities for many more students as well as world language teacher training. We asked our senators and members of Congress to approve \$15 million for the 2022 fiscal year.

#2 Support forthcoming legislation that will provide federal funding for equitable implementation of programs to enable every student the opportunity to earn the Seal of Biliteracy. (See our impressive [NYS statistics](#)!)

#3 Co-sponsor the Native American Language Resource Center Act Bill when it is introduced.

New York State is home to many indigenous peoples. Despite 30 years of the Native American Languages Act, our indigenous languages remain on the brink of extinction. According to the findings from the 2017 report referenced earlier, "every Native American language other than Navajo has fewer than 20,000 speakers and many are down to less than 10 speakers." Beyond the value of preserving important cultural heritage, research has shown that instruction in Native American languages has been linked to academic achievement and gains in high school graduation rates.

This bill would amend Title 6 of the Higher Education Act to authorize the creation of a designated resource center to preserve, protect, and promote the rights and freedom of Native Americans to use, practice, and revive Native American languages.

#4 Join the Congressional America's Language Caucus

The mission of the America's Languages Caucus is to raise awareness about the importance of world language learning and international education, particularly as it relates to our nation's economic and national security. The bipartisan caucus also aims to ensure adequate resources are directed towards study of world language learning and to improve access for students and educators who wish to participate in these fields of study, including world languages, Native American languages and English for English learners.

At the time of our visits (and of this writing), this Caucus has NO representation from New York State.

WHAT YOU CAN DO!

Contact the office of your [U.S. member of Congress](#) (NOT your state representative) and ask them to support (or join) each of the above "asks".

KEEP INFORMED

The Public Advocacy Committee is continually updating and adding to our impressive

[document collection](#). Check the site regularly to stay informed. Consider ways in which your students can use these resources in your lessons. If you know of a great article that is not listed, pass it along to us!

DesignSpace

NYSAPAT DesignSpace: Let's design in the three modes together! Dr. Jennifer Eddy

The [DesignSpace](#) is a free, online tool for you and colleagues to design tasks in the three modes of communication for intercultural competence and to develop specific Can-Do Statements for them, keeping Seal of Biliteracy goals in mind. With these tools, you can design interpretive, interpersonal, and presentational mode tasks around a common theme, topic, and context. You can design these exemplars for our checkpoints or for any target levels you wish: Novice Mid-High, Intermediate Low-Mid, Intermediate Mid-High, or Advanced targets as well. These tasks then are articulated across different levels of engagement according to the needs of your learners.

To get started, we need to add your school/district/university email domain to the site. This is to ensure your exemplar has your attribution with your name and your affiliation. Once that domain is added, then any teacher with that domain can join! Please email NYSAPAT@QC.CUNY.EDU to add your domain, so that you can explore and develop exemplars with your program.

You can take your time when designing an exemplar, no worries! Save it and return later; others cannot see it until it is published. The tab, "My NYSAPATs" is your area for exemplars "under construction." You will receive feedback from our design team before publishing. You can receive a CTLE credit from OCM BOCES for each published exemplar. See the DesignSpace [promo video](#) as well as more videos by teachers explaining their design process in the target language. For many years, teachers across New York state designed these tasks using paper templates at workshops and conferences. Were you one of them? Awesome! Now is the time to enter your exemplar onto the DesignSpace!

You will see how the NYSAPAT DesignSpace helps you to develop tasks differentiated for vertical articulation, suitable for immediate and long-term curriculum and assessment goals. This matters more than ever since New York state identified Intermediate High as the goal for the Seal of Biliteracy, impacting the earlier levels and targets. Your students can do these tasks between levels, buildings, and schools or even within the same multi-level classroom. The DesignSpace exemplars integrate all 5 Cs by design: Communication, Culture, Comparison, Communities, and Connections. This template lets you see all of these at a glance.

Dr. Jennifer Eddy is Associate Professor and program director of [World Language Education at Queens College](#), City University of New York. Dr. Eddy, together with her program team, prepare undergrads and graduates for a clinical year in methods, curriculum and assessment and student teaching, as well as courses in research and world language curriculum design. QC certifies teachers of Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Hindi, Italian, Korean, Russian, Spanish, and Urdu. The program focuses on performance assessment and intercultural communicative competence to facilitate articulation in World Language programs.

Seal of Biliteracy

Seal of Biliteracy Panel Member Volunteers Needed!

The RBERNs are seeking community members who are proficient in a variety of languages to support schools by serving as panel members for NYS Seal of Biliteracy (NYSSB) presentations. Ideal volunteers would be teachers of the target language or native speakers of the language. Panel members for all languages are needed, including low incidence languages.

The NYSSB acknowledges the importance of being biliterate in today's global society. It highlights the hard work and achievement of students, and encourages students to pursue language study while in school, including the continued development of one's home language. The recognition of attaining biliteracy becomes part of the high school transcript and diploma for these students and is a statement of accomplishment for future employers and for college admission. Participating on a Seal of Biliteracy panel is a great opportunity for college faculty, language teachers and community members to learn more about the NYS Seal of Biliteracy while supporting multilingual learners in earning this distinction.

The main task of a volunteer would be to view a high school student's live presentation, interact with the student in the target language, and share feedback using a rubric provided by the school. An online, asynchronous training opportunity will be available for volunteers to learn more about the Seal of Biliteracy and the presentation process. The approximate time commitment is 30 minutes for training and 30 minutes for a student presentation.

To volunteer as a panel member, please submit this [form](#) or use the QR code to the right.

