



SCOLTalk

The newsletter of the
Southern Conference on Language Teaching

Volume 50

May 2019

Greetings from the SCOLT President

Hello everyone! I hope your school year is winding down nicely. Are you ready for summer? Being in Myrtle Beach recently was a nice reminder of what is to come!

Speaking of Myrtle Beach, SCOLT had a fabulous conference there in March! I would like to give a big shout-out to the SCOLT board for their hard work and to our partnering organizations, SCFLTA, FLANC, SEALLT and ACTFL for helping round out an amazing slate of sessions and workshops. Teachers from twenty-six states put their feet in the sand and strolled down the promenade while learning about the latest trends in world languages. Teachers discussed the power and implications of such themes as interculturality, social justice, and student empowerment. The leadership luncheon attendees participated in a variety of activities about creating sustainable engagement in leadership. They read, drew, created, and brainstormed ways to make their organizations more sustainable. We definitely left behind lots of footprints for others to follow!



The SCOLT family had to say goodbye to some awesome leaders this year. We thank Krista Chambless, Meredith White, and Tom Soth for their tireless service to the board. SCOLT would also like to thank David Jahner for guiding the SCOLT region for the last seven years as the Executive Director. David, we promise to continue to move SCOLT in a positive direction. Thank you for your leadership! SCOLT welcomes two new board members, Heidi Trude from Virginia and Christine Hutchins from Kentucky. And we are thrilled to welcome our new Executive Director, Dr. Leslie Baldwin. Leslie, we look forward to learning from you and we thank you for your commitment to SCOLT!

SCOLT would like to congratulate all the Teacher of the Year candidates and Lisa Worthington-Groce for being selected as the 2019 SCOLT TOY! Lisa, we are proud of you and support you on the next step in your journey at ACTFL 2019 in Washington, D.C. SCOLT also celebrates all the award winners and scholarship recipients. Our region is full of amazing people and that includes YOU! You are the faces of SCOLT and represent our region well with your passion for world languages and your southern hospitality. Our students are so lucky to learn from you!

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I am counting on you to keep the momentum going this year! Consider submitting a session proposal for SCOLT 2020. You have until September 1 to submit your fabulous ideas! Our theme is Languages: The Real Mobile App. We will be at the beautiful Renaissance Mobile Riverview Plaza Hotel in Mobile, Alabama. We are excited to be in this historic port city!

Thank you for making SCOLT a powerful region! I am honored to serve as your President and welcome any questions or feedback you may have. Thank you for what you do everyday in the classroom and for planting and cultivating the seeds of world languages in our region. It is critical that we sustain our profession and grow lifelong language learners together!

Have a fantastic and relaxing summer! Work a little and play a lot! Please join us in Mobile, Alabama, March 26-28, 2019!

Carmen Scoggins
SCOLT President 2018-2020

Carmen's Summer Suggestions:

Professional:

- Try out one or two new tech tools (i.e. Gimkit.com, Insertlearning.com, or Autodraw.com)
- Revamp a tired lesson
- Connect with a colleague and share an idea to use in the classroom
- Reflect on the school year
- Read *Owning It* by Alex Kajitani or *The Zen Teacher* by Dan Tricarico

Personal:

- Start a gratitude journal and use it as a reminder to take care of yourself
- Do a kind deed for a neighbor
- Take a trip somewhere or have a calm staycation
- Watch the final season of Game of Thrones
- REST!!!

SCOLT Board of Directors 2019-2020

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Editor, *Dimension*
Georgia State University, GA

Leslie Baldwin
Executive Director
Winston-Salem Forsyth County Schools, NC

Click here to connect with your SCOLT Board
of Directors.

SCOLT Board Welcomes New Faces

Leslie Baldwin SCOLT's 5th Executive Director

Leslie is the World Languages Program Manager for the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools in North Carolina. She is the immediate Past President of the National Association of District Supervisors of Foreign Languages (NADSFL), a past president of FLANC, and an ACTFL professional development consultant. She has been active in FLANC, SCOLT, ACTFL, and NADSFL. Prior to moving into administration, she was a Spanish teacher. She earned an M.A.Ed. from Wake Forest University and is currently an Ed.D. candidate at UNC Greensboro. Leslie shadowed David Jahner throughout this year and assumed the role of Executive Director at the end of the 2019 conference in Myrtle Beach, SC.



New Board Member Christine Hutchins

Christine Hutchins teaches Chinese at St. Francis School in Louisville, KY. She has an M.A. in Asian Studies from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She earned her K-12 teaching credentials at Northern Kentucky University. She is a College Board AP reader for Chinese. She is an ACTFL OPI rater for Chinese. She was named KY Teacher of the Year in 2017. She is an active board member for the Kentucky World Language Association. She is the President-Elect for the Kentucky Association of Chinese Language Teachers.



New Board Member Heidi Trude

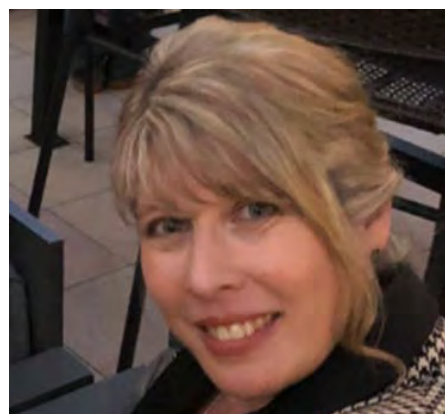
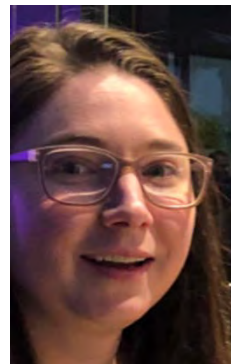
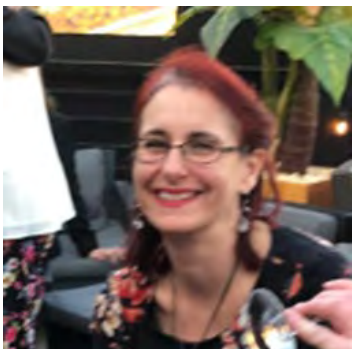
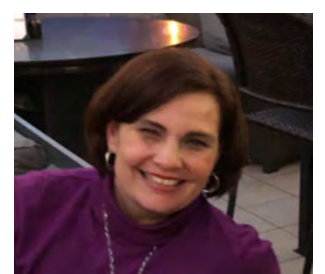
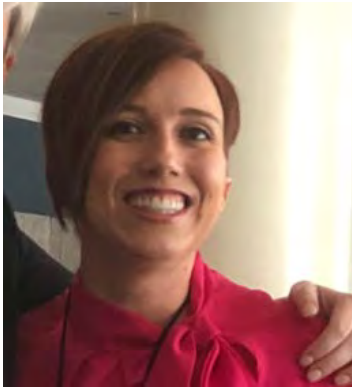
Heidi Trude is a French teacher at Skyline High School in Front Royal, Virginia. She earned her BA in French and History from Sweet Briar College and her M.Ed from the University of Mary Washington. Heidi also earned a Certificate in Instructional Technology and Language Teaching from the University of Colorado, Boulder. She serves as the communications coordinator of FLAVA and is a member of the executive board of the American Association of Teachers of French (AATF) Virginia chapter. Heidi is the 2017 Region IV Virginia Teacher of the Year; the 2017 FLAVA David Cox World Language Teacher of the Year; the 2018 SCOLT World Language Teacher of the Year and she was a 2019 ACTFL Language Teacher of the Year finalist.



