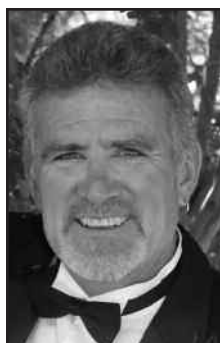


CCFLT *Newsletter*

COLORADO CONGRESS OF FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEACHERS

VOLUME 28 NUMBER 9 AUGUST 2009

Affiliated with the Southwest Conference on Language Teaching, the Central States Conference and the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages



A Letter from the President

Greetings and Welcome Back!

Don't you just love summer? It's one of the coolest things about what we do for a living. Foreign Language teachers are special because many use our time away from students to travel abroad. Nearly the entire CCFLT board was out of the country at one time or another this summer. Some traveled to China, others to Germany, Morocco, France, Spain and Puerto Rico. Personally, I traveled to Mexico to visit an old friend. It was wonderful.

Did you travel this summer? Did you travel with students? Got any good stories? Email me at president@ccflt.org.

Once your CCFLT Board returns we will hit the ground running! On September 19, we'll host our 30th annual Fall Conference, 8th annual on the Western Slope. The last time CCFLT held an event on the Western Slope was during **Pat Sprock's** presidency back in 1991. We decided it was time to return.

Grand Junction Spanish teacher **Carol Coburn** and I began a discussion several years ago about the possibility of CCFLT hosting an event on the western slope. We invited Mesa County School District 51 Foreign Language Coordinator **Rebecca Schwerdtfeger** to join in the conversation. We asked her to help us decide what teachers on the western slope and all over the state, needed most in their professional development. Her answer was "literacy and reading in the second language classroom."

We agreed the obvious choice of presenters for this specific topic was **Jason Fritze**. Jason's "Magic of Reading" workshop is in my opinion, the best in the country. If you have ever seen Jason present, you know his workshop is like a triple shot latte. You'll leave energized and ready to face those kiddos on Monday—with new ideas and increased confidence to provide that much needed comprehensible input. (See page 4 for more details.)

As has been the practice in recent years, I considered a high school on the western slope to host this conference. But the more I weighed possible locations, it became clear—it was too much to ask teachers to spend a beautiful fall day in the Colorado Rockies, locked in a dark school auditorium or cramped high school lunchroom. We spend enough time inside a school building! So, after considerable thought, I chose the beautiful **Historic Hotel Colorado in Glenwood Springs** to host our fall conference.

Of course the expense of holding the conference at such a high quality hotel is a bit more, therefore the cost of attendance for members is slightly higher. Okay, I know we are in a recession, but I believe the slight increase in cost will be worth the experience. We are including a continental breakfast and plated lunch. Besides, it stimulates the economy. We are working out details for the **AATs** to be involved. Check ccflt.org for updated details.

In addition, this conference coincides with the **18th Annual Colorado Mountain Winefest in Grand Junction and Palisade**. The organizers of the Winefest have 4 days of activities planned, including tours of the wineries, wine tasting, a golf tournament and the **16th Annual Tour de Vineyards**, a 25-mile bicycle tour of Colorado's Western Slope Vineyards. Bring your significant other to Glenwood with you. They can ride Tour de Vineyards and taste the wine while you're enjoying Jason's Literacy Magic. Links to both events can be found at www.ccflt.org. Click on the "conferences" link located on the left side of the home page and follow the white rabbit.

Have a great school year and let me know how CCFLT can serve you better.

Sincerely,
Dale Crum, President
president@ccflt.org

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**MARK YOUR
CALENDAR!!**
Feb. 25-27, 2010

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Use this address to send a message to the Listserv after joining

CCFLT ListServ Website: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/CCFLT/>

To change the email address to which your CCFLT Listserv email is sent, go to: <http://www.ccflt.org/listserv.pdf> and follow the instructions.

Webmaster: 45946.webmaster@ccflt.org

The Newsletter of the Colorado Congress of Foreign Language Teachers

**Published 4 times yearly:
August, October, January, April**
<http://www.ccflt.org>

Patricia Faler, Editor
singbikerun@comcast.net

Have a question about dues?

Please write or call
Ellen Bonnard
CCFLT Executive Secretary
P.O. Box 740782
Arvada, CO 80006-0782
303-895-4972
execsec@ccflt.org.

Advertising rates and policies

You are invited to advertise in the CCFLT Newsletter. Commercial ads which support the mission of CCFLT and are of interest to the profession, including tour and book ads, are accepted at the following rates:

Size of Ad	Charge	Size of Copy
Full Page	\$250.00	7 ¼" X 9"
Half Page	\$125.00	7¼"X4 ½"
Half Page	\$125.00	3 ½" X 9"
1/4 Page	\$75.00	3½"X4 ½"

Prices indicate a one-time submission in the newsletter. If you have questions regarding appropriate software or design files for ads, contact the Editor at singbikerun@comcast.net.

Advance payment is appreciated. Make checks payable to CCFLT and send to:
Ellen Bonnard
CCFLT Executive Secretary
P.O. Box 740782
Arvada, CO 80006-0782

Questions on advertising costs, call:
303-895-4972 or email execsec@ccflt.org.



Norma Arroyo Past President

Being a teacher has its perks, one of them being the summer. Yes, I know, most of us spend it working summer school, odd jobs, re-training, attending or consulting conferences, and may even squeeze in a much needed vacation. For many it is even more hectic than the school year, but it

does take us out of the routine and it offers us an opportunity to re-charge in ways we cannot when we are teaching the regular school year. I absolutely love it!

As your past-president this year I will also be sporting a second hat as Lulu Cruz and I continue as co-chairs of the Legislative Committee. Our role is to work with our lobbyist group in order to help inform and promote world language instruction. 21st century skills have identified foreign language skills among the top 10 skills needed for success post graduation.

