

PSMLA Fall Newsletter 2014

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PSMLA 2014 Conferences in State College:

MANY LANGUAGES, ONE STATE: LET'S COLLABORATE!

"Excellent conference!" "Most productive to bring together world language educators from diverse levels" "Great first conference experience! Definitely will return."

The PSMLA 2014 Fall Conference was held in State College at the Penn Stater. Over 200 professionals attended this year's conference (175 on each day). See you next year in Philadelphia!



The conference got off to a great start with a pre-conference workshop on PA's new teacher evaluation system, organized by Donna Spangler.



Numerous sessions on World Languages education, including a session presented by Kutztown students and their professor Dr. Nancy Zimmerman, entitled: *Students' Perspectives of Assessments to Improve Learning*



The Exhibit Hall was active throughout the conference with product sales and vendor products, demonstrations and workshops. EMC also sponsored the Wine and Cheese reception on Friday evening.

PSMLA Awardees Honored

PSMLA Annual Awards Presentation was held on Friday October 18 at the Penn Stater in State College, PA. We are honored to recognize the following PSMLA members:

Frank Mulhern Leadership Award:

Pam Kolega Pam taught Spanish for 17 years at Dallastown Area School District in York County, and her most dedicated work was as World/Foreign Language Advisor from 2000-2011. Pam said that: "those 11 years were as gratifying if not more gratifying as my experiences in classroom teaching".



Educator of the year:

Silvina Orsatti, Since coming to southwestern PA with the Rotary program, Silvina has taught Spanish and technology. Silvina is currently teaching Spanish at the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg, and continues to plan professional development opportunities as a member of the Community for the Advancement of Teaching.

Merit Award:

Pennsylvania Council for International Education (PaCIE) Established in 1969 by a group of Pennsylvania colleges and universities in order to advocate for international education and to support collaborative projects, PaCIE provides important professional development and networking opportunities to college and university faculty, administrators and students.

PSMLA is happy to recognize excellence! Congratulations to all!



PSMLA EXEMPLARY PROGRAMS (PEP)

At PSMLA 2014, one of the many wonderful sessions was a session on the PSMLA PEP program. Participants engaged in interactive activities aimed at understanding the PEP criteria, and how it can be applied to their own programs. The session served to bring the PEP criteria to life, as well as showcasing a recent PEP awardee.

The purpose of the PEP program is

- ◆ To identify and recognize exemplary PA high school world language programs.
- ◆ To encourage PA school officials, board members, teachers, students and parents to use the PEP Rubric as guide to improve world language programs

PEP is not a competition. Any high school that provides evidence that it meets the criteria will receive an award.

The program is open to all PA high schools (public, private, charter, parochial, etc.) provided one (or more) of the world language teachers is a PSMLA

member and is a two-year award.

Award Levels:

Golden Globe— school must meet or exceed 8 out of 11 program indicators in the Golden Globe column (up to 3 items may be in



the



Bronze or Silver Globe columns, none off the rubric)

Silver Globe —school must meet or exceed 8 out of 11 program indicators in the Silver Globe column (none off the rubric)

Bronze Globe —school must meet or exceed 8 out of 11 program indicators in the Bronze Globe column (none off the rubric)

Globe —school must meet or

exceed 10 of the 11 program indicators listed in the Globe column (one indicator may be off the rubric)

For full PEP criteria: http://www.psmla.net/pep_awards

Benefits of PEP Award:

- ◆ Gives outside validation / data to the good work that you are doing for your administration, school board, students and parents
- ◆ Provides a standards-based tool (PEP Rubric) to improve programs, boost student enrollment, and provide departmental K-12 focus and unity
- ◆ Provides PR opportunities for foreign language week/month for local news, your website and PSMLA website, school newsletters and showcasing special features of your program



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT UPDATES



On September 20th, 2014, over 40 world language educators (as well as five PSMLA board members) gathered on a Saturday morning at Hershey Middle School in Derry Township School District for an assessment / Student Learning Objective (SLO) hands-on workshop. Participants discussed current classroom assessments used that inform both the teacher and the students about their performance of authentic tasks in the real world. Participants reviewed the Danielson Framework, the ACTFL language proficiency benchmarks, Integrated Performance Assessments (IPAs), and worked on creating or revising their SLOs for the current

school year. Attendees at the workshop received a free copy of the "2011 PSMLA Standards and Guide to Assessment: What to Teach and How to Test it" to continue their work beyond the session in creating meaningful world language assessments.