Scenes from Myrtle Beach - #SCOLT19



Faces of SCOLT



An Interview with William Roebuck, Recipient of the Ken Stewart Future Language Educator Scholarship

William Roebuck is the first recipient of Ken Stewart Future Language Educator scholarship. He submitted three letters of recommendation, a one-page essay of his future plans to become a language teacher, and a 3 minute video in the target language on what makes an A+ teacher among other requirements.

This \$1,000 scholarship is intended for a high school senior who plans on a career as a world language educator. The scholarship is sponsored by Ken Stewart, Spanish teacher, former SCOLT Board member, and 2006 ACTFL National Language Teacher of the Year.

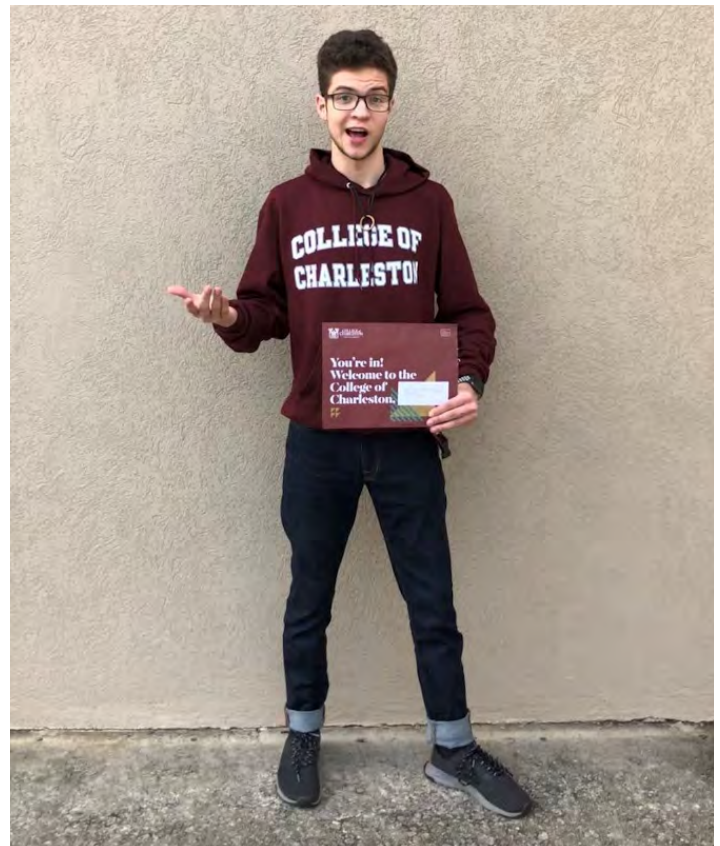
Article Submitted by Victoria Russell, SCOLT Board Member and Co-Editor of SCOLTalk.

Q: You mentioned in your essay that your high school German teacher inspired you to become a German teacher yourself. Could you provide some specific examples about how she inspires you and other students to learn the German language and culture?

A: I have had the wonderful opportunity to have the same German teacher all 4 years of my high school career. Frau Buckliwiew has helped me in ways that I could not have expected. The most impactful aspect of her teaching is the passion that she brings to the classroom on a daily basis. She goes above and beyond in order to make meaningful connections with her students. With Frau Buckliwiew, it's more than just teaching the German language or culture, it's about passing along a passion not only for German, but also for learning to become a better Global Citizen.

Q: You participated in an exchange where a German student spent two weeks with you in the U.S. during the spring term, and then you went to Germany for two weeks over the summer. Could you tell us a little bit more about the exchange? For example, where did your German exchange take place, what cities did you visit, and what was the most memorable part of your experience and why?

A: The exchange program I participated in was based in a smaller city in Northwestern Germany called Bückeburg, which is about an hour West of Hanover. During the two weeks that I was with my exchange student, I got to shadow her school day and experience the German education system. Seeing the differences between the American system versus the German system truly broadened my perspective of the world.



William Roebuck will attend the College of Charleston this fall. He plans to double major in German and Secondary Education.

While I was with my student, we went to Berlin, Hamburg, and Wolfsburg. Getting to see things like the Berlin Wall in person was very moving and impactful. In the U.S., we learn a lot about WWII and German involvement, but there is only so much you can learn in a classroom environment. Seeing the Berlin Wall in person and getting to experience the history behind it firsthand was something that I underestimated the true value of. History classes in the U.S. tend to focus on one side of the story—the American perspective—so when I was in Berlin and saw the exposed

residual metal from the wall in certain parts of the city, it sparked a sense of realization and opened my mind to the fact that there are many differing perspectives in life and that we as a society should be more open-minded to other ways of thinking because it is very egocentric to think that the 'American Way' is the only way to view the world. After spending two weeks in Bückeberg, our group traveled to cities in Southern Germany such as Rothenburg, Würzburg, and Munich. Southern Germany is very different from a cultural standpoint as well as in the dialect that is spoken, so it was very interesting to see the differences between the regions.

Q: You stated that your trip to Germany changed your life by broadening your perspective of the world. Do you think you will lead study abroad programs to Germany when you become a language teacher? If so, what would your ideal study abroad program look like?