During the school year we work in many extra ways as we uphold our pledge to work with our students and improve teaching and learning. We recognize these longer hours come "with the territory," but sometimes we must be vigilant and speak out when we feel we're being pushed beyond what we can do. Ultimately, it's the students who suffer as a result of us being over extended.

So what are we to do about these taxing moments? How can we promote language learning when we are continually placed behind other more "important" content areas? What do students need to succeed in the 21st century and how can we work with school boards, administrators and colleagues to support the study of languages?

As the summer concludes and the school year begins, Lulu Cruz and I will be tracking legislative activities that impact us and will be keeping you in the loop. In the meantime, enjoy what is left of the summer!

"Dichoso el que gusta las dulzuras del trabajo sin ser su esclavo"
-Benito Perez Galdos

Anna Crocker President-Elect

"If you don't know foreign languages, you don't know anything about your own."

-Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

Learning a language is a lifelong activity. In schools across Colorado, native English speakers are required to take English, math, science, and social studies courses from kindergarten through 12th grade. Yet, the public, and most students, do not accept that learning another language will take just as long.

What should students be able to do at key points in the development of their proficiency in another language? The communication standards from the national standards document and the *ACTFL Performance Guidelines for K-12 Learners* (American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages [ACTFL], 1999) establish what will be taught and how well students will use their new language. Both documents are equally important because without clear targets for how students should be able to perform in the new language, we either rely on textbooks to set language-learning goals or teach vocabulary and grammar without a conscious focus on the language goals students should be able to demonstrate. Once we establish clear goals for language learning we can actually help students achieve those goals. Teachers can view these documents at the ACTFL website: www.actfl.org

What are realistic expectations for the time it takes to achieve proficiency at the novice, intermediate, and pre-advanced levels? The *ACTFL Performance Guidelines* give realistic expectations and those expectations should guide all instructional decisions. Teachers, parents, and students must base their expectations for successful language learning on the characteristics of real-world communication and accurate descriptions of the stages through which students' progress as they develop increasing proficiency. Imagine knowing exactly where you should be at the end of level 1, level 2, etc! The 21st century challenge is to create curricula based on how students actually learn languages and how they will use them and adjust our teaching to meet the challenge. Check out the National Standards (the 5 C's) and the *Performance Guidelines* and see if your teacher expectations are realistic.



READING MAGIC

presented by Jason Fritze

How can we energize reading to allow ALL students to maximize language acquisition? Develop a thematic unit with input activities using level appropriate readers or children's literature as a center piece. Bring texts and target cultures to life through Readers Theater. Experience a sample lesson, view and rate some performance assessments via video, learn some magic tricks for literacy, play some fun input-based games and learn to implement an FVR (Free Voluntary Reading Program) using the internet and classroom libraries.

Jason Fritze is a highly-sought speaker in the areas of reading in the World Language classroom and comprehensible input methodologies. A National Board Certified teacher in World Languages, he has language-classroom experience ranging from elementary to university level and uses the latest second language acquisition research and the National Standards for Foreign Language Learning to guide his instruction and workshops. Jason is well known for his enthusiasm and lively presentations that give participants opportunities to try out the new strategies they are learning.

He currently resides in Laguna Beach, California where he is developing an elementary Spanish language program for Laguna Beach Public Schools. He is also a Spanish and French teacher for Fluency Fast Language Classes, Inc. and a member of Project Coach in Southern California. Jason presents workshops throughout the U.S. and abroad.



Jason Fritz

"A Rainbow of Reading Ideas"
Celebrating the Journey of Literacy

Historic Hotel Colorado

Glenwood Springs

8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

***Corresponds with the Wine Festival
in Grand Junction***

Fall Conference - September 19, 2009



Fall Conference Registration

The 30th Annual

Saturday, September 19, 2009, 8:30 - 4:00 p.m.
Historic Hotel Colorado • Glenwood Springs, CO

Registration Form

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip code _____
 School _____ Language(s) _____
 E-mail _____
 Home phone: (____) - ____ - _____ Work phone:(____) - ____ - _____

Fall Conference Registration: Please mark your registration payment(s) below:

Current Member.....	\$85	_____
Non-Member	\$100	_____
Current Student Member	\$60	_____
First Year Teacher	\$70	_____
Late fee after Sept. 12 or on-site.....	\$10	_____
8 Hours of Colorado Department of Education Re-Certification Credit	\$10	_____

Fall Conference Meals: Please indicate your preference

Regular entrée _____
 Vegetarian entrée _____

Total Fall Conference registration fee..... \$ _____

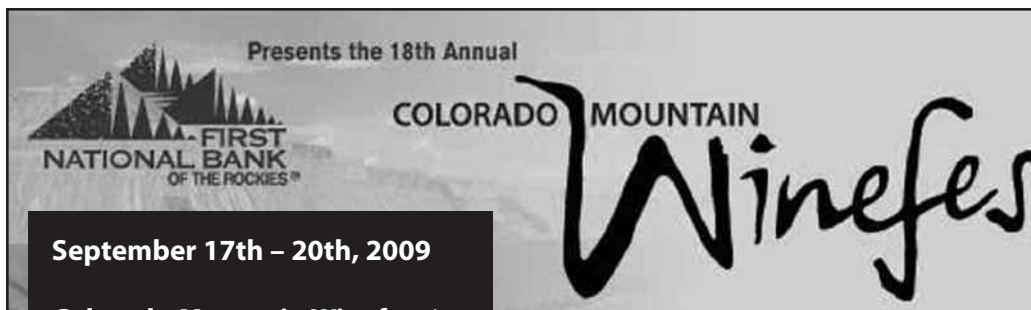
*Mail registration and dues payments, including check or copy of purchase order,
 postmarked no later than September 12, 2009 to:*

*Ellen Bonnard • CCFLT Executive Secretary
 P.O. Box 740782 • Arvada, CO 80006-0782 • 303-895-4972
execsec@ccflt.org.*

**Partial Scholarships Available
 Contact Ellen Bonnard**

Regonline.com is available for paying dues and registration fees online.
 Check the website for news: www.ccflt.org.

