



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education

August 30, 2013

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: Patricia I. Wright, Superintendent of Public Instruction

SUBJECT: Annual Conference of the Foreign Language Association of Virginia

The Foreign Language Association of Virginia (FLAVA) will hold its annual statewide conference on October 3-5, 2013, at the Fort Magruder Hotel and Conference Center, Williamsburg, Virginia. Conference highlights will include a keynote address from Terrell A. Morgan, Spanish and linguistics professor at The Ohio State University; exhibits; over 100 sessions and workshops; and the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) sponsored Modified Oral Proficiency Interview (MOPI) Institute. The 2013 conference theme is *Go Global!*

In addition to language-specific sessions for Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Japanese, Latin, and Spanish, there will be sessions during every time slot that are useful to any language teacher at any level from elementary school through higher education. General presentation topics include technology integration, the teaching of culture, the teaching of literature, service learning, and professional issues. Additional information is available from the FLAVA Web site at <http://flavaweb.org/conference/>. Participants may register and pay online through the FLAVA Web site, by mailing in a registration form and check, or on-site at the conference. Preregistration is encouraged.

Thursday Workshops – The Thursday workshops offer an opportunity to select a specific topic for more in-depth training than the shorter conference sessions. There are 18 workshops to choose from this year. Teachers are encouraged to participate in one or more of the workshops, many of which have direct correlations to the Virginia Standards for the Professional Practice of Teachers. Examples include:

- *Best Practice of a Language Teacher Who Loves What She Does!* – Back by popular demand! An accomplished teacher leads the participants in an exploration of a wide variety of best practices, including differentiated instruction and communicative activities.
- *Engaging and Motivating the Inhibited Language Learner* – In this workshop, participants experience and practice three key activity-types that motivate and reconnect inhibited students to teachers, their classmates, and language-learning itself.
- *Creating Quality Common Summative Performance-Based Assessments* – This workshop features an overview of the successful implementation process of creating divisionwide common, summative, performance-based assessments. This process will allow participants to align their assessments with the interpretive, interpersonal, and presentational tasks and rubrics delineated by ACTFL and College Board's AP World Languages program.

Language Association Meetings – Virginia chapters of national and regional foreign language associations will meet at various times during the FLAVA conference.

- The Virginia Chapter of the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese (AATSP) will hold a meeting and special program on Friday featuring guest speaker Xavier Gisbert from the Spanish Embassy, followed by a movie.
- The Virginia Chapter of the American Association of Teachers of German (AATG) will hold a meeting and reception on Friday evening, followed by a movie.
- The Virginia Chapters of the Mid-Atlantic Association of Teachers of Japanese (MATJ), The American Association of Teachers of French (AATF), and The American Association of Teachers of German (AATG), will hold luncheon meetings on Saturday afternoon. Preregistration is required for all Saturday luncheons.
- The Virginia Foreign Language Supervisors' Association (VFLSA) will hold a luncheon meeting on Saturday afternoon instead of the annual breakfast meeting. Preregistration is required.

Please contact your respective chapter presidents for information and preregistration.

Modified Oral Proficiency Interview (MOPI) Institute Registration – VDOE is sponsoring the second Modified Oral Proficiency Interview (MOPI) Institute October 2-4, 2013, as a pre-conference workshop at FLAVA. The deadline to apply is September 9, 2013. Details are available in [Superintendent's Memo #207-13](#).

Awards and Recognitions – The FLAVA Awards Committee invites you to nominate a teacher, administrator, group, or business who has shown commitment to foreign language education, assessments or teaching. Nomination forms are available on the FLAVA Web site and will be accepted through September 6, 2013, in the following areas:

- *David Cox FLAVA Award for Excellence in Foreign Language Teaching, K-12* – This award recognizes a foreign language educator in grades K-12 who has demonstrated excellence in foreign language instruction and who may be forwarded as the FLAVA candidate to the regional Teacher of the Year (TOY) competition.
- *The Marshall Brannon FLAVA Excellence in Teaching Award, Postsecondary.*
- *Helen Warriner-Burke Distinguished Service Award* – This award recognizes foreign language educators in Virginia who have made outstanding contributions to the profession.
- *FLAVA Friend of Foreign Language Education Award* – This award recognizes individuals and institutions that have made a significant contribution in building a strong foundation of support for foreign language education.

For further information, please contact Dr. Lisa Harris, specialist for foreign languages, Office of Humanities and Early Childhood, by e-mail at Lisa.Harris@doe.virginia.gov or by telephone at (804) 225-3666.

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