A: I do plan to lead study abroad programs once I begin my educational career. My ideal program would definitely model the GAPP program I participated in. I loved how we were paired with a student abroad and how we got to see firsthand how the German education system compared to the U.S. system we were used to. When we weren't in school, we spent a lot of time with other German students who were in the GAPP program. It allowed me to create friendships that I never thought I would have the opportunity make. I still talk with many of them on a daily basis, so to think that all of that stemmed from a single two-week exchange is completely mind blowing and is definitely something that I wish to give my future students the opportunity to experience as well.

Encourage your high school seniors to apply for the second annual Ken Stewart Future Language Educator Scholarship!

[Click here to find out more information.](#)

2020 Applications due January 31, 2020



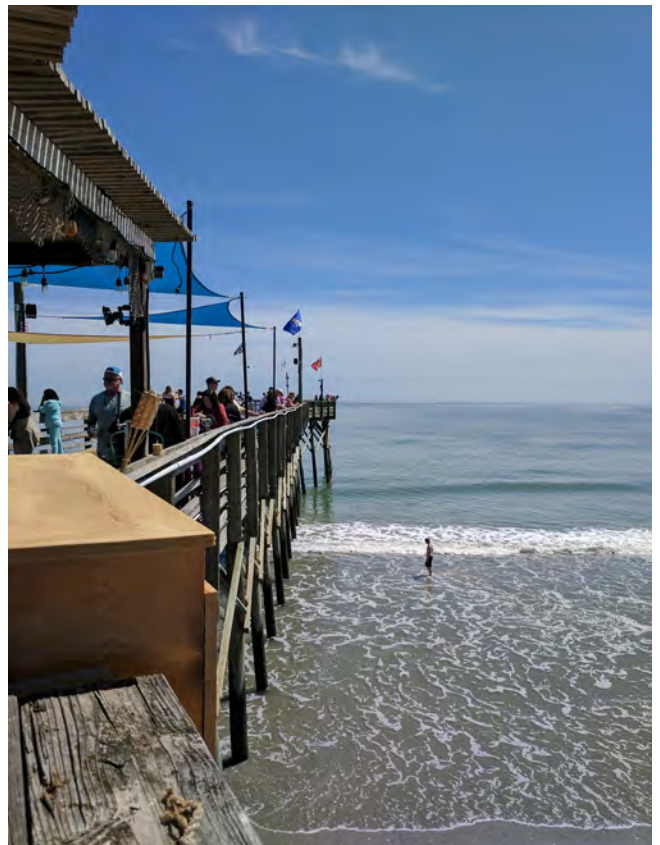
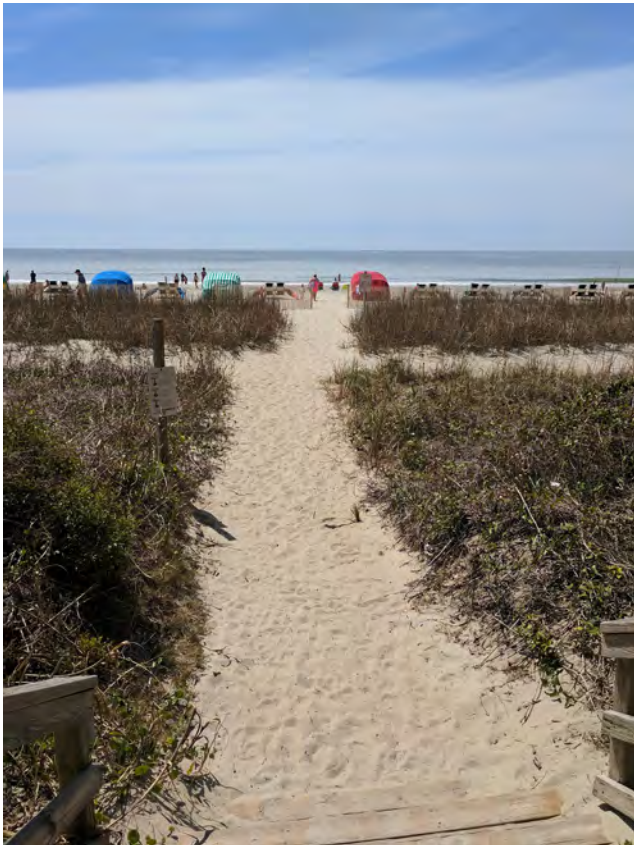
William Roebuck pictured with his German teacher, Ms. Sara Buckliw

Q: You talked about the fact that many schools do not offer German and you were unable to begin your study of German until high school. What could be done in the future to promote the study of German among K-12 students?

A: Personally, I do not think that many elementary or middle schools in the state have realized the opportunities that German programs create for their students. South Carolina is one of the major hubs for German Business in the U.S. With that level of German influence in the state—and the region—it's interesting how so many schools have not caught on to the importance of having German programs within our early education systems. I feel that this alone would be a major component to the promotion of German education within our school systems.

Ken Stewart and the SCOLT Board would like to thank William Roebuck for dedicating his life to instructing the German language and culture!

Scenes from Myrtle Beach - #SCOLT19



Faces of SCOLT



2019 JNCL Language Advocacy Days in Washington, DC

I was proud to represent SCOLT at the Joint National Committee for Languages (JNCL) Advocacy Days in Washington DC, February 14-15, 2019. Joining me this year were Helga Fasciano, representing FLANC, and Susanne Rinner, representing AATG.

A new language museum is coming to DC in Spring 2020! Ann Friedman, Founder and CEO of Planet Word Museum of Language Arts, gave us a preview of the exhibits. It is very exciting! You can find more about this amazing museum by clicking [here](#).

As we are all from North Carolina, Helga, Susanna, and I visited the offices of NC Senators Burr and Tillis, as well as our individual Representatives in the House. We advocated for several bills:

- World Language Advancement and Readiness Act (WLARA): would establish funding for K-12 language programs
- The Biliteracy Education Seal and Teaching Act: would provide 2 year grants for states to implement or improve current Seal of Biliteracy programs
- The Esther Martinez Native American Languages Preservation Act: reauthorization of act to provide assistance in preservation and maintenance of Native American Languages.
- The Senator Paul Simon Study Abroad Grant: would provide assistance to university undergraduates to participate in study abroad opportunities.

You can take part in advocacy at the national level too! Ask your US Senators and Representatives to support the bills mentioned above. Also, make sure you have visited ACTFL's "Take Action" advocacy page. There you can send a message to Congress on a current issue in less than 2 minutes!

In addition to the Hill visits, I was privileged to be part of panel on the Future of America's Languages based on the 2017 report. Rebecca Aubrey, ACTFL Teacher of the Year, was also on the panel.