Fall Conference and Glenwood Springs!!



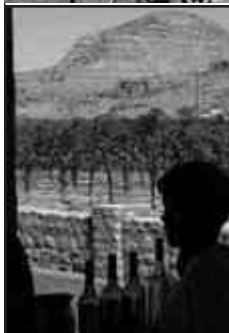
September 17th – 20th, 2009

Colorado Mountain Winefest is the fundraiser for the trade organization of grape growers and winemakers of Colorado, the Colorado Association for Viticulture and Enology (CAVE), a 501(c)6 non-profit organization. All funds go towards education, seminars, research, and equipment purchases to improve the grape growing and winemaking of Colorado wines.

Thousands of wine lovers make the annual pilgrimage to Palisade to sample a growing array of Colorado wines and participate in a variety of events. 2009 events will include:

- * Hands-on workshops
- * Wine and food pairing events
- * Chef demos
- * Grape stomps
- * Winery tours
- * Winemaker competitions
- * Chocolates and wine tasting
- * Winemaker Dinners
- * Fly fishing in Colorado
- * Bicycle tour of the vineyards
- * Shopping at artisan booths
- * Jazz concerts

Toast the grape harvest and raise your glass to Colorado's finest vintages at the state's oldest, largest and best wine festival, and the only festival held in the heart of Colorado's wine country.



16th Annual Tour de Vineyards

Same fun event, just a "little tweak" of our name. Come join us for a great great way to celebrate the start of fall, by joining in this bicycle tour of Colorado's Wine Country. This 25-mile ride through the vineyards of the Western Slope (on paved roads with a few hills) gives cyclists an opportunity to pass by the area's wineries, as well as acres of fruit orchards, located in the Grand Valley prior to the Colorado Mountain Winefest "Festival in the Park".

To register:

http://www.emgcolorado.com/race_tourvine.html#Register

Glenwood Hot Springs

If you haven't experienced this.....you simply must!!

This is Nature's source of happiness. "The Grand Spring," as it was known, is a timeless natural wonder discovered by the ancient Ute Indian culture. This mineral-rich water has created legends of healing, mountain adventure, and relaxation.

For information: <http://www.hotspringspool.com/>





2010 Spring Conference Luncheon Keynote Address

Jack C. Berckemeyer

Assistant Executive Director

National Middle School Association



Jack Berckemeyer is the Assistant Executive Director for National Middle School Association. Jack began his career as a middle school teacher in Denver, Colorado. After two years of teaching he was named as an outstanding educator at his school, and shortly thereafter he was identified as one of the outstanding educators in the district. In 2003, he received the Outstanding Alumni Award from the Falcon School District in Colorado.

Jack has presented to a variety of school districts on middle level topics. He has also presented at many international conferences. Jack is known for his practical teaching ideas that involve and motivate young adolescents. He will share humorous stories and examples of his unique approach to teaching adolescents. Don't be surprised if Jack makes you a part of the fun. Be prepared to learn and laugh.

Jack's responsibilities for the National Middle School Association include working with their 58 affiliate organizations throughout the world. He is the co-author of H.E.L.P. for Teachers and the professional development kit, The Why, What and How of Student-Led Conferences. Jack also coordinates all site based services for schools and school districts. Jack served as a judge for the Disney American Teacher Awards and the selection committee for the USA Today All Teacher Team.



48th Annual CCFLT Spring Conference

"Celebrating The Journey"

February 25-27, 2010
Details coming soon!

Preliminary Spring Conference Workshops



Assessing Your Students for Language Development

*Paul Sandroek, ACTFL
Past-President, Wisconsin
Department of Public Instruction*

This workshop will provide participants with an in-depth look at all the facets of assessing student performance in a standards-based program including:

- Identify outcomes and align them with instructional practices
- Develop authentic assessment tasks
- Develop rubrics to accompany these tasks
- Learn how to involve student in performance assessment

Participants will leave equipped to implement a performance-based program in their school.

Beginning Chinese

Annick Chen, Abraham Lincoln H.S. Denver Public Schools
Introductory Mandarin Chinese taught through TPR Storytelling®. Students can expect to acquire a few of the highest frequency words in Mandarin through stories and action. There is no pressure to speak or perform. Learn some Chinese and see what it feels like to be the student in a language class.

Beginning TPR Storytelling

*Diana Noonan,
Denver Public Schools*

During this workshop teachers will...

- Learn about second language acquisition theory,
- Understand the difference between acquisition and learning,
- Discover teaching practices enhancing language acquisition,
- Learn about the 3 steps of TPR Storytelling,
- Experience the language class from the students' point of view and
- Learn an effective teaching strategy called "circling"

It's All Fun and Games in the World Language Classroom (Best of Colorado 2009)

Shannon Ruiz, Dunstan Middle School, Jeffco

In this workshop you will learn a lot of games to use in your classroom that reinforce and assess vocabulary and grammar. Plan now to bring a laptop because you will be developing some computer generated games that you can use immediately with your students.

French is Fun! Games, Activities, Culture, Dance! (Best of Utah)

*Charlotte Van Wagenen, Utah
Foreign Language Association*

This session will be filled with specific fun ways to bring French language and culture to life.

Participants will walk away with fun and easy to prepare games, activities, and teacher tactics to increase student involvement and excitement in your French classes.

Time will be spent learning La Bastringue, a popular Canadian Folk Dance.



Exploring Web 2.0 Technologies in the World Language Classroom

*Leslie Davison
Dillon Valley Elementary School*
Do you consider yourself a connected teacher? What about your students? Come see how to engage students in 21st century learning by using free Web 2.0 tools. This fast-paced workshop will cover a variety of tools.

