

Dear *FLENJ*:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for selecting me as the recipient of the extremely generous award to attend the Northeast Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (NECTFL) in Baltimore, Maryland.

I am currently teaching Mandarin levels 1 and 2 in Franklin High School, Somerset. When FLENJ posted the news on Facebook to sponsor teachers to attend NECTFL, I filled out the forms excitedly. To my surprise, Dr. Farina [FLENJ Immediate Past President] rang me one afternoon and told me the pleasant news that I won the raffle. Since my luck is not always the best, I kept on asking: "is this real?" After Dr. Farina confirmed the answer, I started to count down the days.

This is my third time attending NECTFL and it is always difficult to put into words the wealth of professional growth I gained from the conference. The innovative thematic units, the efficient classroom management techniques as well as the fantastic instructional methods presented during the conference help sharpen my professional skills. Thanks to the stimulating workshops, I always walk out the conference rooms with a bunch of new ideas to enrich my curriculum and improve my instructional skills. The workshop, Educating for Sustainability, presented by Ms. Ransom from Princeton Day School, was especially inspirational to me. In the workshop, Ms. Ransom led us to consider the goal of educating for sustainability and then demonstrated games and sample lessons that aligned with sustainability principles. Throughout the presentation, Ms. Ransom fostered not only a new way of thinking but provided inventive insights into world language classrooms. Besides languages and cultures, world language teachers can facilitate critical conversation with students around issues such as globalization or environmental protection. I, inspired by this brilliant presenter, gathered new methods, perspectives, and ideas to include new materials in my class.

After the four days of the conference, I was filled with new knowledge. But the conference was too short! Thank you, FLENJ, for supporting my attendance at NECTFL 2012! I am truly grateful.

Sincerely

Paohsuan Huang