It is always exciting to participate in the JNCL Advocacy Days and Delegate Assembly. To stay informed, go to JNCL's website and sign up for the email newsletter!

Respectfully submitted,
Leslie Baldwin, Ed.D.
SCOLT Executive Director

Visits to Capitol Hill are an annual featured event of JNCL's Language Advocacy Days.



SCOLT 2019 Award Recipients

2019 Teacher of the Year: Lisa Worthington-Groce (FLANC)

(Myrtle Beach, SC) — The Southern Conference on Language Teaching (SCOLT) held its annual conference in Myrtle Beach, SC, March 21-23, 2019. During the conference, Lisa Worthington-Groce, a German and French teacher at Northwest Guilford High School in Greensboro, NC, was awarded the 2019 SCOLT Teacher of the Year Award. Each state in the thirteen-state SCOLT region may send one state language Teacher of the Year to the regional conference.

Lisa was selected on the basis of her excellence in teaching, her strong contributions to world languages, her letters of recommendation, and an interview. She will now advance to the national competition sponsored by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Language (ACTFL). During the ACTFL convention in Washington, DC this November, she and four other regional teachers will vie for the title of ACTFL National Language Teacher of the Year. The teacher selected in November will serve as the national spokesperson for language learning in 2020.

Worthington-Groce currently teaches multiple levels of German and has grown a program from 65 students to over 300 currently. During her tenure at Northwest Guilford High, she has organized German American Partnership Program (GAPP) Exchanges between German and American students. She is a National Board Certified World Language Teacher. A colleague of hers says, “Lisa strives for excellence both in her

classroom and outside the walls of the school environment. She impacts student achievement through her use of innovative and authentic language practices. She works to maintain a high level of student interest and engagement through meaningful dialogue and cultural experiences, thus allowing students to see how proficiency in another language promotes their academic abilities and their personal growth, and emphasizes the importance of being global citizens.”

Known to her students as Frau W, Lisa says, “The skills learned in the world language classroom are at the foundation of a modern enlightened civilization and reinforce the democratic ideals of free speech. Language learners are consistently exposed to the idea that by working together, we are stronger. These capabilities are the cornerstone of a democratic society. Knowledge of other languages and cultures is valuable because it allows humans to interact with one another respectfully and in a manner that leads to increased compassion for different ways of viewing the world.”

The Southern Conference on Language Teaching (SCOLT) is a professional organization whose mission is to promote universal world language education supported by the community, valued by political and business leaders, encouraged by parents and peers, and taught by exemplary instructors. SCOLT congratulates Lisa on this award and thanks her for her efforts to promote world language learning.

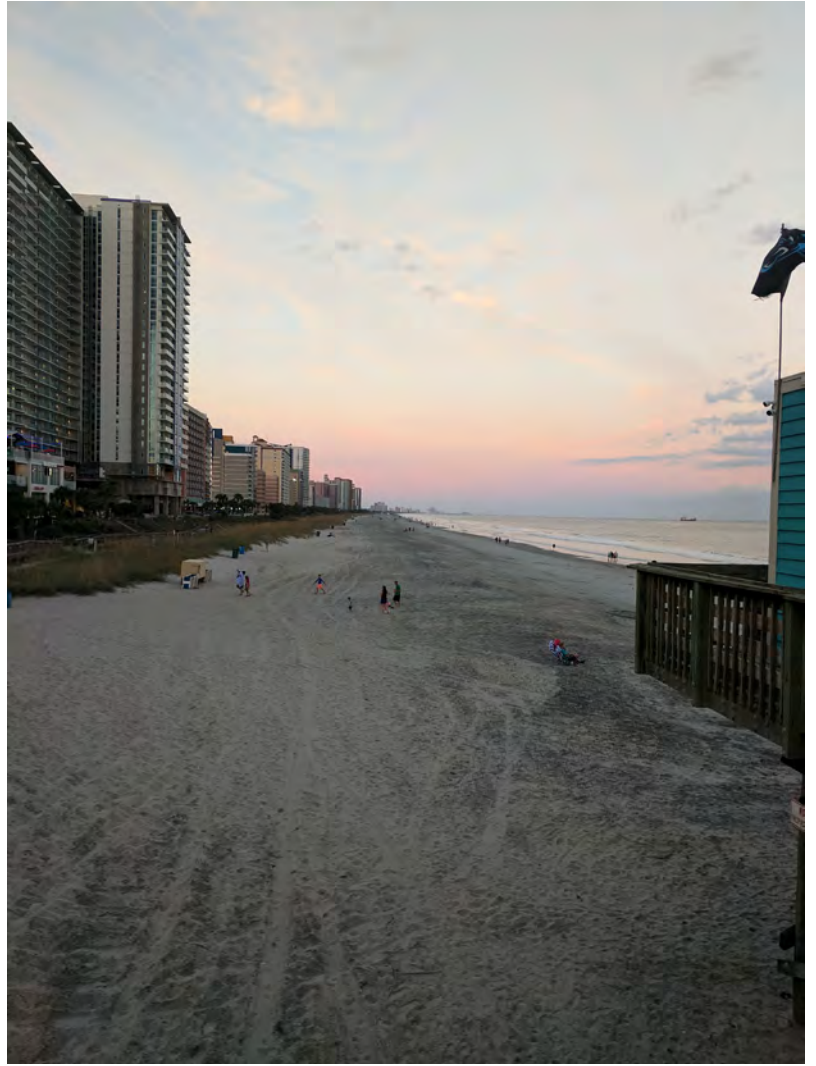




Faces of SCOLT



Scenes from Myrtle Beach - #SCOLT19



SCOLT 2019 Award Recipients

Leadership Award winner: Patrick Wallace

(Myrtle Beach, SC) — The Southern Conference on Language Teaching (SCOLT) held its annual conference in Myrtle Beach, SC, March 21-23, 2019. During the conference, Mr. Patrick Wallace, the Program Specialist for World Languages and Global Workforce Initiatives at the Georgia Department of Education, was awarded the 2019 SCOLT Leadership Award. The SCOLT Leadership Award is given to a K-12 educator who has demonstrated excellence in language teaching through service to the school, community, active participation in SCOLT, and leadership and advocacy at the local, state, and/or regional or national level. According to one language coordinator, “During Mr. Wallace’s tenure, he has increased the social media presence of world languages in the state of Georgia. He keeps all stakeholders informed regularly. He has created a new kind of synergy and presence, celebrating the many achievements of students and teachers of world languages in our state. Mr. Wallace initiated a World Language Teacher of the Month award, highlighting many great educators in our profession and spotlighting great programs all over our state. He has collaborated with the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) to design and publish free online learning courses to understand the Novice and Intermediate proficiency levels. Mr.