Blogs, wikis, podcasts, Wordle, Vokis, Voicethread, Animoto, Twitter, Flickr and a few more not even created at the time of this publication will be shared. Each tool will be presented with justification for its use in improving language instruction, collaboration, and advocacy. Bring your laptop so you can experience first-hand what each tool has to offer. No experience needed.

Developing Your Own Blogs and Wikis for the World Language Classroom

*Leslie Davison
Dillon Valley Elementary School*

Blogs and wikis provide opportunities to easily create a variety of content using a web-based interface. They are effective tools for organizing classroom activities, providing additional comprehensible input, advocating for your program, and collaborating with others around the world. This is a hands-on workshop. Bring your laptop and any materials (vocabulary, activities, assignments, images, videos, etc.) you may want add to your blog or wiki. Each teacher will create a wiki and/or blog during the course of this workshop. No experience needed.



48th Annual Spring Conference

Session Proposal Form

Crowne Plaza - Colorado Springs, February 25-27, 2010

We have all gleaned ideas shaped by workshop leaders and peer presenters from prior CCFLT conferences. Isn't it time you shared yours? We welcome your proposal for the Spring Conference 2010.

Presenter name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
School name/address _____
Home # () _____ Work # () _____
Email _____ Fax () _____

Co-presenter name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
School name/address _____
Home # () _____ Work # () _____
Email _____ Fax () _____

Note: Attach an extra page to include the above information for additional co-presenters.

Please attach the following information to this form:

1. Presentation title as you would like it to appear in the conference program. **Limit, ten words.**
2. Abstract for the conference program that would best describe your presentation. **Limit, three sentences.**
3. A one-page description or outline of your presentation, identifying content, approach, and materials to be used. State expected benefits to the participants as well. **Limit, one page.**

Mark the following as they apply to your session:

4. Language(s) of session: _____
5. Language(s) of examples and/or materials: _____
6. Which term best describes your session?
Articulation _____ Assessment _____ Bilingual/ESL _____ Early learning/FLES _____
Methods/Techniques _____ Special Topics _____ Technology _____
7. Which standard(s) does your session address?
1.1 Listening _____ 1.2 Speaking _____ 1.3 Reading _____ 1.4 Writing _____ 2 Culture _____
8. Which level(s) does your session address?
Beginning _____ Intermediate _____ Advanced _____ Extension _____
9. What length of session would you prefer?
One hour _____ Two hours _____

In confirming a session at the CCFLT Spring Conference, presenters must be current members of CCFLT and pre-register and pay for the conference as well. Note that presenters are responsible for their own expenses, including copies of their materials and handouts. Please plan for 75 copies.

Please submit your proposal to Dale Crum, CCFLT President, at morningdog55@comcast.net. Deadline for receipt of session proposals is October 31, 2009. Please "copy & paste" to your word processing program (MS Word, Apple Works, Nisus Writer, etc.) and send it via attachment. Please contact Dale with any technical questions regarding submissions.



25th Annual Teacher Innovation Grants Program

Teacher Innovation Grants Program

Fall Application for Spring 2010 Grants
Application deadline ... December 1, 2009

Each spring, CCFLT presents three monetary grants to teachers. If you have an idea for a project for your classroom, please consider applying for one of the following grants:

15th Annual Ronald W. Walker Memorial Grant	\$1000
25th Annual Spring Innovation Grant	\$250
25th Annual Spring Innovation Grant	\$500

*The CCFLT Grants Committee is looking for project proposals that are ...
... innovative, creative, interesting ... student-oriented ...
... practicable, feasible, and ... projects that can be shared with colleagues.*

To be eligible for the grant, the applicant must be a current CCFLT member and have been a member for at least one year. **If awarded a grant, you must present the results of your project at the Spring Conference or submit an article to be published in the *Peals* journal.** Please note that CCFLT does not fund requests for release time, textbooks, or materials to be marketed for profit.

To apply for one of the above-mentioned grants, please submit the following:

1. Cover letter

___ Include your name, home address/city/state/ZIP, home phone, email address, school name, school address/city/state/ZIP, school phone, and the date of your application.

2. Project goal and rationale

- ___ What is the goal and rationale of your project?
- ___ How is your project different from projects already in existence?
- ___ What does recent research say about the potential success of your project?

3. Steps toward project completion

- ___ Describe the individual steps you are planning to take to reach your goal.
- ___ What is the proposed date of completion?

4. Benefits to students and program

- ___ How will your project directly affect student learning?
- ___ How will your project enhance your foreign language program?
- ___ Will you present the results of your project at the Spring Conference or submit an article to be published in the *Peals* journal?

5. Budget detail

- ___ What is the amount of your request? \$250, \$500, or \$1000?
- ___ Specify your expected expenses.

6. Two letters of support

- ___ Include a letter of support for your project from one colleague and one administrator, no longer than one page each.

*Proposals for Innovation Grants must be postmarked by December 1, 2009.
Applicants will be notified of the Grant Review Committee's decision by December 31, 2009.*

Please send your complete application to:
Ann Keller-Lally: ann.kellerlally@unco.edu or
Dale Crum: Morningdog55@comcast.net

Spring Conference 2010 Awards Nomination Form

CCFLT Spring Conference 2010 Awards Nomination Form

We want to make it even easier for you to acknowledge a fellow teacher with a special recognition award. The person in your department who goes above and beyond! The one who always develops innovative and exciting activities for students! The teacher who has increased enrollment and has led the way to academic excellence! Express your appreciation, your admiration, and your gratitude by nominating him or her for a CCFLT Special Recognition Award which will be presented at the Spring Conference next year. Only teachers who have been CCFLT members for a full year prior to nomination may qualify for an award; members of the Board of Directors are not eligible.

