



# FLENJ

## Foreign Language Educators of New Jersey

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March 13, 2020

Dear valued FLENJ members, presenters, and sponsors & vendors:

### **We write to you now with an update regarding the FLENJ annual conference for 2020.**

With much regret and disappointment, the FLENJ board of directors has voted unanimously to cancel **the 2020 annual conference of March 27-28 in Iselin, NJ**. FLENJ is aware of and has always been sensitive to the current health and safety concerns over coronavirus (COVID-19). As conference attendees were informed just 2 days ago, FLENJ has been committed to acting in accordance with directives given from governmental agencies if the current state of emergency were to worsen. Within the last 24-48 hours, the WHO has declared a global pandemic and, in keeping with several neighboring states, the governor of NJ has recommended the cancellation of all public gatherings throughout New Jersey of more than 250 individuals. Due to mounting government and health declarations, along with resulting travel suspensions by companies and districts alike, we are now, thus, compelled - and in a better position - to make the difficult decision to cancel our 2020 "Growing Our Global Garden" conference due to the current and unprecedented emergency.

Conference co-chairs Kristine Keefe and Josephine Serrano have worked tirelessly to bring you the best of New Jersey in this year's conference with a new format, new schedule, and new presenters. We all have been committed to the FLENJ motto and goal of influencing practice to ensure high quality world languages education. However, there is no decision now but to cancel for the safety of our presenters, sponsors, vendors, and attendees; it would be morally irresponsible otherwise. Nevertheless, we remain strong and devoted to our mission; and we hope you remain equally committed. The resilient members of our board have even already begun to discuss and text amongst themselves about how we will plan for #AC2021. Simply amazing!

**FLENJ will return purchase orders to the school districts of registrants who chose "offline payment" and will honor requests for refunds from registrants who paid by credit card.** However, if you paid by credit card, we hope you will consider donating a small portion of your registration fees to help FLENJ cover the costs already incurred in planning this conference and to cover others costs associated with bringing you the best we have to offer. You will receive word from FLENJ in the coming weeks regarding refunds and hope you will be patient with us as we do so.

Wishing you the best in remaining safe, happy, and HEALTHY,

FLENJ Conference Chairs & Board of Directors

*Influencing policy and practice to ensure high quality world languages education in New Jersey schools.*

**Board of Directors**

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