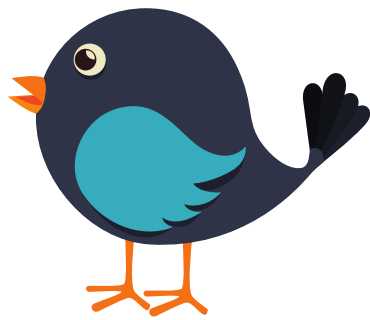




*Our Mission is to Advance the Teaching of World Languages and Cultures in Minnesota*



## Early Bird Registration Deadline

Early bird registration for #MCTLC19 is available through **Saturday, September 21st**. All registration details are available at [mctlc.org](http://mctlc.org).

Reminder: Fall Conference Registration includes TWO FULL DAYS of professional development!

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Check out Saturday's  
sessions at  
our Conference-at-a-  
Glance preview!

### Friday Workshops

Friday, October 25 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

### Saturday Sessions

Saturday, October 26 7:30 am - 5:05 pm

Stay on location at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. Make a weekend out of #MCTLC19! Use our reservation link to get the MCTLC group rate.



**HOTEL GROUP RATE**  
\$112 + 7.525% TAX

*Offer Valid Until  
October 4, 2019*

Online reservation link:  
<https://book.passkey.com/e/49954663>

PEAK PRACTICE  
PEAK PROFICIENCY  
FOR ALL



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# An interview with Annabelle Williamson, La Maestra Loca

Heather Cholat - Editor, MCTLC

Get to know Annabelle Williamson, 2018 LA-FL Teacher of the Year here, then meet her in person at #MCTLC19! Visit her online at [lamaestraloca.com](http://lamaestraloca.com).



**HC:** *We're looking forward to you coming to our MCTLC conference. Have you ever been to Minnesota before?*

**AW:** No never, but I'm super excited. Everyone I know from Minnesota is great so I can't wait to meet more of y'all!

**HC:** *Congrats about your teacher of the year award last year! Quite impressive given that you had only been teaching Spanish for 6 years at the time of the award. Tell me about that process and how it changed you?*

**AW:** It was SUCH an honor to be nominated! The portfolio and interview process was long, challenging and stressful but I loved having the opportunity to really reflect on my teaching and learning. It was also moving to receive such support and excitement from my students, their families, and my colleagues and teacher family around the nation.

**HC:** *Tell me more about La Maestra Loca?*

**AW:** La Maestra Loca (originally a nickname some of my students came up with for me that just stuck) is the title of my website, blog, and social media that allows me to share my enthusiasm for language acquisition through CI (comprehensible input) and OWL (organic world languages) methodologies. I have found it to be a great way to connect with teachers around the world and promote proficiency-based teaching, and joy in the classroom.

**HC:** *What has been your road to comprehensible input?*

**AW:** I have been very fortunate in that I basically grew up in this methodology. I began my teaching career in the Denver Public Schools which is a hub of CI and proficiency-based mindset. Diana Noonan was one of my mentors there and she is a huge advocate of CI. She transformed an entire district to embracing proficiency-based language instruction.

**HC:** *Are you hoping to do more and more conferences such as our MCTLC conference?*

**AW:** I enjoy presenting, but it's something I just want to do on the weekends and in the summer. For me, teaching full-time is essential to my practice and passion. If I am not teaching, I don't have as much to share!

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**HC:** *Give us your pitch. Why should someone attend your sessions?*

**AW:** Well the whole reason I started presenting in 2014 was due to my desire to push teachers to remember why they started teaching in the first place. My hope is to rekindle teachers' excitement around teaching, and language acquisition and to give attendees real tools that can be applied immediately. All of my sessions include videos of students demonstrating what I'm presenting on and teachers will experience these strategies hands-on themselves! All of my presentations are active and entertaining to say the least. I also post these videos on my website and just to be clear, you will see the good, bad and ugly on these clips. I am a real teacher just like you so I don't back away from showing when ideas don't work, too, because that is a great way to improve and learn. Teachers of all grades and levels should find my sessions beneficial.

**HC:** *Speaking of different ages and levels, what age range are you currently teaching?*

**AW:** At my current school in New Orleans, I was hired as a middle school Spanish teacher, but I am currently teaching 3rd-5th since it's the kind of school that is adding a grade each year. I'll eventually work my way to the middle school level. It's great being back in the public sector. I have taught at all types of schools – public, independent, private, home school, you name it! -, but it is good to be back in a public charter school environment since I feel called to serve a greater population with a bigger mission. I really feel like I'm making a difference in these kids' lives.

**HC:** *Thanks so much for speaking with me, Annabelle. Any closing thoughts?*

**AW:** I guess I just want to remind teachers that the most powerful thing we can do improve our teaching practice is to observe our colleagues teaching. Sometimes we think that professional development just happens at conferences, but we can learn so much from each other.. just being in each other's spaces. So get into each other's classrooms! Make it happen, and I can't wait to see you this fall!

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## Register today for #MCTLC19!

You don't want to miss the incredible lineup of workshops and sessions we have planned for you. Learn from national presenters Martina Bex, La Maestra Loca, Kara Parker, Valerie Shull, & more! In addition, you will have the opportunity to learn from local presenters who may be teaching at a school near you.

Registration is open at [mctlc.org](http://mctlc.org).

Find us Facebook, Twitter & Instagram to stay updated on the latest happenings at MCTLC.





# WANTED: FUTURE LANGUAGE EDUCATOR VOLUNTEERS

*For only \$40, Future Language Educators :*

- *present the speaker at 1-3 sessions on Saturday, Oct. 26,*
- *attend the conference,*
- *enjoy the luncheon,*
- *attend keynote speaker and one Friday workshop for free,*
- *and receive complimentary membership.*

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## ARE YOU INTERESTED? SIGN UP BY OCTOBER 7, 2019

In order to sign up as volunteers, students first apply for the award by filling out **this form** by October 7th at 11:59PM and will subsequently be notified of their acceptance. Then they must register for the conference using **this link**.

**NOTE TO UNIVERSITY METHODS INSTRUCTORS**