For more information on NYSSB panel presentations, visit:
<http://www.nysed.gov/world-languages/module-5-preparing-panel-presentations>

For more information on the NYS Seal of Biliteracy, visit:
<http://www.nysed.gov/world-languages/new-york-state-seal-biliteracy-nyssb>

For more information on the RBERNs, visit:
<http://www.nysed.gov/bilingual-ed/regional-supportrberns>

If you have any questions, please email:

Melissa Duquette, RBERN West at Erie 1 BOCES - mduquette@e1b.org
Pietro Mendola, Buffalo Public Schools - pmendola@buffaloschools.org
Shawna Sweet, Mid-West RBERN at Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES - ssweet@monroe2boces.org

On behalf of all multilingual learners in New York State, we appreciate your consideration!

Announcements

Language Association Journal Call for Papers

The *Language Association Journal* is the official peer-reviewed journal of the New York State Association of Foreign Language Teachers (NYS AFLT). The audience for this journal includes world language educators at all levels, teacher educators, administrators, and others who are interested in world language education. The journal is published twice a year, so it is time for you to start thinking of what you can share with your colleagues! The next submission deadline is **September 1**.

Click on over to the [NYS AFLT publications page](#) for more information!

**ACTFL OPI Familiarization Workshop - Hybrid
July 6–20**

Offered Exclusively to NYSAFLT Members!

This virtual workshop, modified from the traditional in-person workshop and designed according to current research on virtual learning for adults, represents a 14-hour professional development experience. The workshop includes presentations by ACTFL CARD Director Dr. Margaret Malone, examples of ACTFL OPIs conducted by our certified testers, as well as quizzes and activities that will solidify your understanding of each major proficiency level. Intended for all language professionals, this virtual workshop familiarizes participants with the ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines, ACTFL Rating Scale, and the ACTFL Oral Proficiency Interview. This workshop will be asynchronous, but with a kick-off meeting (**July 6**) and two scheduled Zoom sessions conducted by a certified OPI workshop facilitator (**July 13 and 20**). Participants will receive a certificate stating that they have accumulated 14 hours of CTLE professional development. Workshop materials are provided electronically.

Cost: \$200

Registration is open at <https://nysaflt.org/conferences!>
Space is limited to the first 20 participants.

Seeking schools with Biliteracy Pathway Awards

Does your school or district offer Biliteracy Pathway Awards for students in grades K–11? If so, we would love to hear from you! We are seeking model schools to develop a new modules for the NYSSB Guidance Tool Kit.

Please contact:

Shawna Sweet
Mid-West RBERN
(585)352-2671
ssweet@monroe2boces.org

In memoriam - Dr. Gladys Lipton

Dr. Gladys Lipton (1923–2021) passed away on January 19 at the age of 97.

Gladys Lipton was truly a titan at a critical and formative time of our profession - the late 1960s, 1970s and early 1980s. Her work has had a tremendous impact on where world languages are today in education. Gladys taught FLES French and Spanish in the New York City Public Schools and served as the Assistant Director of Foreign Languages in NYC.



After retiring from the NYC Public Schools, she became the coordinator of foreign languages and ESOL language programs at the Anne Arundel County Public Schools in Maryland and eventually worked in the Modern Language Departments at the University of Maryland Baltimore County. She wrote over 200 articles, language dictionaries and books on FLES teaching. Gladys was actively involved in ACTFL, AATP, AATSP, NNELL and NYSAFLT, and is a past president of both AATF and NYSAFLT.

NYSAFLT Cards

Are there people whom you would like to recognize or honor? You can now send greetings, words of comfort, or any other sentiment with a NYSAFLT card. For a minimum of \$5.00 per card, we will print your message to indicate that a donation has been made. These will be published in the NYSAFLT News and will benefit the teacher travel scholarship.

Cards may be obtained by going to the donations page or by sending a check (made payable to NYSAFLT) to:

NYSAFLT Headquarters
2400 Main Street
Buffalo, NY 14214-2364

Mark Your Calendar

March:

Deadline: All Teacher Travel Award Applications (except French-speaking world), **March 2**
NYSAFLT Spring Conference (online), **March 5–6**
National Foreign Language Week, **March 7–13**
Executive Committee and Initial Budget Planning, **March 13**
Webinar: "Rethinking Grading Practices in a Communicative Classroom" (Melanie Thomas) **March 15**, 4 p.m.
Deadline: Nominations submitted to Nominations Committee, **March 15**
Board of Regents Meeting, **March 15–16**
Board of Directors (online), **March 23**
Nominations Committee Meeting (online), **March 25**

April

Deadline: Post-Secondary Student Scholarship Applications, **April 1**
Deadline: Hahn Outstanding FLES Program Award, **April 1**
Deadline: Teacher Incentive/Gertrude Rossin Cultural Grant Application, **April 1**
Deadline: Annual Conference Awards Nominations (including Papalia), **April 1**
Deadline: Virtual Video Contest, **April 1**
Board of Regents Meeting, **April 12–13**
Executive Committee (online), **April 14**
Northeast Conference (NECTFL, online), **April 22–May 1**
Deadline: Submission of Names of Retiring Teachers, **April 23**
Deadline: Proposals for the Annual Conference, **April 30**

May

Deadline: June Newsletter Submissions, **May 3**
Deadline: French-speaking world NYSAFLT travel stipend application, **May 3**
Webinar: "Shifting Academic Mindset: Lessons Learned from Action Research in Actionable Corrective Feedback" (Beth Slocum) **May 4**, 7 p.m.
Board of Directors (online), **May 6**
Board of Regents Meeting, **May 10–11**
Annual Conference Planning Committee (online), **May 15**

The **NYSAFLT News** is published by the
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