The Genevieve Overman Memorial Service Award

Presented to a world language educator for dedicated and long service to the teaching profession, as well as commitment and leadership in serving CCFLT.

The Excellence in Teaching Award

Presented to a world language educator who has excelled in classroom instruction.

The Program Leadership Award

Presented to a world language educator who has provided exceptional leadership and innovation in programs beyond the classroom level.

The Kris Wells Memorial Creativity Award

Presented to a world language educator who has demonstrated exceptional creativity and innovation in the field of world languages, whether in teaching, administration, or materials development.

The New Educator Award

Presented to a world language educator in the first five years of teaching, who exhibits a great deal of potential in developing ideas for world language education.

The Friend of Foreign Languages Award

Presented to an individual or group from outside the world language teaching profession who has made significant contributions to the teaching and learning of world languages.

Please create one Word (Rich Text Format) document in which you include the following: (1) a cover page with the required information given below, (2) a letter of nomination of two pages or less, (3) a maximum of three letters of support of one page each. Combine these components into ONE document and send it as an attachment to Ann Keller-Lally, ann.kellerlally@unco.edu by December 1, 2009.

The cover page must include the following information:

About the nominee:

Nominee's name, Award category, School, Years of teaching experience, Phone (H), Phone (W), Address, city, state, ZIP, Email

About the nominator:

Nominator's name, Phone (H), Phone (W), Address, city, state, ZIP, Email

About the nominee's supervisor:

Supervisor's name, Title, Phone (W), Email address, School, School address, city, state, ZIP, School district name

***Please email this information and supporting letters as noted above to the
CCFLT President at: morningdog55@comcast.net. or Ann Keller-Lally: ann.kellerlally@unco.edu
In the message line, write: CCFLT Awards Nomination and attach the electronic copy of your nomination packet.***



ACTFL National Language Teacher of the Year

ACTFL National Language Teacher of the Year Award Process for The Colorado Candidate

So where is our next Foreign Language Teacher of the Year? Is there a colleague in your department who not only is an excellent teacher, but is a leader in the profession, is a strong advocate for world languages, is involved in the school and district in helping advance the concept of language learning for all? Who among you presents and/or shares best practices to other colleagues either through the school or district or at professional meeting such as CCFLT? Who would be an excellent voice for our profession? Honor them and nominate them now. Deadline is Sept. 30, 2009.

Who can nominate? Anyone! District supervisors, department chairs, colleagues, principals, parents, etc, are logical choices, because they are there checking out the pulse of the profession in their own domain. But maybe you want to self-nominate? Absolutely-go for it! The purpose is to give a greater profile to our profession.

PURPOSE OF THE AWARD:

The award for the National Language Teacher of the Year is intended to elevate the status and the public profile of the language profession at the state, regional, and national levels by creating opportunities to recognize accomplished members of our profession. First and foremost, this process is designed to involve all of our state, regional, and national organizations in promoting the language teaching profession. Second, it is intended to create as many media opportunities as possible to increase the visibility and importance of language learning with the media, policymakers, and the general public. The award also recognizes best practices and excellence in the teaching and learning of foreign languages. All regional finalists are featured in the ACTFL Language Teacher Hall of Fame, located on the ACTFL website at www.actfl.org. Key words are excellence in teaching and advocacy.

CRITERIA FOR APPLYING:

Successful candidates must be full-time language educators who spend at least fifty-percent (50%) of their time in direct teaching during the year of application with an expectation of teaching during the next two (2) years.

PROCESS OF APPLICATION:

The National Language Teacher of the Year process begins at the state level with the state language organizations selecting a top candidate each year whose application is then submitted to the regional level. The finalist for each of the five regions then competes at the national level.

PROCEDURE AT THE STATE LEVEL: Deadline: Colorado
Deadline: Sept. 30, 2009

The following elements are the criteria for the Colorado Foreign Language Teacher of the Year selection. Please do not staple this portfolio because it will be copied and sent to the evaluation committee. The selection committee is made of foreign language teachers that are members of CCFLT.

The following items must be included in the state candidate's portfolio. Please read very carefully.

1. Letter of recommendation from a professional colleague.
2. Letter of recommendation from a supervisor.
3. Letter of recommendation from a current or former parent or student.
4. Curriculum Vitae of no more than five (5) pages.
5. Five-hundred-word (500) first-person statement on the value of learning language and culture.
6. Provide one example of student work that reflects the goals of the National Standards for Foreign Language Learners. (one page example).
7. Provide one page maximum reflection of that piece of student work detailing the theme and/or unit topic, objectives, rationale and outcomes that led to this piece of work that reflects the National Standards. On a separate page include the rubric used to evaluate the work and include a brief one-paragraph explanation.
8. Statement of willingness to participate in all required activities associated with the

Award (Form provided by ACTFL:

<http://www.actfl.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=3500> including:

- a. A commitment to attend the respective regional conference for a personal interview (CCFLT provide a stipend to support travel to the regional conference.)
- b. If selected as their regional winner, a commitment to attend the ACTFL Annual Convention (hotel, registration, and transportation are paid by ACTFL); and
- c. Willingness to serve as a spokesperson for the profession, based on availability. Form available:
<http://www.actfl.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=3500>

Send portfolio postmarked by Wed. Sept. 30, 2009

Toni Theisen
Loveland High School
920 W. 29th St.
Loveland, CO 80538

Toni Theisen - National Teacher of the Year

From the Magic Kingdom and the wonderment of the land of Mickey Mouse and Donald Duck of the 2008 ACTFL Convention to the halls, hotels and college campuses of our world languages teaching communities, I have had the opportunity of a lifetime to serve as the 2009 American Association on the Teaching of Foreign Language National Foreign Language Teacher of the Year. I am truly honored to have received this award. It was a both challenging and rewarding process to gather evidence from students' work, create a classroom video showing students authentically engaged in learning, respond to a series of important questions relevant to our profession, and participate in an interview process conducted by peers in our field. I especially want to thank all my Colorado Congress of Foreign Language Teachers colleagues for their support and encouragement throughout the process and I want to acknowledge the continued support from SWCOLT. Also kudos to ACTFL for their insight and vision in creating an honor like this that gives language teachers a voice among their peers in the education world. Next, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to Holt McDougal in sponsoring this award that supports ACTFL's vision. I



especially want to acknowledge the caring mentorship and encouragement of Lynn Sandstedt, who has guided so many of us here in Colorado. Through the wisdom of Dr. Sandstedt, I have also learned the importance of mentoring our new colleagues. And finally, I would be remiss in not acknowledging my wonderful students throughout all these years.