Wallace is respected across the state for the tireless enthusiasm and support he provides.”

Another coordinator noted, “Patrick has traveled hundreds of miles across the state to meet with teachers, administrators, business leaders, and college and university staff. These efforts have improved the status of world language in the state by honoring our teachers and raising the awareness of world language with local school administrators, other teachers, and district leaders. He has launched a statewide annual World Languages Job Fair, organized a World Language leadership committee of world language leaders from metro-area school districts, and a statewide World Languages Leadership Conference, that allows him to gather information on current trends and needs, but also to foster a culture of collaboration and communication around world languages in Georgia.”

SCOLT congratulates Patrick Wallace on this award and thanks him for his efforts to promote world language learning.



*Leadership Award recipient, Patrick Wallace
Georgia Department of Education*

SCOLT 2019 Award Recipients

Founders Award winner: Mary Lynn Redmond

(Myrtle Beach, SC) — The Southern Conference on Language Teaching (SCOLT) held its annual conference in Myrtle Beach, SC, March 21-23, 2019. During the conference, Dr. Mary Lynn Redmond from Wake Forest University was awarded the 2019 SCOLT Founders Award. The SCOLT Board of Directors presents the Founders Award when deemed appropriate to a member who has made significant contributions to SCOLT over the years and who exemplifies the spirit and ideals of the founders of the organization.

Dr. Redmond's leadership in post-secondary education has had ripple effects that have positively affected local, national, and international language learning. Her presentations and publications are varied and the audiences that she addresses span the realm of world language stakeholders--students, teachers, administrators, and policy makers. She has continually linked proficiency-based research and language targets to real classroom practice in the K-20 environment.

A former world language specialist from South Carolina said of Mary Lynn that her contributions helped the implementation of the South Carolina Foreign Languages Framework. A North Carolina colleague noted that Dr. Redmond's work on the North Carolina Summit on Foreign Language led to the State Board of Education forming a Task Force on Global Education which, in turn, led to a NC Global Education Initiative.

Dr. Redmond says, "SCOLT has a distinguished reputation as an outstanding professional community that nurtures, supports, and challenges its members as life-long learners and educators. At each step of the way, my personal involvement in this dynamic community has shaped the journey I have had as a world language educator, from my beginning years as a French teacher, continuing throughout my career in teacher education at Wake Forest University. Through my experience in SCOLT, I learned the importance of teacher leadership as an integral part of our professional journey and have endeavored to pass this commitment to leadership on to my teacher candidates."

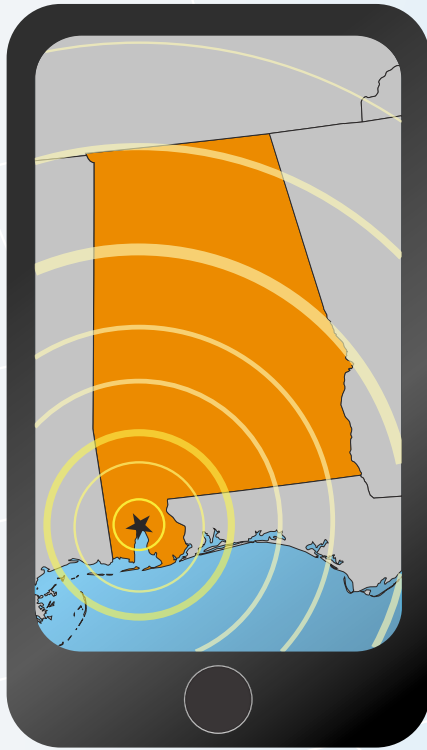
SCOLT congratulates Dr. Redmond on this award and thanks her for her tireless efforts to promote world languages in the Southeastern United States.



*Founders Award recipient, Mary Lynn Redmond
2014 ACTFL President*



SOUTHERN CONFERENCE ON LANGUAGE TEACHING



LANGUAGES...
the REAL
MOBILE APP!

#SCOLT20

MOBILE, AL ★ MARCH 26-28, 2020

for more information, visit scolt.org

SAVE THE DATE!

Make plans now to attend SCOLT 2020 in beautiful downtown Mobile!

Conference to be held at Mobile Convention Center

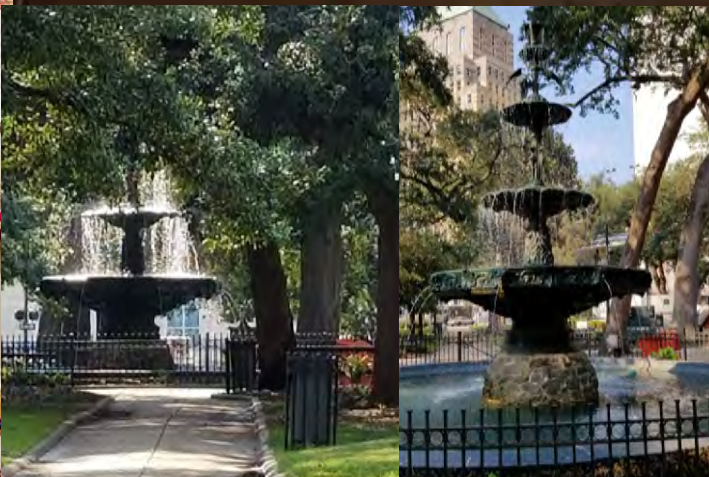
Conference hotel: Renaissance Mobile Riverview Plaza

Find out more about Mobile and see what the city has to offer.

Did you know... Mobile is the birthplace of the original Mardi Gras?

Session proposals currently being accepted through September 1, 2019

Views of beautiful Mobile, Alabama, site of SCOLT 2020!





Alabama

HANNAH SULLIVAN

Learning about other cultures forces us to consider our own. My students often remark that they learn so much more than Spanish in my classroom. **Music, science, linguistics, art, life skills: it's all connected, and that realization truly sets students on the road to cultural competency.** If I can prepare my students to see other perspectives and ways of life, beginning with the way they learn to circumlocute and say the same things in different ways, they become better citizens in our city and nation because they see beyond themselves.



