

# FLAGS POLE

SUMMER 2021

FLAGS is a membership organization whose purpose is to provide networking, resources and professional development to world language teachers in the greater Sacramento area. We are an affiliate of the California Language Teachers' Association.

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WE DID IT! We made it through this year! Nice job on all your hard work, accomplishments and success this year.

There are a lot of positives coming out of this year, including student appreciation for learning in person. In the Perch, Nicole provides a fantastic summary of all the amazing work you did this year and, in the rest of the issue, we update you on FLAGS events. Here's hoping that this newsletter can be leisurely read and that, in it, you find a lot of useful information. Be sure to rest this summer and find ways to recharge your batteries. We'll see you in the fall.



### Student Awards Breakfast

*Coffee, Cocoa and Cheers*

### **FLAGS Student Awards Breakfast**

On May 22nd, the FLAGS board hosted the 2021 virtual Student Awards Breakfast, "Coffee, Cocoa, and Cheers!"

This is always one of our favorite events of the year. It is such a touching event where WL teachers can highlight the amazing, dedicated students that we have. During the Zoom, teachers introduced and spoke about their nominees. Likewise, the students spoke highly and kindly about their teachers. Afterward, students received a certificate and a prize by mail. It is the kind of event that reminds us of the important and valuable work that we are doing. As a result, it motivates us to continue working so hard for our students. Please be sure to join us next year which will, hopefully, be held in person. Look for announcements on that event in the Spring edition.

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## II PAUSE...

AND MARK  
YOUR  
CALENDARS!

CLTA/CWLP  
Online  
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February  
24th-27th  
2022 CLTA  
returns to  
Sacramento!  
We need  
volunteers  
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# The President's Perch

I can't say enough how inspired I have been and continue to be by the work each and every one of you has done to ensure your students continue to build their linguistic and cultural proficiencies while *also* supporting their social-emotional wellbeing and ensuring their safety. All of this while many, if not all, of you have returned to some amount of in-person learning (your third "first day of school" of the school year).

No other profession has been called upon to completely transform the way they perform their jobs the way educators have, and no one but educators could pull off such a transformation with this degree of success. While we hear a lot about learning loss, we must also remember learning gains:

- Schools and districts moved with amazing speed to provide devices and hotspots to every student who needed them so that teaching and learning could continue.
- Teachers learned almost instantaneously how to record and post lessons, create interactive, meaningful practice activities and conduct assessments and provide feedback all online.
- Teachers rose to the occasion and provided numerous supports throughout their learning experiences to ensure all students could continue making progress on their learning goals.
- Teachers revisited their learning targets and then identified and focused on the *essential* standards in order to support their learners to acquire the key building blocks of world languages even if there were fewer instructional minutes.
- Teachers and students learned much and quickly about fostering social emotional well-being.
- Students benefited from much of the content being available 24/7 so that they could review as needed, or view lessons and complete activities that were originally done when they were absent.
- Students are far more comfortable with core technologies that allow students to practice, speak, create, and share online, and many are now also adept at trouble-shooting (as are many teachers!).
- Students have had ongoing opportunities to build collaboration skills because of their use of a variety of interactive and collaborative online tools.
- When students returned to some in-person learning, it became apparent that connections and community had in fact been fostered during distance learning: teachers could recognize their students when they first arrived at their classroom doors; students recognized each other.
- And more!

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# The President's Perch (cont)

Another measure of your hard work is the high number of students earning the Seal of Biliteracy this year, with all local districts reporting significant increases. Congratulations to you and your amazing, multi-literate scholars!

I asked my district's world language teachers what they started doing during distance learning that they will continue doing when they are fully in person. Here are some of the responses:

- I will continue to use Google slides and GC, Edpuzzle, FlipGrid, the Mote extension for leaving voice feedback, and Kami! All the other tools like Edji and Padlet, Quizlet, Kahoot, and Quizizz I used before DL, and will continue to integrate them to support our CA WL standards 😊
- I started using more IPAs to assess my students' learning.
- Using audio responses for feedback. Giving students a calendar ahead of time so they know what to expect.
- Other responses mentioned additional tools, such as Wordwall, Pear Deck, Jamboards.