I have met world languages teachers all over this country. Attending the Southern Conference on Language Teaching in Atlanta, the Central States Conference in Chicago, Southwest Conference on Language Teaching in Oklahoma City and the Northeast Conference in New York, I have had the opportunity to dialog and to collaborative, to teach and to share and to create and to speak. I have learned about unique elementary programs, schools connected with technology, and the differentiated strategies that help students reach their personal goals. I have built wikispaces with groups of teachers, podcasted with kids and created movies with memorable photos.

Understanding that the main focus of this year is continued advocacy for world languages, my message has been twofold. First of all, as just one of the many voices in our World Languages' Community, I constantly advocate for languages to be an integral part of the core curriculum and an essential skill of the 21st century. If our students are going to truly compete with their peers in the world, they must first of all learn to collaborate with them. And where is the best place to start this ball rolling but the world languages classrooms. I wanted to find out what is happening in school districts about this concept and how we can all collaborate to help others outside of our field understand and feel more comfortable in taking action to make this concept come alive. As the Partnership for 21st century skills website (<http://www.21stcenturyskills.org>) indicates in its segment about mastery of core subjects and 21st century themes, world languages is listed second in the list of those skills. Meanwhile, Colorado is in the process of updating all thirteen content standards. And yes this time we do not have to beg, plead and constantly lobby to be a part of this action. A task force, supported by CDE, made up of World Languages teachers from around the state is at this very moment creating those new standards our educators will need to guide students to be active participants of a world community. (Just in 6/30/09: CO CDE Postsecondary and workforce readiness skills document released and World Languages appears in this real world state document twice. <http://www.cde.state.co.us/communications/newsreleases.html>)

My advocacy trails also took me to Washington DC. where I had the opportunity to discuss World Languages issues with Betsy Markey, my 4th Congressional District Representative.

Much to my surprise when I arrived for the annual JNCL meeting, Marty Abbott, Director of Education of ACTFL, informed me of my appointment with none other than the Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan. Albeit, a photo op, Janine Erickson, president of ACTFL and I had at least 10 minutes to pitch our ever refined support world languages speech to Mr. Duncan.



(continued page 14)

Toni Theisen continues.....



In Washington D.C. Toni Theisen meets with Pierre Vimont, the current Ambassador to the United States from France.

He seemed very positive and attentive. I did feel he understands that linguistic and cultural competencies are so needed in this time in the history of our country. But finally, the pièce de resistance of my whole Washington, DC. stay was the opportunity to meet privately with Pierre Vimont, the current Ambassador to the United States from France. As a French teacher, having this opportunity to speak with the Ambassador was beyond anything I could have ever imagined. We had time to chat about the luncheon that the French Embassy will be sponsoring at ACTFL and the current state of affairs of French in the United States. But as we all know it doesn't take long to start talking about students. And my wonderful, creative Loveland High School French IV class decided to take this visit very seriously. They me sent with a "get to know Loveland, Colorado" bag, a baseball cap and all kinds of Valentine's Day goodies from our fair city. But what they did to steal my heart will forever be a lasting memory. They put together (all on their own) a video for Monsieur Vimont, each one preparing a testimonial about why they took French, what they got out of learning French, and what they will do with this knowledge and

these skills in the future. Just as the opportune time appeared, I grabbed Janine's computer and started playing the video. There is something endearing listening to a group of young adults speaking their heart about language learning to such an important ear. Needless to say, he was touched. I left him a copy of this movie.

My second message is equally important. Our students-"digital natives" as identified by Marc Prensky-so want to be a part of the world. They want to use the new emerging tech tools to share their stories, find out how the rest of the world lives, and create opportunities to authentically collaborate with students from all over the planet. So I have spent time helping teachers all over the country to understand these new technologies and demonstrating how both they and their students can use them to connect to the world. I have encouraged teachers to sign up with Facebook and to become active Tweeters in the Twitter world. Our Facebook community has grown and even ACTFL has a Facebook group. Twitter has also convinced me that the world can quickly be connected in 140 characters from saying hello, to finding the best crepes in Paris to how to help students create online cartoons and Skyping about them to other students in other countries. Through Twitter I even connected with a French teacher in Matamata, New Zealand who was teaching the same book as I. So within a day we created a wikispace and started collaborating connecting students in both classes with podcasts, videos and serious responses to sets of questions. The book, *The Little Prince*, came alive in its message with the opportunity to "tame each other". Take a look at this wiki that just was created on a serendipitous whim. Now that's collaborating on international teams. <http://loveland-matamata.wikispaces.com/>

My life as been ever so enriched by these events of the past six months. Good news is there are several more months left. Sad thing is there are only several more months left. I am looking forward to passing on this torch to the next ACTFL Teacher of the Year at the ACTFL convention in November. I am also looking forward to helping grow the CCFLT Foreign Language Teacher of the Year program. Someone pinch me, please. I know this not a dream.

ACTFL is Coming to DENVER in 2011!!!



