



Vol. VI, No. 6

June 2015

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

LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT:



Dear fellow world language educators,

June, July, and August are important months for teachers. Even though we may not be in our classrooms, planning for the next school year is never far from our minds. While we are recharging our

batteries, we are often also researching new teaching strategies and preparing new lessons for our classrooms in the fall.

Many of us travel with students during the summer. This year I will be taking fifteen of my students to Costa Rica. I am excited to be able to watch them use the Spanish they have learned in the classroom in a real world setting.

My students are even more excited about the trip than I am. But their enthusiasm is for the activities we will be participating in, the new experiences they will have, and all of the people they will meet along the way. For them, the fact they will be speaking Spanish to nearly all of the people they interact with on the trip has not hit them yet. They are not thinking about how they will negotiate meaning in a complex situation, ask all of their questions in Spanish, or understand a billboard that catches their eye. However, after the trip they will not forget those experiences and how successful they felt after effectively using the language.

My favorite parts of the trip are the times when students are able to validate their own ability to speak Spanish. Nothing compares to a native speaker complimenting them on their speaking abilities or being able to purchase a souvenir after negotiating a good price with a vendor. These are the occasions where students see learning a language for the skill it is and begin to understand why we teachers are so insistent they speak it

100% of the time in the classroom.

If your students are younger or you aren't able to travel with them, there are other ways you can help them reach some of these milestones in language learning outside of the classroom during the summer. One possibility is encouraging your students to host a foreign student during the summer. Several great programs in Minnesota organize short-term hosting opportunities including ISE, Language and Friendship and Vistas in Education. Creating a connection to a native speaker who shares their interests can be a powerful motivator for future language study and travel.

I wish you a relaxing summer, safe and rewarding travels, and time to rejuvenate before the next school year. I look forward to seeing you again at the MCTLC Fall Conference in October.

~ Kay Edberg

Save these dates!

July 14th – 17th, 2015, iFLT (International Forum on Language Teaching) St. Paul, Minnesota

Featuring the nation's top TPRS / TC Presenters. Observe live language classes and attend workshops and sessions for beginning and experienced TCI/TPRS teachers. Earn Graduate Level Credits for attendance at iFLT 2015. For more details and to register go to: <https://tprstorytelling.com/conference/>

iFLT 2015



THE INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON LANGUAGE TEACHING
July 14-17, 2015 • St. Paul, Minnesota, USA

September 15th, 2015, Deadline for early registration for MCTLC Fall Conference: Educating Global Citizens. Take advantage of this discounted price for phenomenal professional development the weekend after MEA. For registration and more information go to:

www.mctlc.org/Conference_2015/

Fall Conference: Educating Global Citizens

Come join us for a day full of inspirational sessions to help you learn how to teach global competency in your world language classroom! Bring ideas back to your classroom for how you can encourage your students to think globally, engage in activities going beyond the confinement of your classroom, and how to better use technology to prepare your students for their roles as future leaders.

Question of the month

How do you make language learning meaningful for your students in your world language classroom? Share your ideas today in a virtual conversation at the MCTLC Teacher's Café on Facebook!

National Board Certified Teachers in Minnesota

Have you thought about expanding your professional growth and mastery in your world language profession? Incentives exist to become a NBCT (National Board Certified Teacher) through the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. According to the Minnesota Educator, a publication for the member of Education Minnesota, as of December 2014, a total of 418 Minnesota teachers had been recognized in their achievement of this distinguished certification.

Although it is a time-consuming, demanding goal to accomplish there are benefits to becoming a NBCT. As a result of embarking in this process, you become eligible for a scholarship through the Education Minnesota Foundation for Excellence in Teaching and Learning. This scholarship provides up to \$1000 to help pay for the cost of applying for National Board accreditation. For more details about this scholarship, tips for the process, and how to apply towards becoming a NBCT go to the Minnesota NBCT Network site to read more about this opportunity at: <https://sites.google.com/site/minnesotانبctnetwork/home>.

Last year twenty-four teachers in Minnesota pursued national board certification and each one became recognized as a NBCT. Among those recognized were three world language educators, two from the Edina School District and one from the Stillwater School District.

We want to encourage you to further your mastery as a world language teacher and become distinguished as a National Board Certified Teacher.

~ Lisa Perez

As your MCTLC Advocacy Chair, I attended the JNCL-NCLIS sponsored annual Language Advocacy Day in D.C. on May 6-7. I visited the offices of Minnesota Senators Amy Klobuchar and Al Franken, Minnesota Representative Collin Peterson and North Dakota Senators John Hoeven and Heide Heitkamp and Representative Kevin Cramer. Communicating with Congress is most effective with sound information and an impact from the constituency. JNCL-NCLIS prepared an agenda to advocate for increased funding for languages after a decline in federal funding since 2011. We made the case that speaking world languages is a good measure for national defense, economic competitiveness and international diplomacy. We also continued to advocate for a re-authorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) to include a national Seal of Biliteracy, endorsement of the *Lead with Languages* campaign, and asked for sponsorship of the World Languages Advancement Act of 2015. More than 75 delegates made over 100 visits to the Hill during those few days in May. Write to your members of Congress today and tell them you support the JNCL-NCLIS agenda for the advancement of languages.

