

September 16, 2015

Dear FLENJ Member,

Goodness! - We have reached the mid-point in September, already! It seemed to me that it was just the other day, I was enjoying my morning in the peace and tranquility of my garden. Now suddenly, we are in the land of SGO, PGP, and whatever other crazy acronyms have come your way this school year! Despite the sudden crush of deadlines and responsibilities, I hope that your first day was similar to mine – classes of eager faces, fresh from summer fun and ready to learn! It only took me one minute to remember my purpose – take them on a journey to new and exciting destinations – some we might not even conceive of today. I feel fortunate to have chosen the field that allows for exploring these kinds of new vistas. The globalized world beckons our students and we are the guides on their paths, making it safe and possible for them to reach for more.

Among the many great professional development opportunities this fall, I want to highlight three:

Our first FLENJ webinar of the school year September 24, 2015 4.00pm-5.00pm.

Webinars make the ideal PD format, because you can sit at a computer: at home, at school, or your favorite cafe and learn something new and worthwhile! Join us as Beth Wassell introduces us to ways to incorporate global issues into our existing curricula in the world languages classroom. She will work from the new ACTFL publication Words and Actions, which she co-authored. We are fortunate to have Beth in New Jersey and this is a fantastic opportunity to start a great year of professional growth.

The #Edcamp – unconference for world language educators: September 26, 2015 at Piscataway High School

If you are new to the unconference concept, check out the details here:

<https://sites.google.com/site/edcampwl/home>

Registration is easy and free. Hurry and register today before all the spots get snatched up by someone else!

Our first FLENJ full professional development day at NJPSA: October 1, 2015 hosted by Carol Gaab. Spend the day immersed in her work and leave with new strategies to improve instruction. This multi-faceted workshop will explore a variety of powerful strategies to deliver Comprehensible Input in ways that will engage learners, deepen comprehension and meaning and naturally keep input and output in the target language.

I know you have lesson plans and student work to return to, as I distracted you with this message. But, I wanted to reach out and remind you of the great professional growth opportunities offered to you this fall season by FLENJ. 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.

I am wishing you classrooms full of eager and dedicated youth, ready to learn what you have to share!

Sincerely,

Christopher Gwin
FLENJ President