In November 2011, Denver will host The American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) Annual Convention and World Languages Expo bringing together nearly 6,000 teachers, administrators, method instructors and students of foreign languages at all levels from across the world. The convention will feature over 600 educational sessions on such topics as: Assessment, Culture, Curriculum, Learner Variables, Literature, Materials, Methods/Techniques, Policy/Issues, Professional Development, Research, Specific Purposes, Standards and Technology. The Convention will be held at the Denver Convention Center and Hyatt Regency Denver Hotel November 18-20, 2011. Make your plans now to be part of the largest gathering of world language educators ever to take place right here in Colorado. I look forward to seeing you in San Diego this November ... Boston in 2010 ... and DENVER in 2011!

15th Annual CCFLT Student Essay Contest

CCFLT is seeking student essays in English for its annual essay contest. Winning essays will be published in CCFLT's journal, *Peals*, and will be shared at the local, state, and national levels with representatives and senators to make them aware of the concerns of their young constituents. Students are our best voices for world language education! The teachers of the winning students will be invited to attend the Spring Conference Awards Luncheon to accept the award. Each sponsoring teacher must be a current member of CCFLT. Each teacher may only submit up to three (3) essays. Elementary and middle school winners will receive \$25, while the high school and university winners will receive \$50; K-12 winners also receive a plaque commemorating their accomplishment. The essay topics reflect the theme of the 2010 Spring Conference, "*Celebrating the Journey!*"



For topics, information on the length and presentation, cover sheet, selection, and all rules for the contest, visit the website for submission details!
www.ccflt.org

Submission guidelines are available on the CCFLT website at www.ccflt.org.
Deadline for submission is December 1, 2009.



Important Updates by Lulu Cruz-Gosnell

Colorado News

By Lulu Cruz-Gosnell

Did you know Terry Richard is our Content Specialist for CDE? Other exciting news is that Colorado is in Phase III of changing the Colorado Model Content Standards for World Languages. The World Language Subcommittee is being led by our very own Toni Theisen. Members of the subcommittee are: Norma Arroyo, Anne Becher, Stefan Betley, Kathryn Blanas, Judy Cale, Lulu Cruz, Steven Daughtry, Janine Erickson, Lidoro Maestas, Armando Maldonado, Veronica Mendez Maqueo, Diana Noonan, Kelley Parkhurst, Joanne Pasqua, Leslie Patino, Sarah Peakcock, Donna Savage, Rebecca Schwerdtfeger, Martie Semmer, Hideko Shimizu and Melitta Wahner-Heaston.

The subcommittee met June 20th in Denver where they all received intensive training in an overview and preparation of the work ahead of them. Each standard will have each of the following components when revisions are made: 21st Century skills, Postsecondary and workforce Readiness (PWR) and School readiness. A major discussion took place in prepared graduate competencies and what would be in store for world language students. These were concepts and skills that all students leaving the Colorado P-12 education system must have to ensure success in a postsecondary and workforce setting. All subcommittee and stakeholder meetings are open to the public for attendance. Colorado citizens are encouraged to provide feedback to the review subcommittees. Please e-mail feedback to: standards_review_com@cde.state.co.us. Also, regional meetings will follow the end of each Phase of review work. CDE and the World Language subcommittee invite you to attend these meetings to provide feedback on the revision drafts. The next meeting will be held at the Antlers Hilton in Colorado Springs July 11th and 9:00 am-5:00 pm. We hope to see you there.

Legislative Update

The legislative team will continue this year with a few changes. The CCFLT would like to thank Martie Semmer for her countless hours and dedication in making the newest committee a success. Martie will be replaced with former CCFLT president, Norma Arroyo. Pat Steadman is also moving on to bigger and better things. Pat Steadman, CCFLT's former lobbyist is now, Senator Steadman of District 31. Pat was sworn into office May 29th. Pat is still planning on coming to ACTFL to speak at the Assembly of Delegates about advocacy. He is excited

to continue supporting education and language learning.

To see CCFLT's final report and all the bills we supported and monitored, please log on to ccflt.org and click on our legislative link. We will post all of our activity of the legislative committee.

JNCL-NCLIS

What an exciting year to be in

Colorado World Language! Colorado made their presence known at this year's JNCL-NCLIS. Having the ACTFL Teacher of the Year, Toni Theisen with the group made it very easy to actually SEE and talk to the representatives when doing the Congressional visits this year. Also by Toni's side is our very own ACTFL president Janine Erickson who also influenced some to come and chat about languages with us.

"The opportunity to meet with the Secretary of Education was remarkable. Arne Duncan is a sincere, authentic person. He seems to get it in regards to the importance knowing and being at a respectful level of proficiency in a foreign language in order to be successful in the global community for business, science and everything else. He is a breath of fresh air." - Toni Theisen says of one of many visits. Toni also had the opportunity to meet with the French Ambassador and made quite an impact.

The Congressional visits continued with representatives Jared Polis from the 2nd District and Betsy Markey from the 4th District. Markey was so eager to meet with the all of us. She set up meeting in between votes. Both representatives listened attentively to our discussion and concerns with Colorado education in regards to foreign language.

To read up on more details about JNCL-NCLIS and the agenda, please log onto:

<http://www.languagepolicy.org/>



Bring Your Middle and High School Spanish Classes to Life with ¡Explorando la Selva Tropical!

Beginning Spanish students will learn to identify and describe rainforest animals en Español! Zoo educators teach cognates and animal vocabulary according to Colorado Model Foreign Language Standards using LIVE animal demonstrations and an interactive PowerPoint presentation.

This program is offered at Denver Zoo or your location.
Scholarships awarded through Red Apple Fund.

Additional bilingual programs available for advanced Spanish classes.
Please call for details.

For additional information please visit:
<http://www.denverzoo.org/education>
or call (303) 376-4888



10th Annual Videotaped Speaking Contest

A fantastic opportunity for students of CCFLT members to create a 90-second video/digital taped conversation based on Colorado Foreign Language Model Content Standard 1.2 Speaking. Students may participate in any of the following: express needs, tell stories, obtain and convey information, explain concepts and procedures and/or persuade.