~ Mary Thron



Mary Thron met with North Dakota Senator Heidi Heitkamp to advocate for language learning to be considered a national priority in D.C. in May.



Why did you become a language educator?

My high school Spanish teacher, Mrs. Welle, inspired me to become a world language educator. She made learning fun and exciting and I wanted to do the same for others. Also, she told me it was my *destino*, destiny, since I had a dream in Spanish.

What is one of your goals in life?

I truly desire to travel the world and learn as many languages as possible along the way. I have become fluent in Spanish and learned words or phrases in German, Swedish, Japanese, Chinese, Italian, French, and Russian.

How many countries have you visited?

Thus far, I have only been to seven countries including: Spain, Germany, Italy, United Kingdom, Mexico, Gibraltar, and Puerto Rico.

What is one of your passions in life besides world languages?

Music is my second passion in life. I love to sing and dance and make up my own songs. I enjoy sharing my love for music with my students who often tell me, "This is not Music class." I fully believe that if you have students sing in class they retain that information better.

How did you become interested in a world language?

My curiosity about world languages was sparked by my sister who studied Spanish and went on a Spanish Club trip to Costa Rica. I thought the audio tapes she brought home to practice were so interesting and I was intrigued by her experience of traveling to Costa Rica. I started learning Spanish in seventh grade with an Intro to Spanish class and continued in ninth through twelfth grade as offered at my high school and each year while attending college for six and a half years at Winona State University, Winona, Minnesota.

Do you think immersion in the culture and language is necessary to completely understand and learn?

I believe immersing yourself in a culture and language is the only way to fully comprehend and learn another language. Without realizing it till later in life, this is exactly what happened to me. I grew up with many Mexican friends in my grade and we had a huge Latino community in my hometown. I would go to my friends' family gatherings and *fiestas* hearing Spanish the entire time.



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Rethinking what we teach in the world language classroom: Content-Based Instruction and Content-Based Storytelling with Janice Holter Kittok

On Saturday, May 9th, 2015, sixteen educators of ASL, German, French, Spanish, and Japanese gathered in Rochester for a full day workshop. Participants were left full of ambition to change what they teach in their world language classroom.

Jan demonstrated to us how simple it is to include culture and if necessary specific vocabulary from your textbook, in a lesson where students are actively engaged in learning another language. I ask you this question, "How can you incorporate Content-Based Instruction in your classroom today to make meaningful connections for your students to the language and culture you are teaching?"

~ Lisa Perez



Upcoming events for language educators

- ❖ **NNELL : Summer Institute, July 10th – 12th, 2015**, at Glastonbury Public Schools in Glastonbury, Connecticut. For more information and registration go to: http://www.nnell.org/conferences/summer_institute/index.shtml.
- ❖ **AATG–MN : Kaffee und Kuchen, July 18th, 2015, 9:30am** in GAI Dining Rooms. Find details at: www.gai-mn.org/events
- ❖ **AATG : European Day of Language, September 26th, 2015**. For details go to: http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/linguistic/JEL_en.asp/.
- ❖ **MAIN : MAIN Event, October 15th, 2015** at Robbinsdale Spanish Immersion School, Robbinsdale, Minnesota. Registration is open **until October 12th, 2015**. For more information or to register go to: <http://www.mnimmersion.org/event-1891105/>.
- ❖ **MCTLC : Fall Conference, October 23rd – 24th, 2015**, at Earle Brown Heritage Center, Brooklyn Center, Minnesota. For details and to register go to: www.mctlc.org/Conference_2015/
- ❖ **CARLA : Sixth International Conference on Language Immersion Education, October 20th – 22nd, 2016**, at Hyatt Regency Hotel, Minneapolis, Minnesota. Find information and register at: www.carla.umn.edu/conferences/immersion2016/index.html

Registration is open! 2015 MCTLC Fall Conference: Educating Global Citizens
Earle Brown Heritage Center, Brooklyn Center, Minnesota

Keynote Speaker



Stacie Berdan

Stacie Berdan, co-author of the acclaimed *Raising Global Children*, is our featured keynote speaker this year. As an international careers expert and award-winning author, she is an advocate for global awareness and cross-cultural competency. After having worked in more than fifty countries she offers valuable advice to parents, teachers, and students.

Friday, October 23rd, 2015

Full day of sessions from 8:30am – 5:00pm, plus keynote address, and prize drawings during exhibit breaks!

Saturday, October 24, 2015

3 hour post-conference workshops, 9am – 12pm, locations TBA

Register online at:

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



Join the discussion! www.facebook.com/groups/MCTLCTeachersCafe/

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