"It was great to have time to collaborate!"
"...very helpful & practical – immediately useful."

NECTFL and Vista Sponsor Mentoring program at PSMLA 2014

Last year Vista sponsored a mentoring program for NECTFL. New teachers (in their 1st—3rd year) were invited to attend the conference as a mentee. One mentor was assigned for two mentees. Since there will not be a NECTFL conference this spring, Becky Kline proposed that VISTA work with the state conferences, and selected New York and PA to participate. President Jan Stewart recruited Christina Huhn and Isabel Espino deValdivia to spearhead this activity. Mentors received an honorarium of \$50 and teachers received a scholarship of \$150, for free attendance to the conference. Mentors and mentees were in contact via e-mail prior to the conference and met in person for breakfast and conference activities.



While they did not necessarily have to attend the same sessions the mentor/mentee program provided an opportunity for newer teachers to connect professionally with our

seasoned veterans!

Selected mentors and mentees were:

K-12:

- Mentors:** Katie Pohl, Sarah Hines, Michael Bogdan
- Mentees:** Janeen Bost, Danielle Simchick, Sean Ahern, Kelly Krakosky, Katherine Weisser, Jean Machokas

Post-Secondary:

- Mentor:** Scheri Zuniga-Murphy, Kutztown University
- Mentees:** Lauren Brooks, Penn State;

Southwest: Building Proficiency via the 3 modes of communication

On December 6, 21 language educators attended a great professional development opportunity at Allderdice High School in Pittsburgh. Thanks to Ken Stewart (2006 ACTFL Teacher of the Year Ken Stewart.) and Vista Higher Learning for providing this opportunity!

Missed it this time? See below for another great opportunity at Kutztown University!



UPCOMING EVENTS!

Conference 2015 – Philadelphia

The conference will be held from October 15-17 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in King of Prussia. The keynote speaker on Friday will be **Paul Sandrock**, author of one the ACTL series volume *The Keys to Assessing Language Performance*. The presentation of the awards will be on Friday and the business meeting will be held on Saturday during lunch. There will be a pre-conference workshop on Thursday prior to the conference. John Grande and Nancy Zimmerman are con-



Northeast:

2006 ACTFL Teacher of the Year: Ken Stewart at Kutztown University on Saturday, April 11, 2015

- PSMLA Members: \$20
- Non-members: \$40

Print out and mail the registration form found at <http://www.psmla.net/PSMLA-Events>. **The workshop is thanks to a collaboration of efforts of PMSLA and Vista Higher Learning!**

Southwest

In the spring there will be another networking session. Watch for details!

Southeast

Immersion Day on March 7, 2015 at Chestnut Hill. In the morning, Donna speak about SLOs. The afternoon will be Gamification, using games in the classroom to practice, reinforce, etc.

Save the Date!

Conference 2016 – Erie

The conference will be held at the Ambassador Banquet and Conference Center in Erie on Thursday, October 10 through Saturday, October 15, 2016



For more information or to join PSMLA:

- go to www.psmla.org
- look for PSMLA on **Facebook**
- or **contact**

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The mission of the Pennsylvania State Modern Language Association is to enhance foreign language education throughout the state



by promoting the study of foreign languages,



by providing educators opportunities for professional growth and networking,



by recognizing excellence in the field, and



by collaborating with local, state and national organizations.

Fall PSMLA Executive Council Meeting Highlights

The fall meeting for the PSMLA Executive Council (ExCo) was at the Penn Stater, September 13-14, 2014

President Stewart developed the agenda, committees met and gave reports, and plans were made for future workshops and conferences.