Arkansas

MELANIE MALDONADO

As educators, we often stress the importance of learning a second language to our college-bound students, but **every** student can benefit from the opportunity to learn skills that can assist them in building valuable personal and professional relationships. Language does not exist in isolation. Language expresses, embodies and symbolizes cultural reality. **Cultural competence determines the quality of our interactions with people from diverse backgrounds.**



Florida

HUIHONG BAO

The fast development of technology has greatly changed the world we live in, so cross-cultural communication has become a necessity for success in many fields. Becoming bilingual or trilingual will open up better opportunities for our career and personal growth as it gives us perspectives to look at and interact with the world differently.



Kentucky

CATHERINE DEL VALLE

Learning a language goes hand in hand with cultural competence and the willingness to adapt to new cultures and traditions as well as creating new relationships in our lives. **Learning a new language must engage the learner to cultivate an understanding of ways in which culture entangles itself with the language being learned.**



Louisiana

ANNABELLE WILLIAMSON

Learning a second language should be equitable and accessible to all children, regardless of ethnicity, socioeconomic level or grade point average! To make it accessible to all students, we must teach in a way that embraces all learning styles, celebrates diversity and supports all students. The goal for my students is that they be joyfully engaged and inherently invested in developing language proficiency.



Mississippi

HECTOR BARBERENA

Cultural competence and language learning are intrinsically connected in the same way that addition and subtraction or multiplication and division are connected. A person is not able to do one successfully without knowing the other. **This relationship between language and cultural competence is vital in the process of learning a language, even the learner's first language.**



North Carolina

LISA WORTHINGTON-GROCE

The skills learned in the world language classroom are at the foundation of a modern enlightened civilization and reinforce the democratic ideals of free speech. **Language-learners are consistently exposed to the idea that by working together, we are stronger.** Knowledge of other languages and cultures is valuable because it allows humans to interact with each other respectfully and in a manner that leads to increased compassion for different ways of viewing the world.



South Carolina

JESSICA KELLY

Every student deserves a fun and engaging learning environment where they feel welcome, supported, and appreciated. Instruction should incorporate the use of authentic tasks to build connections to the real world, but should also build bridges between people of different cultures.



Tennessee

CATHERINE CHILDS

When I have the chance to travel and immerse myself in new countries and with new languages, I feel like a different person. My gestures, facial expressions, and sometimes personality when using French are all different than when I speak English. **What an amazing thing to be able to share with students—that we can express ourselves in totally new ways when we have new and different words!** As we explore the cultures and customs of the world, it pushes my students to examine their preconceived notions and stereotypes about people from different backgrounds.



West Virginia

AMELIA RICHTER

With a shift towards offering "innovative" programs in certain content areas aligning with world ready standards, **it is paramount that "foreign" language not be seen as just another content but as the thread that interweaves all subjects.** Better viewed as a skill rather than content knowledge, proficiency in another language has the capability to amplify students' passions by making them better at their trade or by simply making them better humans who can communicate in another language.

An Interview with Lisa Worthington-Groce 2019 SCOLT Teacher of the Year

Lisa Worthington-Groce fell in love with the sound of languages when she was a just a child, but did not begin learning them formally until middle school when she studied French at an enrichment summer camp. By her senior year of high school at the NC School of Science and Mathematics, she had begun learning German as well and had also dabbled in Esperanto and Russian. Every semester at Davidson College included at least two languages courses (and sometimes three or four)! She graduated with a major in German and a minor in French.

She studied abroad in southern Germany twice—on an 8-week *Oeland Language Scholarship* at the Goethe Institut in Prien am Chiemsee and for an entire year at the University of Würzburg. She also received the *Bremer German Language Award*, given each year to a graduating senior for outstanding achievement in the study of German.

Lisa continued her passion for language education at UNC-Chapel Hill, where she received her MAT and later became a K-12 certified French and German teacher. She also became a national board certified teacher for world languages in 2011. Lisa has taught for 16 years—the first 3 for Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools and the past 13 at Northwest Guilford High School in Greensboro, NC. She has experience teaching both French and German levels 1 through AP. Lisa is married to Michael Groce and they have two children: Sarah Rachel, 13, and Lauren, 6 and both daughters are already showing signs of being burgeoning linguists!

Q: It is extremely impressive that you have tripled the size of the German program at your school to the point of needing to hire a second German teacher! What types of activities and efforts did you engage in to promote the study of the German language and culture at your school?

A: When I first began teaching at my high school in 2006, I taught 65 students (total) and this year, we have over 300 students enrolled in German 1 through AP! There is still room to grow since our school has over 2100 students. I chartered a chapter of the National German Honor Society and invited students' fami-



lies to attend an annual awards banquet to recognize new inductees as well as participants in the National German Exam. I also joined forces with the French & Latin Clubs to offer fun, interactive activities like a “World Cup” soccer game, gingerbread house building, and chocolate tasting. Every other year, we do a German American Partnership Programs (GAPP) Exchange and take part in an immersion weekend and state German competition. One of the biggest tips I would give to teachers trying to build a program is to get “word of mouth” working in your favor about all the cool activities you do with students!

Q: Since you have been a tremendous advocate for languages at your school and in your state, how do you plan to extend your advocacy efforts at the regional level?

A: Advocacy comes in many forms, at the school level, I have teamed up with teachers in other disciplines to create interdisciplinary units—for example, a project to educate students on the harm of plastics with the environmental science, statistics, and English teachers. Within the district and state, I have presented and written about units and lessons for use in all modern

spoken languages and I previously served as President of the NC-AATG. I'll serve on the National German Exam writing committee again this year and I will be a reader for the AP German Exam for the very first time in June, a decade-long professional goal. I am looking forward to becoming more involved with advocacy within our Southern region. I'd like to take an active leadership role through SCOLT to advance the cause of language learning and I will embark on a campaign of public awareness to encourage decision-makers and the public to recognize the value of communicative and cultural proficiency for our students in the 21st century global community.

Q: You have been extremely involved in professional organizations such as the American Association of Teachers of German (AATG), the Foreign Language Association of North Carolina (FLANC), and the Southern Conference on Language Teaching (SCOLT). How does your involvement in these organizations inform your teaching practices?

