



President's Message - March, 2016- Special Double Issue!
Christopher Gwin - Past President *Amanda Seewald - President*

~A tremendously successful FLENJ Annual Conference and a meaningful transition~

Dear FLENJ members,

Thanks to all who participated in the 2016 FLENJ Annual Conference February 26, 27 at the Hyatt Regency in New Brunswick. The Friday half-day themed workshops, the inspirational Saturday keynote address, the good news of award recipients and the power-packed and varied Saturday sessions- every ingredient made the recipe successful. The FLENJ all-volunteer board endeavored to make the space necessary to imagine, to create and to inspire! Thanks for being part of a record participation and we wish you the best for successful lessons during the second half of the school year.

I would like to add a personal thank you to the dedicated and tireless FLENJ board members: As I transition out of the role of FLENJ President, I am filled with the hope created by possibility. The support, guidance and patience of the board made it possible for me to attempt my regular work and a leadership role in our dynamic and vibrant state org for world language professionals. We, in New Jersey, enjoy outstanding professional development opportunities through the FLENJ network, now have a highly-qualified world language advocate speaking up for us in Trenton, and students in all NJ schools can have the chance to work to attain the Seal of Biliteracy. I am passionate about language learning in NJ and have been honored to represent our state at the regional and national level in advocacy, policy and pedagogy during the last 18 months. I say thank you to all FLENJ members for your support during my turn in leadership and now introduce you to Amanda Seewald, FLENJ President 2016-2018, under whose very capable leadership FLENJ will continue to move forward.

Christopher Gwin - FLENJ Past-President

~Moving ahead and broadening our reach~

Hello FLENJ members and colleagues,

First, I would like to once again thank Chris Gwin for his wonderful leadership and his true dedication to FLENJ and to our profession! I am honored to step into the role of FLENJ President for 2016-18. I have served on the FLENJ Board for many years alongside a group of devoted colleagues and I have greatly appreciated having the opportunity to help bring meaningful professional development opportunities to NJ world language teachers. My role on the board has been focused on advocacy and I believe that **we are at a crucial point in our state's growth and recognition of the essential nature of quality, well-articulated PK-16 world language learning.** The next two years will be very exciting in terms of putting policy into practice and seeing that practice move us to stronger programs across the state and even the nation. **With the signing of the NJ Seal of Biliteracy into law, we now have unlocked another way to encourage and persuade our schools to place more emphasis on language learning as a central skill for 21st century global education.**

~Let's work together to continue to improve our practice by learning from each other through collaborative experiences with experts!

~Let's all challenge our communities to raise the academic bar to meet the needs of their budding global citizens by providing the most important keys to their future...greater communication and understanding!

I assure you that FLENJ will continue to provide you with the tools you need to make this a reality and please remember that we are also here to support your advocacy efforts and to highlight your work. This year we are glad to introduce a new way for you to get involved. **The FLENJ board invites you to share your expertise with your colleagues by joining a FLENJ working committee.** Stay tuned for more information on this and our upcoming events! You won't want to miss a minute! I look forward to meeting you all and to hearing about how FLENJ can best meet your needs. Thank you for your support.

Amanda Seewald - FLENJ President