

2017 NECTFL Mead Fellows

with support from SANS Inc.

Sally Rivard
VFLA



Building a Sustainable Professional Support Program for World Language Educators

The goal of my Mead Proposal is to create, implement and participate in a grass-roots, sustainable professional support program for Vermont world language teachers. In order to attract, grow and keep world class language teachers, I believe we must provide opportunities for collegueship and mentoring to those who are new to the profession, new to the job or new to an instructional strategy. There is no official support provided by the state of Vermont. New and/or struggling world language teachers may reach out to a colleague – who provides what support he/she can; but it is often too little, too late. Through my proposed Professional Support Program, the VFLA will be in the unique position of being able to provide a mechanism for member-to-member support. Through the use of technology (Skype, FaceTime email, social media to name a few), my project represents a potentially innovative contribution to language instruction in that teachers can receive the help they need when they need it. My proposed VFLA Professional Support Program has the potential to make a significant contribution to the success of world language teachers and programs in our state.

Sally Rivard is a teacher of French, currently serving as Secondary Instructional Coach at the Lake Region Union High School in Orleans, VT.

Cynthia Hodgdon
NHAWLT



Student Collaboration in the Classroom - How to Develop and Assess this 21st Century Skill

All schools, colleges, and the workforce agree that a well-rounded person must be able to collaborate in today's society. The Co-Learn list serve has noted 44 benefits to student collaboration including promotion of leadership skills, creation of social support systems, the recognition of different learning styles. Ted Dintersmith and Tony Wagner, in their book, *Most Likely to Succeed*, state that "the critical skills young adults need in the twenty-first century for careers in the world of innovation, and for responsible citizenship, are the very skills the school years eviscerate." (2) This shows that there is a need. In this project, I would first like to define collaboration among students a little bit more. It is a relatively new 21st century skill that schools want to be sure their students have, but there is little research or practice out there to show how this can be done. Second, the project would create a bank of possible activities with rubrics to showcase assessment. It will also explain why collaboration is so necessary and encourage language classes to start in level 1 with easier activities and progress all the way up to AP classes with true authentic assessments. Third, there would be examples of rubrics to help assess collaboration. My project would be helpful to all schools who are moving towards 21st century skills. It will help them determine a way to assess them.

Cynthia Hodgdon is a teacher of German at Conval High School in Peterborough, NH.

Maureen Lamb
CT COLT



Latin and ancient Greek teachers are often the only teachers of that subject at their school, and, as a result, less experience teachers do not always have support from

colleagues and resources that they need. This project will provide some of the support needed for Classics teachers through the creation of a hub website with resources such as helpful Classics teacher websites and blogs, AP and IB Latin resources, useful Classics Youtube videos, online programs such as Operation Lapis and Magistrula, professional development opportunities, and links to helpful social media about Classics such as Facebook, Twitter, and Google+ communities. Eventually, the hub would expand with webinars, screencasts, and social media connections with organizations and resources for Classics teachers. There would also be online mentoring to create connections for less experienced Classics teachers to experienced teacher mentors. Classics teachers would be reached through e-mail, Twitter, Facebook, Google Hangout, and other uses of academic technology. Once this hub is in place, it would be a resource for college and university Classics programs for students interested in teaching Classics, for Latin and Ancient Greek teachers in public and private schools, and for Classics and Language teacher associations.

Maureen Lamb is a teacher of Latin and Ancient Greek at Westminster School in Simsbury, CT.

About the Award

This scholarship is provided to support an individual in the development of a project that contributes to the foreign language teaching profession and advances quality language instruction. The Mead program was created to develop future leaders for the profession at the state, regional, and national levels. It is supported in part by SANS, Inc., and we are grateful to the company for their contributions to our profession and to NECTFL.

Educators of ALL LANGUAGES at ALL LEVELS are encouraged to apply to this program, designed to identify potential leaders in education and to support the development of their potential. Each scholarship recipient will be assigned a mentor with expertise in the area of that person's project, and NECTFL will facilitate virtual and, if possible, face-to-face meetings of the two.