A: I first became involved with my state chapter of the AATG during my student teaching days in 2003. Thanks to an amazing supervising teacher (Jo

Garrison), I learned early in my career the importance of connecting with colleagues and being active in our profession outside the classroom walls. I always leave our biannual NC-AATG meetings with inspiring teaching strategies and resources. The theme of our 2018 fall FLANC conference was "Professional Friends Forever" and these conferences are a great way to reconnect with colleagues and make new professional contacts. The wealth of ideas at the presentations is astonishing! Some of my favorite recent sessions included those at SCOLT from my fellow state Teachers of the Year: West Virginia's Amelia Richter showed how to incorporate reading with students and Louisiana's Annabelle Allen demonstrated techniques for comprehensible input. I love returning from conferences invigorated with a renewed passion for teaching.

Q: You have organized and led several German American Partnership Programs (GAPP) for students at your school in partnership with secondary schools in Neusäß and Berlin, Germany. It takes countless hours to organize and create exchange programs such as GAPP. However, exchanges such as these can be life-changing for students. Could you give some specific examples of your students' development of intercultural communicative competence and/or of their personal growth as a result of your GAPP programs?

A: While organizing student exchanges requires tremendous "off-the-clock" labor on the part of the teacher, the benefits are overwhelming! I have seen students form friendships with their host families that have lasted for a decade. Several travel participants have formed such a strong connection to the language and culture that they moved to Germany after college—one who works as a nanny to children, and another who teaches English as a foreign language. Recent GAPP participants have told me that they learned how to take setbacks in stride after they witnessed the slower, more relaxed pace of life that is true for many German families. Parents of GAPP students have also shared that they feel more comfortable sending their young people to college with the independence and confidence the students gained during the trips abroad.

Q: You have also led study abroad programs and you studied abroad yourself in Würzburg, Germany, when you were pursuing your bachelor's degree in German at Davidson College. What are the greatest benefits of



studying abroad and what could be done to help more high school and college students gain international experience through study abroad?

A: Studying abroad during college has been one of the most memorable experiences of my life. I lived with a host family in northern Germany for a month and spent the remainder of the year at a university in Bavaria. Since 2000, I have considered my German host parents and siblings my second family and I visit them every time I travel back. The immersion experience is invaluable to building relationships and forming a life-long connection with the people and culture. We are fortunate that there are so many programs and scholarships available to young people who are interested in international travel. I think the biggest challenge is a public awareness—educating students and parents about the funding that is available to make their travel dreams become reality.

Q: You are certified to teach both German and French and you have been a national board certified teacher in world languages (early adolescence through young adulthood) since 2011. It takes a tremendous amount of effort to earn national board certification. In what ways did the process of seeking national board certification in world languages impact your teaching practices?

A: One of the greatest benefits of the national board certification process is that it forces you to reflect in great detail on your teaching practices and it helps you align them to national standards. During the year-long adventure toward certification, I took up residence every weekend in our local libraries and coffee shops, where I read journals on second language acquisition, viewed recordings of my teaching, and

analyzed student progress extensively. Getting into the habit of meditating each week on my unit and lesson plans has continued with me to this day. Every year, I revise and refine my teaching to improve my lessons for the following year. The proliferation of social media for sharing ideas in spaces such as listservs, online webinars/communities, and Facebook Groups has only made this reflective process more collaborative and exciting!

Q: You have been a language educator since 2003 and you have won local, state, and regional awards for your teaching. What advice could you give to novice world language teachers to help them make a positive and lasting impact on their students as you have?

A: Make personal connections with your students both in and out of the classroom—attend their sporting events, performances, and competitions. Help each individual student figure out his or her strengths in the language. Make time to observe other educators and ask veteran teachers for lesson plan ideas. My mentor was invaluable to me the first several years of my career and I love hearing the exciting ideas that brand new language teachers bring to the table. Don't expect everything to fall into place the first year. Try to make each year a little better than the last as you build up your repertoire of master lessons. Never stop learning yourself—take trips to the target culture whenever possible, read journals on second language acquisition, and find professional development opportunities that work for you. Discover your own personal teaching style!

Article Submitted by Victoria Russell, SCOLT Board Member and Co-Editor of SCOLTalk



2019 SCOLT Scholarship Recipients Recognized at Annual Conference in Myrtle Beach

SCOLT awarded six scholarships to recipients from Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee. We urge our world language teachers in the SCOLT region to apply for these fabulous study abroad scholarships for opportunities to learn in the target culture. Stay tuned for our 2020 SCOLT Scholarship offerings. A complete list of the 2020 scholarships will be posted on the SCOLT website by August 31, 2019, with updates as they become available prior to that date.

FRENCH:

Sponsor: CIEL – Centre International d'Études de Langues de Strasbourg
Recipient: Erin Pendergast, Pearson Online and Blended Learning, Clermont, FL

GERMAN:

Sponsor: Goethe Institut
Recipient: Melinda Zelif, Alonso HS, Tampa, FL

SPANISH:

Sponsor: Academia Latinoamericana
Recipient: Maria Silva, Georgetown HS, Georgetown, SC

Sponsor: Estudio Sampere
Recipient: Cesar Salazar, Huchison School, Memphis, TN

Sponsor: Cemanahuac Educational Community
Recipient: Sandra Cordova, The Kearns Academy, High Point, NC

Sponsor: Centro MundoLengua
Recipient: Amisha Patel, Frederick Douglass HS, Lexington, KY

2019 Bostick Award Recipients Named

The two recipients of the 2019 Bostick Awards are:

- *Che King*, Savannah-Chatham County Public School System, GA
- *Jessica Warner*, Fayette County Public Schools, KY

To be eligible for the award, teachers must be in their first to fifth year(s) of teaching dedicated to a long-term teaching commitment who have not yet attended a SCOLT conference, and who demonstrate a commitment to future conference participation as part of their professional development. Two teachers will be awarded conference registration during each annual SCOLT conference

Click [here](#) for the Bostick Award page and link to the 2020 nomination form. Nominations will be accepted through January 15, 2020.



REMINDER!

Deadline for 2020 SCOLT Awards

January 15, 2020

Find out more information on SCOLT's website



Faces of SCOLT



A Few Musings as SCOLT Begins a New Chapter

As you may know, after seven years I stepped down from the role of Executive Director of SCOLT at the conclusion of the 2019 conference in Myrtle Beach. First off, I would like to publicly thank the current SCOLT Board for everything they did to make the weekend memorable. I'd also like to thank all those Board members I had the opportunity to work with over my years of service to this association. The SCOLT Board is a working board, and everyone has to pitch in to do their part to pull off an event of this scope.

