

August 22, 2015

Dear FLENJ Member,

The summer swam past us in its usual sneaky way and now we face the prospect of a new school year. I do hope you are ready to face the challenges with renewed energy from a restful and enjoyable summer. Some must work all summer and those lazy days of lounging lakeside are few but that only makes them sweeter. Late August is a good time to savor the sweetness of summer – those moments of nearing a nap on a comfy chair by the lake, bathed in warm sunshine, nudged into sleepiness by a gentle breeze with just the sound of the water softly reaching the shore. Suddenly, we hear the loud crash of deadlines ringing around us, jarring us back to reality. What does this new school year hold for you? What are your plans for professional growth? No need for you to fear- FLENJ is here!

FLENJ Forward - we on the board have envisioned an ambitious year of professional growth for YOU! FLENJ is moving forward - move with us! Remember, FLENJ is your go-to network for the best professional learning for world language educators across New Jersey. Our tremendous team of high capacity educators – all volunteer – has realized this ambitious vision in a solid plan for healthy growth.

A stand-out among the excitement is our new initiative: examining global issues in the world language classroom. Several of the FLENJ board members are focused this school year on guiding educators who want to reimagine their traditional lesson themes through a global issues framework. This new initiative will continue to unfold as the school year progresses.

We invite you to check out what we are offering for professional growth:

FLENJ webinars– the next series. This fall we kick off the newest FLENJ initiative – examining global issues in the world language classroom. Join us for a members-only free webinar hosted by Beth Wassell, co-author of the recent ACTFL publication: *Words and Actions: Teaching Languages Through the Lens of Social Justice* Sep 24 4.00pm-5.00pm. Get more details and register by clicking here.

FLENJ full-day workshops – the greatest slate. This year we are excited to offer five top-of-the-top drawer professional development day-long, individually-themed workshops at NJPSA: Oct 1, Dec 22, Feb 3, Mar 16, May 26. Building on the strength of last year's successful series, our team has organized five relevant and rejuvenating workshops just when you need them across the entire school year. Get more details and register by clicking here.

FLENJ at NJEA- all of the highest quality and right near the beach! Join us in Atlantic City November 5-6, 2015 for eleven workshop sessions on varied themes, all designed to provide you with the best professional learning and at no cost if you belong to NJEA. Get more details by clicking here.

FLENJ Annual Conference – The monumental energy of last year's great success propelled us to offer you the best-of-the-best for 2016. Our annual conference, again at the Hyatt Regency New Brunswick, February 26-27, 2016 is exactly what you need at the mid-point of the school year: great workshops on Friday and Saturday on the theme: Imagine, Create, Inspire. Save the dates and check out the website in future weeks for conference details.

I told you this was ambitious! The 2015-2016 plan resulted from a vision by the board with ample amounts of ambition. This is FLENJ Forward – your network led by a dedicated team of excellent educators supporting your work with great professional learning.

Looking forward to seeing you at an upcoming workshop and wishing you a smooth start to the school year.

All the best,

Christopher Gwin
FLENJ President