



Our Mission is to Advance the Teaching of World Languages and Cultures in Minnesota

LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT:



Dear fellow world language educators,

Since ancient times, people have reflected on the past years and made goals for the future by writing New Year's resolutions. As my year as MCTLC president

draws to a close, I find myself doing the same.

2015 was a great year for world language teaching in Minnesota with exceptional professional development opportunities and exciting legislation recognizing student achievement through bilingual seals and proficiency certificates. The coming year promises more opportunities for world language teachers and another conference where we can come together to inspire one another and recognize the great teachers in our midst.

With the change of seasons comes a change in leadership at MCTLC. It has been a privilege to serve Minnesota world language teachers as your president during the past year. I look forward to continuing to serve you as past-president during the upcoming year. One of my resolutions is to continue to work hard to support the important mission of MCTLC: advancing the teaching of world languages and cultures.

As we approach 2016, I know MCTLC is in great hands. Martin Pflug, the incoming president, has been a dedicated member of the board for years serving world language teachers in northern Minnesota as a regional representative. As a seasoned Spanish instructor, he has traveled extensively with his students and recognizes the value of a global education.

The 2016 conference theme "Ready for the World: Language is the Link" reflects our role in preparing our students for an increasingly diverse

world. As world language teachers, we recognize the importance world language education plays in bringing people together and know that language is indeed our link to the world.

Winter is also the perfect time to start thinking of a session which fits next year's conference theme. Our call for proposals will be open through next spring and we would love to hear from you. I hope that you will make joining us in October one of your resolutions for 2016. I look forward to seeing you again soon and wish you another year filled with peace and happiness.

~ Kay Edberg



Mark your calendar for these language educator events!

- **MN – AATSP : 2016 National Spanish Exam**
 - **Registration deadline:** January 31, 2016.
 - **Total cost:** \$6 per student (\$3 registration and \$3 chapter fee)
 - **Register online:** www.nationalspanishexam.org
 - **Coordinator:** Donovan Williams – contact him via email at nse-coordinator@mn-aatsp.org.
 - **Notifications:** Previously registered teachers receive these automatically, to receive these communications sign up at: http://eepurl.com/59M_X.
 - **MN–AATF : *Cercle de lecture: Rue des boutiques obscures*, 10am Patrick Modiano on February 6, 2016 170 Rice Hall, Macalester College Building # 16 on the College Map, St. Paul, Minnesota.**
 - For more information email Laurent dechery@gustavus.edu ou Françoise denis@macalester.edu Access Macalester map at: <http://www.macalester.edu/about/maps/campusmap-large.html>
 - **MCTLC : Teachers Café Winter Gathering, time/locations vary.** An opportunity to network with world language educators in your region to share teaching strategies and tools. Check online for more details and to register: <http://www.mctlc.org/events>
- *Find more professional development opportunities on page three and page four.**

Inspirational images from the 2015 MCTLC Fall Conference (Photos by Kim Miller)



From left to right above: **Keynote Speaker** Stacie Berdan, **Professional Service Award recipient** Sue Nordquist, **ProLingua Award recipient** Representative Kim Norton



From left to right above former and current teachers of the year: Barbara Cartford (2009), Anita Ratwik (2005), Grant Boulanger (2015), Betty Lotterman (2007), and Kay Edberg (2014)

2016 MCTLC Board Members:

Past-President, Newsletter Editor, Kay Edberg
President, Conference Chair, Martin Pflug
President-Elect, Conference Program Chair, Allison Spenader
Vice President, Awards Chair, Daryl Boeckers
Treasurer, Kim Miller
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Northeast region, Martin Pflug
East central region, Valorie Arrowsmith
Southeast region, Regional Representative Chair, Lisa Perez
South Central region, Melinda
Southwest region, Vacant – *we need you to represent this region
West Central region, Cassandra Glynn
Northwest region, Vacant – *we need you to represent this region
Metro Region Representatives:
North Metro, Vacant – *we need you to represent this region
East Metro, Brooke Carlson
Southeast Metro, Laura Moy
Southwest Metro, Jorge Oconittrillo
West Metro, Lisa Sohn
Minneapolis, Ayumi Stockman
Saint Paul, Angeles (Angie) Jones

Language Immersion Programs are Growing in Minnesota

Language immersion programs have been growing in Minnesota as more and more parents want their kids to learn another language. There were fewer than 30 programs in the state just ten years ago, and now the Minnesota Advocates for Immersion Network (MAIN, <http://www.mnimmersion.org/>) says there are just over 70 language immersion programs in Minnesota. Slightly fewer than 50 are Spanish, 10 are Mandarin and seven are French.

When you ask people on the street what second language they would want for their children, the answers range from Spanish, to Mandarin, to Russian, to even English. Dr. Elaine Tarone, director of the University of Minnesota's Center for Advanced Research on Language Acquisition (CARLA, <http://www.carla.umn.edu/index.html>) says parents should not focus on one specific language, but rather on making sure their children do learn a second language growing up. "We know from the research that once a child has learned a second language, then it is easier to add a third," Tarone said. "You've learned how to function with two languages, you've learned how to adjust your speech to different people for different purposes, your executive function has benefited and now you know how to add a third language."

Only **18 percent of Americans** speak more than one language, according to U.S. Department of Education Secretary Arne Duncan (<http://www.ed.gov/news/speeches/education-and-language-gap-secretary-arne-duncans-remarks-foreign-language-summit>). It is **53 percent for Europeans**. Research has shown a second language can improve a person's cognitive functions.

