Customized WL Summer Professional Development

Tuesday, August 7, 2018
8:30 am - 4:00 pm
University of Maine at Orono
Registration: $25 by July 15th
See page 4 for more details.

FLAME Conference 2019

2019 Keynote Speaker: Joshua Cabral
March 7 - 8, 2019
Holiday Inn by the Bay, Portland
Dennis Glidden, Conference Chair
See page 4 for more details.

Best of FLAME 2018

Congratulations to Anne Archambault, a German teacher at Maranacook HS, for being selected as our Best of FLAME presenter at our 2018 conference. Anne will present her session, Kinesthetic Learning in the FL Classroom, in February at NECTFL in New York City.

STUDENT VIDEO & POSTER CONTEST WINNERS

1st Place Poster
Anna K * Bangor HS * student of Marisue Schuiling

2nd Place Poster
Emma R * Sacopee Valley HS * student of Rebecca Barrionuevo

3rd Place Poster
Cameron D * Westbrook HS * student of Dean Morin

1st Place Video
Alexis C & Lindsay D * Bangor HS * student of Graciela Dorsa

2nd Place Video
Pethuel M * Westbrook HS * student of Dean Morin

3rd Place Video
Tyler D * Bangor HS * student of Marisue Schuiling

2018 FLAME CONFERENCE resources are ONLINE!
You can access presenters’ materials via links in our program. Click here to view the electronic program OR click here to view past conferences on our website.
The Richard Williamson Award for Leadership was created in honor of an original founding member of FLAME who spent countless years providing continuous support to language teachers in the state of Maine. This award recognizes an individual who has achieved outstanding results in promoting the study of Modern and Classical Languages and who has shown us the merit and the strength of their legacy and leadership as a WL advocate.

This year the award went to a teacher who was nominated with the full support of her entire department at Messalonskee High School. Whether working in her classroom, school, community or state, Robin Colby stood out as a role model and leader. In addition to being an exemplary teacher in Latin and Greek, she created coursework in a popular seminar class on Medical Terminology. She is a forward thinker and open to sharing her work with colleagues and creating new learning opportunities for students. From her roles as class advisor, member of FLAME and CANE, board member of the MEA, and delegate to the NEA, Robin Colby has stood out as a shining example of leadership.

In the words of his world language teachers, Elijah McGill “truly has a gift.” His inquisitiveness, enthusiasm, and skill are unparalleled and his language proficiency makes him deserving of this award.

His language journey began in Montreal as a 4-year old when he attended an all French school for several years. He restarted his French learning as an academic subject and without any formal training, he enrolled in French IV as a sophomore. Not only was he successful, but he was also awarded the French IV book award and placed first in the state and fourth nationally in the Grand Concours National French examination. Last year on the National Spanish Exam, he placed in the top 95th percentile nationally and was only one of two to receive a gold award on the level 4 exam. This past semester, he was able to travel to Costa Rica.

His savoir-faire in languages is light years above his peers and his academic success continues into all other areas.
At ACTFL in Nashville this past November, the crisis of National Teacher recruitment and retention was in the forefront. We heard the stories of several new teachers who chose to teach languages because of influence of their own language teacher. I’m proud to be able to say that my own daughter has decided to become a French teacher and is one of the first students to enroll in the new WL teacher education program at the University of Maine in Farmington.

Each of us makes a difference in our classrooms when we encourage our students to challenge themselves and open up their world to other world views through language study. At times we may feel unconnected to our colleagues around the state when we are the only language teacher in a school or district and we only see other WL teachers at the annual FLAME conference, but we are part of an organization that can help bring us closer together and in turn allow us to learn more about our craft from each other.

Educational institutions are continually in a state of flux and it can be overwhelming to focus on our vision. As WL teachers we want to envision a future generation of leaders who are motivated to bring about global changes across county borders using language and cultural knowledge to foster greater understanding between peoples. We cannot accomplish this alone. We must choose to work together in whatever capacity that we are able in order to make the world a better place. I urge you to consider becoming more active in FLAME as a board member or volunteer as we gear up to reinvigorate our professional development opportunities for WL teachers.

Maine is an economically and geographically diverse state with a wide range of needs, but also full of rich traditions in francophone culture and openness to immigrants from a wide variety of countries in Portland and Lewiston as well as migrant workers from Mexico and South America in Aroostook County as well as several Amish communities. Each of us brings to FLAME a uniqueness that stems from our initial inspiration to learn another language. Personally, I came from a French family in which my grandparents would not speak French with their children or grandchildren because it was not considered valuable. Throughout my childhood, I craved to learn the language that I felt I’d been missing out on which led me to fall in love with French literature at Bowdoin and the rest is history. We all have a story and all of our stories are important. Remember your reasons and share them with a colleague or friend.

Several weeks ago, you were sent a survey that asked about your perceptions and beliefs regarding your district or school's readiness to report out on WL proficiency standards. These conversations have happened between small groups of colleagues, but I personally believe that it is important to understand your perspective and consider the future of FLAME’s role in professional development. A second survey asked specific questions about what you feel is important for your own professional development and we have now planned a professional development opportunity on August 7th based on your input and will continue to seek your ideas for upcoming events. All voices are important and I look forward to serving you for another year.
The Foreign Language Association of Maine announces its annual
**FLAME Conference 2019**
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**Gen Z at school and in the world:**
*How do we recognize, harness and mold their unique skills?*

**2019 Keynote Speaker:**
Joshua Cabral

Joshua Cabral has a BA in French and an MA in Applied Linguistics, specializing in psycholinguistics and second language acquisition. He has been teaching French and Spanish at the elementary, middle and high school levels for 21 years and regularly presents workshops on language proficiency and cultural competence at state, regional and national conferences. He also works with schools and districts as they work toward building proficiency-based language programs. Joshua is passionate about access to education in developing countries and works closely with schools in Haiti and Nicaragua where he often travels to work with teachers and students.