This contest is open to all students at all levels.

All submissions must be received by December 1, 2009. Visit the CCFLT website at www.ccflt.org for rules, requirements and information.

The 2010 "ISE Language Matters" Award

ISE is pleased to make available to CCFLT a special recognition award for its membership. The ISE Language Matters Award would be granted to a high school teacher through a nomination and selection process determined by CCFLT.

AWARD: The ISE Language Matters Award shall consist of an award certificate and a \$250 honorarium.

ELIGIBILITY: The applicant selected for this award shall be a high school teacher of a world language who has achieved outstanding success in getting his / her students to speak the target language through exemplary motivation and creative methods; in addition, the winner shall be a teacher who has provided authentic immersion experiences outside the classroom for students to apply their speaking skills; and the recipient is a member in good standing of CCFLT.



No prior association or experience with ISE is required of the nominee.

Visit our website: www.isemn.net

Your National Professional Organization

by Janine Erickson, ACTFL President



We all know that professional development is increasingly important to today's language educators. No matter where you are in your career, what language or level you teach, you need to have resources available to you to not only save you time but to advance your career. The American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages

(ACTFL) is the only national organization dedicated to the improvement and expansion of the teaching and learning of all languages at all levels of instruction. Since its founding ACTFL has been synonymous with innovation, quality, and reliability in meeting the changing needs of foreign language educators and their students.

This year the ACTFL Annual Convention and World Languages Expo will take place on November 20-22 at the San Diego Convention Center and Marriott San Diego Hotel

in California. This is the premier annual event for the profession bringing together thousands of educators for learning and connecting at hundreds of educational sessions. At this convention teachers find the tools to make their careers more rewarding and their work more productive. The ACTFL conference is always held the week before Thanksgiving and moves around the country.

We are living in critical times for language education. ACTFL's convention is the perfect setting for finding out how to strengthen your language program in your school and district. The 2009 convention theme is *"Speaking Up for Languages...The Power of Many Voices."* The keynote speaker is Steve Hildebrand, who orchestrated Barack Obama's successful grassroots campaign. He will speak on *"Organizing for Change: Foreign Languages and the Obama Administration."*

Each year many Colorado educators who have joined ACTFL attend the annual convention and make connections with a national network of educators. Belonging to both CCFLT and ACTFL means joining the most committed, involved leaders in the language profession. CCFLT/ACTFL joint memberships are available. The ACTFL website is the most reliable resource for all your professional needs. If you would like more information about ACTFL and how to become a member, go to www.actfl.org.

AMERICAN COUNCIL
ON THE TEACHING OF
FOREIGN LANGUAGES **2009**
**ANNUAL CONVENTION
AND WORLD LANGUAGES EXPO**

NOVEMBER 20-22, 2009 | PRE-CONVENTION WORKSHOPS - NOVEMBER 19
SAN DIEGO CONVENTION CENTER | SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

For complete information visit the Convention and Expo area on our website at www.actfl.org

ACTFL 2009 CO-SPONSORS:

AATG, AATI, CLTA, CLASS, CLTA, NADSFL, NCJLT, NCSSFL, and NNELL

REGISTRATION AND HOUSING OPEN NOW AT WWW.ACTFL.ORG!

**ACTFL 2009
ANNUAL CONVENTION &
WORLD LANGUAGES EXPO**

SAN DIEGO, CA | NOVEMBER 20-22, 2009

Speaking Up for Languages... The Power of Many Voices





New Member / Membership Renewal / Change of Address

To keep the CCFLT newsletter and Peals coming, please fill out the following form and send it in today!
Please check the mailing label on this newsletter to verify that your CCFLT membership is current.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

School _____ Language(s) _____

Email Address _____

Home Phone (____) _____ Work (____) _____

Levels you teach or administer _____

Membership: *CCFLT membership must be current in order to register for conferences during the academic year. If your dues are not current, please mark your dues payment below:*

Professional, one (1) year.....	\$35 _____
Professional, two (2) year**	\$60 _____
Professional, three (3) years**	\$85 _____
First-year teacher, one (1) year.....	\$20 _____
Professional, five (5) years**	\$120 _____
Retired, one (1) year.....	\$20 _____
Student member, one (1) year.....	\$20 _____

**Note: Two years or more at reduced rate

Total payment enclosed..... \$ _____

Remit total amount due by check payable to CCFLT

Please check the following as applicable:

- Contact me regarding committee work
- Sign me up to be a session host at the Spring Conference
- Tell me more about being nominated for and working on the CCFLT Board of Directors

Mark your selection below:

- I prefer to receive only a hard copy of the newsletter
- I prefer to receive only an electronic copy of the newsletter

Please forward this form and payment to: CCFLT • Ellen Bonnard
CCFLT Executive Secretary • P.O. Box 740782 • Arvada, CO 80006-0782 • 303-895-4972 • execsec@ccflt.org.



**The Newsletter of
The Colorado Congress of
Foreign Language Teachers**

Ellen Bonnard
CCFLT Executive Secretary
P.O. Box 740782
Arvada, CO 80006-0782

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CCFLT *Newsletter*

AUGUST 2009

COLORADO CONGRESS OF FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEACHERS • www.ccflt.org



25th Annual CCFLT Spring Grants

Each spring, CCFLT presents three monetary grants to teachers. If you have ideas for specific classroom projects, please consider applying for one of the following grants:

- \$1000 *Ronald W. Walker Memorial*
- \$500 *Spring Innovation*
- \$250 *Spring Innovation*

“For more information, visit www.ccflt.org and look for the “Contest-Grants-Scholarship” link.

See page 10 for application information for grants to be awarded in the Spring 2010