Treasurer's Report (R. Reitlinger)
Council carefully examined the Treasurer's report, examining the current balance and looking at the large upcoming expenses.

Secretary's Report (P. Rzodkiewicz)
Phyllis reported that we currently have 483 individual members and 26 Institutional members. Council was reminded that one of the best ways to maintain and increase membership is through regional workshops across the state.

Advertising Manager's Report (J. Yamamoto)

Junko Yamamoto explained the sponsorships for the conference. EMC has donated \$800 toward the wine and cheese reception. Santillana USA will provide the tote bags and Vista has donated \$500 toward the badge holders. Council discussed the tables and placement for the conference, and inviting the colleges to have a table at a discounted rate.

Finance Report (S. Nimmrichter)

The Finance committee will continue to develop a budget and will look where we can continue to cut costs: publications, advocacy, increasing membership, money provided for awards, corporate sponsorships, etc.

Website Manager's Report (R. DelPorto)

Ron explained changes in our web hosting and Council voted to follow Ron's recommendation to move the website for one year with the short notice. Council also discussed the need to update the website, making it more current. Council agreed to pay to maintain the sites over the next year but have the Publications Committee pursue options for the updating of the site.

Act 48 – (S. Nimmrichter)

Susanne explained that no Act 48 hours will be uploaded unless members complete a questionnaire after the event. Rochele will add this statement to the conference evaluations.

ACTFL – (J. Stewart)

ACTFL will provide materials for our bags at the conference. Publication provide invaluable support for teacher effectiveness and student growth. Thomasina and many other council members will also be in attendance at ACTFL in San Antonio.

PEP - (M. Levenson)

PEP awardees were announced in the Spring 2014 newletter. See PEP program description in this newsletter.

JNCL - (M. Levenson)

Mina and Sister shared notes from a slide presentation prepared by JNCL. Language is an industry and increasingly, languages are a part of STEM and are a fundamental 21st century skill, with consequences for national security, economic growth and jobs, and for social justice. JNCL-NCLIS is fighting to make languages a part of STEM. The language industry is vital to the US STEM industry, leveraging \$1.5 trillion in trade. This is very important information for our members, and Council agreed that our membership in JNCL-NCLIS is important

NECTFL - (D. Wang)

NECTFL has suspended its conference for one year (no conference in 2015) They will have a table at our conference in October in State College and Becky Kline is conducting a survey to better serve NECTFL members.

PaCIE (Sister Kashuba)

Sister explained that she will only attend one day of the PaCIE conference this year because their conference coincides with our conference in October.

Conference 2014 – State College (S. Nimmrichter & J. Ricardo-Osorio)

Everything is running smoothly. Details on session moderation and ACT 48 credits were discussed.

Conference 2015 – Philadelphia (J. Grande & N. Zimmerman)

See elsewhere in this newsletter **Awards** - (J. Grande) See p. 1 of this newsletter

Advocacy - (N. Zimmerman)

here would be a new advocacy link and a JNCL link on the home page. Jan discussed the importance of going to Harrisburg to speak with the state legislators regarding the lack of World Language Standards for Pennsylvania. We need to promote our Teacher of the Year, and explain to our membership the importance of the JNCL website.

Membership (J. Ricardo-Osorio)

The membership committee discussed how to keep costs down, the creation of an official membership brochure, and José's cluster map project to determine which areas of the state are weak in membership.

A motion was also made to keep the membership dues the same for 2015. PSMLA has had several requests from exhibitors and vendors to release our membership lists.

José and Jan have consulted with several other organizations regarding their language on this matter. The exact language will be created and our members will have the option of having their contact information shared.

Publications (D. Wang)

There was much discussion about putting the Forum online; printing costs continue to rise. Donna will research prices without printing and will investigate options to do so ourselves. There was discussion about updating the website and other language organizations for New York and for Massachusetts were reviewed.

It was decided this year to highlight an excellent article submitted on the website and look into fully online options for next year, with a more specific budget.

Please see:

<http://www.psmla.net/forum>

for the spotlighted article

by Rich Madell