

2018 NECTFL Mead Fellows

with support from SANS Inc.

**Kerilyn Bristow and Elaine Leibly,
VFLA**



**The Seal of
Biliteracy
for Vermont
and Beyond**

We observe
that the
majority of

states that have yet to implement the Seal of Biliteracy are rural, have small populations, and lack ethnic diversity, similar to our state of Vermont. These states face unique challenges for a variety of reasons. Our goal is to achieve approval for the Seal of Biliteracy in Vermont and to provide a roadmap for other homogenous, rural states to follow in implementing the Seal.

We have researched what other states have done to gain approval and recognize that our next goal is to demonstrate to stakeholders such as parents and students that having a Seal of Biliteracy on their grade transcript is meaningful. Once students move beyond the confines of Vermont, they will realize that ethnic and lingual diversity is the norm in many areas of our country.

After test driving the Seal in our own school district, we will begin publicizing the opportunity to other school districts and invite our state legislature to approve it at the state level. We plan to use our state language organization (VFLA) as a vehicle for communication. We will contact every school district and offer them the process that we utilized, streamlined and refined for their own use. Technology will be used as a vehicle of communication to get the word out.

Elaine Leibly is an elementary Spanish teacher, in Woodstock, VT.

Kerilyn Bristow is a teacher of Spanish and French and Dean of Students at Woodstock Union High School and Middle School in Woodstock, VT.

**Gina Gallo and Amanda
Robustelli-Price, CT COLT**



**Building Professional Networks of
World Language Educators**

Overwhelmed yet passionate, disconnected yet excited, unsure yet willing; these are the common internal battles one fights as a new teacher. It is our responsibility as experienced teachers to alleviate some of these burdens and to help new members of the World Language community grow. Building professional connections amongst world language educators will improve teacher retention and teaching, teacher satisfaction, and help to forward the world language profession. During the next year, we will work to create a network of educators, and will offer professional platforms, workshops and mentoring to novice teachers, and those interested in teaching or studying to be teachers. It is especially important for new teachers, early in their careers, to connect to other professionals, to learn about best practices, to build a personal learning community, and to begin the work of continuing their own language studies. Helping novice teachers build these communities as they begin their careers is integral not only to their success but also to the profession. This type of support is also critical for high school students interested in pursuing a career as a World Language teacher or for those who are studying the profession.

Amanda Robustelli-Price is a teacher of French at Enfield High School in Enfield CT.

Gina Gallo is a teacher of Spanish and Italian at Bristol Central High School in Bristol, CT.

**Dr. Celia Chomón Zamora,
GWATFL**



**Synchronous
Computer-Mediated
Communication as a
Language Learning
Tool in the Secondary
Foreign Language
Classroom**

Utilizing technology to facilitate foreign language learning in the classroom is not a recent trend, particularly as a way to bring exposure of the target language from native speakers to the students in typical Face-to-Face (FTF) classroom environments. To address this issue, this project proposal attempts to address the following: a) Is synchronous computer-mediated communication (SCMC) is feasible to accomplish and incorporate in a high school foreign language classroom? b) Are there any discernible improvements in the students' fluency and proficiency levels from using Teletandem/SCMC compared to traditional FTF classrooms?

The project will provide new opportunities and leadership abilities at various levels of language education by affording students that are unable to fund a study-abroad experience (which has been shown by research to help with fluency and rich language immersion) to have a modified and affordable study-abroad experience. This therefore affords schools in varying degrees of affluence and resources to be able to work together to improve the levels of multilingualism and multiculturalism not just in their students, but in their faculty.

Dr. Celia Chomón Zamora is foreign language department chair at the Oakcrest School in Vienna, VA.

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.