The United Nations estimates India's population will be 1.7 billion people by 2050, surpassing China's 1.3 billion. Nigeria is expected to grow to 400 million and the estimate for the U.S. is 389 million. Tarone does not believe that people should necessarily all start taking Chinese or Hindi. "In India, I think many people there already speak English," she said. "India has more than just Hindi; there are several different languages in India. The same rings true for China and business dealings in China. Though Mandarin is the most popular Chinese dialect, there are many different languages spoken there." "I would say the most important thing is to find a good program with good teachers because you want that first learning experience to be a successful one," Tarone said. She adds that parents should find the best elementary school immersion program with the best teachers, because success at learning that language is important later on.

(Heather Brown, WCCO, 9/24/15.)

Question of the Month

What is the most important reason for your students traveling abroad? Share your ideas today in a virtual conversation at the MCTLC Teacher's Café on Facebook!

President Obama Announces "One Million Strong" Initiative to Promote Learning Chinese

When U.S. President Barack Obama announced the 100,000 Strong Initiative in November 2009, setting the goal of sending 100,000 American students to study in China by 2014, it seemed like a lofty aspiration. In the 2008-2009 academic year, only 13,674 American students studied abroad in China. But that number rose steadily over the next five years, with help from private donations and Chinese government scholarships, and in July 2014 Secretary of State John Kerry announced that the goal had been met.

Now the American president's back with an even bigger goal and one closer to home. On Sept. 25, in a joint press conference with Chinese President Xi Jinping, on an official state visit, Obama announced the launch of "One Million Strong," an initiative that aims to bring the total number of stateside learners of Mandarin Chinese to one million by the year 2020. "If our countries are going to do more together around the world," said Obama, "then speaking each other's language, truly understanding each other, is a good place to start."

One million may seem like a lot, but it's just under two percent of the total number of U.S. students; in fall 2015, there were about 55 million students enrolled in U.S. public and private primary and secondary schools. Still, there's much catching up to do. "Estimates suggest that between 300 and 400 million Chinese students are learning English today, while only about 200,000 American students are studying Chinese," Travis Tanner, senior vice president and chief operating officer at the 100,000 Strong Foundation, told *Foreign Policy* in an email. "We must bridge that gap."

The new program, administered by the 100,000 Strong Foundation, a nonprofit, aims to prepare a new generation of U.S. leaders to engage effectively with China. Increasing the number of American students who study Mandarin will "create a pipeline of China-savvy employees in a range of fields" and, Tanner remarked, will "ensure our trade relationship with China continues to benefit the American economy and that the future generation of American

entrepreneurs, business owners, journalists, engineers, scientists, doctors, as well as government officials at both the national and state levels, understand China."

The new initiative also aims to create a standardized national Chinese curriculum, flexible enough to allow for adaptations at the local school board level but comprehensive enough to prepare students for the AP Chinese-language exam and later advanced study. One Million Strong will also promote advances in language-learning technology and online instruction, promote investment in teachers colleges, and establish a consortium of governors who support Mandarin learning in public schools.

Such a huge goal, of course, also comes with huge challenges, not the least of which is funding. Though both Presidents Obama and Xi have endorsed the initiative, it will rely primarily on private funding, according to Tanner, who hopes that the official state-level endorsement will "inspire" financial support from "individuals, organizations and corporations."

The importance and practicality of mastering Chinese has lately become more apparent. When Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg met with Xi during the president's recent visit to business and technology leaders in Seattle, the founder held a conversation with the Chinese president entirely in Mandarin. (Facebook is blocked in China and would benefit handsomely if allowed to operate there.) "This is such an inspiring example of how important linguistic and cultural understanding is to enrich U.S.-China relationships in business and beyond," said Jessica Beinecke, founder of Chinese-language learning platform Crazy Fresh Chinese. "Zuckerberg's a busy guy. If he has time to learn Mandarin, so do American high school students."

(Bethany Allen-Ebrahimian, *Foreign Policy*, 9/25/15.)



MN – AATF – Registration due *le Grand Concours*

o *le Grand Concours du français, 2016, National French Written Contest. Note:* Contest dates are set by the local Chapter and should fall within the range of dates below:

- February 14–28, 2016 (Grades 1–6 FLES)
- February 20–March 21, 2016 (Grades 7–12 Levels 01–5)

More details on *Grand Concours* National webpage at:

<http://frenchteachers.org/concours/> or the MN AATF

Grand Concours webpage at:

<http://mnaatf.org/GCMN.html> or email MN GC Content Administrator Carolyn at cmfisk10@msn.com.

MCTLC Newsletter Editor

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February Winter Workshops in Greater Minnesota brought to you by MCTLC
For more information on workshops offered in your area and to register go to:

<http://www.mctlc.org/events>

Northeastern Minnesota Workshop : 3-hour workshop of professional development for world language educators presented by Martin Pflug at **St. Scholastica** in Duluth on **February 9th, 2016**. Check online for more details!

Southeastern Minnesota Workshop: *Bringing the ACTFL World Readiness Standards to life in the world language classroom* presented by Lisa Perez

Location: RCTC Campus, 851 30th Ave SE
Rochester, Minnesota 55904

Date: Saturday, February 20, 2016

Cost: \$50 (Includes lunch, refreshments & 6 CEUs towards re-licensure)

Workshop Schedule:

8:30am – 9am **Check-in**

9am – 10:30am Session 1 – **What are all these acronyms and how do they apply to me as a language educator?**

10 minute refreshment **break**

10:40am – 12:10pm Session 2 – **Moving from performance based to proficiency based assessment.**

12:10pm – 1:10pm **Lunch*** & networking

1:20pm – 3:30pm Session 3 – **Implementing resources in your classroom.**

*Send special dietary requests (gluten free/vegetarian) to Lisa Perez at: exhibits@mctlc.org



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For ads, comments, and corrections to the newsletter, contact Kay Edberg at editor@mctlc.org.