As I reflect on the years, I am pleased with many of the new ideas we implemented, such as having the "hot seat" sessions on Friday, developing an awards booklet to distribute at the Opening General Session, streamlining on-site registration, and moving *Dimension* to an online refereed journal to name but a few. There are other aspects that many of you don't see but which impact the success of the conference. The Board has developed processes to ensure everything is getting done in preparations for the conference. This is no easy task when Board members hail from several states and at least two time zones. We've developed a thorough written agreement that we share with our co-sponsoring associations annually so there are no surprises and everyone knows what their responsibilities are. The Board has also worked hard to develop a committee approach to getting things done, which isn't always easy, but it helps to ensure that at least one other person on the Board knows what is happening in case of unforeseen emergencies.

Of course, all of these improvements are just that: improvements. They are not perfection. The Board meets at the conclusion of every conference to discuss what went well and where things need to be tweaked. Then, they roll up their sleeves and get to work on making the next conference the best one ever.

One of the biggest highlights of my tenure includes being able to celebrate SCOLT's 50th anniversary conference in Atlanta with former executive directors Lynne McClendon and Herman Botstick. As many of you know, Dr. Bostick was among those to conceive of the Southern Conference on Language Teaching, and I am honored to have served this association.

In many ways, SCOLT is just getting started, and I'm excited to see what Leslie Baldwin and current and future Boards will continue to do to make this association thrive. I'll definitely be cheering on this group. When I started, I heard many questions about the role of a regional association in today's teaching and learning context. I, for one, find regionals to be essential, because we open the doors to teachers about things larger than their state association. For example, we partner with ACTFL to bring the National Language Teacher of the Year and quality workshops to world language educators in the Southeast.

I truly believe in the power of professional associations and the important work they do. For those of you out there who may wonder if you have something to offer – YOU DO! These associations cannot survive without the dedication and professionalism of teachers and professors out there in the field. As a first year teacher nearly three decades ago, I took a chance and went to an immersion weekend for German teachers in Savannah, Georgia. Not only did that experience set the stage for the rest of my career, it also introduced me to colleagues who have become life-long friends. THAT is the power of bringing people together.

Best wishes to all of you in the SCOLT region and beyond as we conclude the current academic year and prepare for the next one. I can't wait to see what the SCOLT Board has in store for you next March in Mobile!

David Jahner,
SCOLT Executive Director Emeritus



2020 Sponsors & Patrons Business Meeting and Reception Location Set

The SCOLT Sponsors and Patrons Business Meeting and Reception is always one of the major highlights of the conference. Our 2019 event was held at the rooftop bar at SoHo in Myrtle Beach, where over 110 professionals gathered to network, enjoy some great food, as well as learn how to do the Carolina Shag. Once again, EF Tours was a gracious sponsor of this event.

Based on that success, we are pleased to announce the location of the 2020 Business Meeting and Reception:

Friday, March 27, 2020

5:30 - 7:00 PM

Mobile Carnival Museum

Mobile is the site of the original Mardi Gras in what is now the United States, and one can see beads hanging from the trees well after the celebration is over. You don't want to miss this important opportunity to see colleagues, network with other world language educators, and support SCOLT by being a valued Sponsor or Patron.

The pictures on this page give you an idea of what you can see at the Museum. Be sure to click [here](#) and become a SCOLT Sponsor/Patron TODAY so you won't miss out on all the fun!



**SCOLT S&P Business Meeting
and Reception**

Friday, March 27, 2020

5:30 - 7:00 PM

Mobile Carnival Museum

**Become a SCOLT Sponsor or
Patron today so you won't miss
this cultural experience!**



Why become a SCOLT Sponsor / Patron?

So what makes SCOLT different than a state association? One major difference is that we don't have membership in the traditional sense of the word - all world language teachers who teach in the SCOLT region are part of the SCOLT family. Sponsors and Patrons are those educators and others who contribute annually to the association. These contributions help to offset ongoing routine expenses as well as enable our region's voice to be heard at national events such as JNCL and ACTFL. Here are some additional benefits of being a SCOLT Sponsor/Patron:

- reduced registration fee for annual SCOLT conferences
- eligibility for nomination for election to the Board of Directors
- listing for you and your state or organization as a Sponsor/Patron in the annual conference program
- voting privileges in the election of members of the Board of Directors
- participation in the Sponsors and Patrons meeting and reception at the annual conference
- having your voice heard at the regional level
- supporting professional development and advocacy initiatives in the region
- connecting with other language educators and leaders in the region

Not sure whether you are a current SCOLT Sponsor or Patron? [Click here to find out.](#)

Want to become a SCOLT Sponsor or Patron? [Click here to join today!](#)

We look forward to seeing you next March in Mobile!



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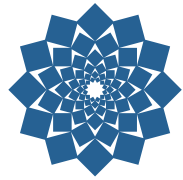
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Stay Connected Around the SCOLT Region

SCOLT: This year's conference will be hosted in Mobile, AL, March 26-28, 2020. Web · Facebook · Twitter

AWLA: Alabama's annual conference will be held joint with SCOLT March 26-28, 2020 in Mobile. Web · Facebook · Twitter

AFLTA: The Arkansas Foreign Language Teachers Association updates can be found here Web · Facebook

FFLA: Florida's conference will be held in Orlando at the Wyndham Orlando Resort, October 17-19, 2019. Web · Facebook · Twitter

FLAG: Georgia's 2019 conference will be held in Atlanta, March 6-7, 2020. Web · Facebook · Twitter

KWLA: Kentucky's 2019 conference will be held in Lexington, September 26-28, 2019. Web · Facebook

LFLTA: Louisiana's 2020 conference will be held January 10 - 11 in Natchitoches. Web · Facebook · Twitter

MFLA: Mississippi Foreign Language Association's annual conference will be November 8 - 9, 2019 in Starkville: Web · Facebook · Twitter · Google

FLANC: North Carolina will hold its' annual conference in Winston-Salem, October 25-26, 2019. Web · Facebook

SCFLTA: South Carolina's Foreign Language Teacher's Association: Web · Twitter

TFLTA: Tennessee will hold their conference November 8-9, 2019 in Franklin, Tennessee. Web · Facebook · Twitter

TFLA: Texas will hold its' annual conference October 17 - 19 in Houston. Web · Facebook

FLAVA: Virginia will hold their fall conference at the Washington & Lee University, October 3-5, 2019. Web · Twitter

WVFLTA: West Virginia Foreign Language Teachers Association will hold its' conference in Wheeling, WV on October 18-19, 2019. Web · Twitter