So, as you look back on this year, think about what you *gained* this year and what your students *gained*. Think about what will come with you into the next school year because you saw how valuable it was to your students.

This year was not easy. In fact, it was incredibly difficult. We are finally coming out of probably the single hardest period teachers have ever faced. But you did it. Your students did it. You are amazing! Thank you for being you!

Nicole



Throwback photo  
FLAGS hosted CLTA in Sacramento 2015

## CLTA/CWLP Summer Seminar 2021 is online!

Big news! After having to cancel the Summer Seminar in 2020 due to the pandemic, CLTA and CWLP are hosting an online Summer Seminar this July. The Seminar dates will be July 16-21, 2021.

This year's Summer Seminar theme is "The Socially Just World Language Classroom: Social-Emotional Learning & Framework-Aligned Practices". Each morning, participants will be engaged with a series of nationally known keynote speakers with expertise in varied topics related to Social Justice, SEL, and Framework-Aligned instruction. Then, for 2 hours each afternoon (after an extended wellness break), participants will meet in their selected Strands for focused learning.

Because the Seminar is virtual, the cost is much less than during past Seminars: \$350 per person (or \$450 if you wish to purchase 3 CE units). There are suggestions for finding funding, including a variety of scholarship opportunities, posted on the Summer Seminar website.

To learn more about the Summer Seminar, including daily schedule, Strand options, and how to register, visit <https://worldlanguagesummerseminar.org/>

We hope to see you online at Summer Seminar!



### Summer Seminar

# **The Socially Just World Language Classroom:**

Social-Emotional Learning &  
Framework-Aligned Practices

**July 16th – 21st 2021**



# The CLTA Conference is returning to Sacramento!



In what is likely to be one of the first in-person professional learning events in a very long time, the CLTA Conference in 2022 will be in Sacramento at the DoubleTree Hotel. FLAGS and FLASH will be co-hosting this conference and are thrilled to welcome all of CLTA back to in-person professional learning. We hope you, our awesome FLAGS members, will consider signing up to serve on one of our conference committees. We promise the work will be both meaningful and reasonable in terms of time commitment. Stay tuned for more information. In the meantime, please take a look at our [promotional video](#).

We need volunteers in order to effectively host the upcoming CLTA conference in Sacramento. Would you please consider signing up to help? We need people to man the registration and hospitality tables. We also could use help ensuring that presenters have what they need. Please use this [form](#) to check out the volunteer positions available. We can't wait to work with you.



Throwback photo  
FLAGS hosted CLTA in Sacramento 2015

## **The FLAGS Board**

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French Teacher, Bella Vista HS

Board Members can all be reached  
by email on the FLAGS website:  
[www.flagsteacher.com/about](http://www.flagsteacher.com/about)

# MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

As the school year winds down, now is the time to think about your membership in FLAGS. Membership is from September through August. So, if you are a member for this academic year (2020-2021), when you get back from summer vacation you will need to renew your membership for the next academic year (2021-2022). If not a member, you should probably be thinking of joining when school starts up again.

There are lots of benefits to being a member of FLAGS. You can attend FLAGS workshops for FREE. You can nominate colleagues for awards recognizing them for their outstanding teaching. You can honor a student at the annual Student Awards Breakfast for FREE. You can apply for small grants to fund special Advocacy/outreach events with your students. You can join us at the FREE fall member reception. And you get instant updates on matters of importance to the profession.

While you're renewing or joining FLAGS for the first time, think about renewing or becoming a member of our mother Association – CLTA.

To join or renew **FLAGS Membership ONLY** follow the instructions for **FLAGS Membership Only** at <http://www.flagsteacher.com>. To renew or join **CLTA and FLAGS**, visit <https://clta.net/membership/>.

Have a safe and healthy summer.

Evelyn