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Educators & Researchers**



Northeast Conference

for Teachers, for Languages, for Cultures

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Our sincere gratitude to the following individuals who have agreed to serve as reviewers of manuscripts submitted for publication in the *NECTFL Review*. We cannot fulfill our mission without them!

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From the 2026 Conference Chair



The buzz at the Hilton was palpable to over 1100 attendees – throughout the vendor hall, in our session rooms, even in the (overpriced and free) coffee lines. People felt the power of *Joining the Rhythms* as the General Opening Session brought together cultural beats - Taiko, Tap, and Tahitian Dance - with the rhythms of language education as participants started a journey of advocacy to lift their voice and showcase their program. With messages from Krishauna Hines-Gather (ACTFL 2026 president) and Nathan Campbell (National ACTFL Language Teacher of the Year, NECTFL Teacher of the Year), and the chair, Beckie Bray Rankin, educators felt inspired to promote their programs as we lift our voices together in advocacy.

With over a hundred sessions, the Northeast Conference is the place for professional learning and networking. Reviews positively raved regarding research, high leverage practices, and tricks of the trade. With workshops on topics from Social Justice to Literacy, educators of all levels, languages, and contexts found something to take back to their institution. This year's conference continued to live out our mission and vision of supporting language educators in a way that builds culturally diverse, multilingual, and socially-engaged global communities. We saw this in our multi-cultural opening, vendor hall, and Artist in Residence.

At the General Opening Assembly, Vista honored Angela Sabetta of Montclair University and Hui-Chun Cheng of the University of Pittsburgh as their Future Educators. At the awards ceremony, NECTFL named our Mead Fellow this year, Dr. Elcie Douce, who will be working on professional development opportunity impact. Our Awards Committee also commended Dr. Francisca Aguiló Mora and Dr. Almudena Marín Cobos with the Stephen Freeman Award for Best Published Article and Dr. Cynthia Chalupa with the Nelson Brooks Award for Outstanding Leadership. Our Teacher of the Year selection committee had a tough decision to make regarding which of our state leaders will go on to ACTFL to represent us at the national level. Between CT's Gieczewski, DC's Reyes, DE's Allen, MD's Heggler, ME's Kyer, MA's Li, NJ's Sánchez Jácome, NY's Grady, PA's Beglow, RI's Cardin, and VT's Almazán-Vázquez, the committee selected Charlene Bigelow as our NECTFL Teacher of the Year. For the third year in a row, Leslie Grahn and Beckie Bray Rankin ran our Language Educators Advancing the

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Profession (LEAP) program, welcoming 11 members in Cohort 3 and graduating 14 members from Cohort 4. We'd like to thank the entire board, particularly Joseph Parodi-Brown, Thomasina White, and Jennifer Short who have served their board term and are rolling off as directors. We are delighted that Jennifer isn't going anywhere, as she has been named our incoming Conference Chair in 2028!

Whether you met us in Midtown or not, we encourage you to lift your voice in your community about the importance of language learning. We know that our classes have potential beyond language competencies: to connect our students to the global world and increase both their cognitive ability and their college and career success. As we celebrate our students' growth in the classroom and we share that with our administrators, we train our community regarding the importance of our courses and professional development.

The NECTFL Board shares our best wishes for a meaningful end of school year. We hope to stay connected with you!

Beckie Bray Rankin
2026 Conference Chair



NECTFL 2027!
February 25-27, 2027
NY Hilton Midtown



A Word from the 2027 NECTFL Conference Chair, Matthew Mangino

Greeting a family who is new to our school, *in their language*. Giving directions to someone who is visiting our city for the first time, *in their language*. Taking someone’s order in a restaurant, *in their language*.

There are many ways that our students can use their language skills now; they don’t need to wait until they have completed a degree or studied the culture and literature of a place. They can still use their language skills to make a real difference in the lives of people in their community. That is one of the unique benefits of language study that separates us as language educators from educators from other disciplines. We are charged with empowering our students to use their language skills to enact positive change for their own communities, and they can do so immediately. I have no doubt that our language students of today will continue on to be leading “voices for the future” of language teaching and learning.

I am happy to welcome everyone back to New York City in 2027. We will build on the positive vibe that energized us in 2026. We will welcome a new set of voices to engage in conversations about the current state and future prospects of language teaching, learning, and leadership. Whether you’re a teacher from a small rural district, or an administrator from a large urban center, we are eager to hear your voice. If you’re a first-year teacher, or you have been in the classroom for 35 years, there is a space for you. There will be opportunities for you to build connections with teachers from your state, and from across the Northeast region and beyond. Our sessions will focus on the amazing work that teachers are doing in their classrooms to set up students for success from the beginning, and how we can showcase real-life skills with immediate benefit. When students see that immediate benefit, they will continue to advocate for the study of languages throughout their lives.

Our conference will feature more than 100 world-class sessions, dozens of language-related vendors, affinity lunches, and teacher skills workshops; all in the heart of New York City. We look forward to welcoming you to The Northeast Conference 2027.

Matthew Mangino, 2027 Chair

Wethersfield High School, Wethersfield, CT

The Northeast Conference, 2027

Languages NOW, Voices for the Future

NECTFL serves educators involved in the teaching and research of all languages (including classical, less commonly taught, and English as a World Language), at all levels from pre-kindergarten through university, in both public and private settings. In existence since the late 1940s, NECTFL is the largest of five regional associations of its kind in the United States, representing educators from Maine to Virginia but exercising leadership nation-wide.

NECTFL has expanded its outreach, professional development and advocacy efforts through publications, workshops, research projects and other initiatives. Its prestige has been reflected in its singular ability to bring together the profession's most prestigious leaders for world-class and ground-breaking programs while sustaining an organizational culture that is interactive, welcoming, and responsive.

Through representation on its Board of Directors, through its Advisory Council, through conference offerings and refereed journal articles, NECTFL maintains a commitment to the individual foreign language teacher, to collaborative endeavors, to innovation and to inclusionary politics and policies.



NECTFL Scholarships

► Teacher Conference Scholarships

Thanks to very generous grants from The NYS Statewide Language Regional Bilingual Education Resource Network (RBE-RN) at NYU and Vista Higher Learning, NECTFL is pleased to offer 10 scholarships for new teachers (1–5 years of experience) and 20 partial stipends for experienced “mentor” teachers (7+ years of experience) to attend the annual Northeast Conference.

► NECTFL Future Language Educator Scholarship

NECTFL is pleased to offer the NECTFL Future Language Educator Scholarship. A \$1000 scholarship will be awarded to a future language educator from the NECTFL region to be used during the semester/year devoted to student teaching (graduate or undergraduate). The recipient will receive one night hotel stay and a complimentary registration to the NECTFL conference to accept the award. The scholarship will be awarded at the conference and may be used either during that spring session or the following fall semester.

For more information, click on the link to the NECTFL Scholarships/Awards page: <https://www.nectfl.org/scholarships/>





The **National Federation of Modern Language Teachers Associations (NFMLTA)**, the governing organization of the Modern Language Journal (MLJ), in cooperation with other professional language organizations supports five grant opportunities.

Learn more and apply!

NFMLTA/MLJ Conference Presentation Support Grants for Language Professionals

Instituted in 2017, this grant is intended to help defray the costs of conference attendance by foreign language professionals during the academic year. A maximum of 30 awards with a limit of \$1,000 of reimbursable expenses per recipient will be made.

NFMLTA/MLJ Dissertation Writing Support Grants

Instituted in 2013, this grant supports graduate students in the fields of applied linguistics and language education at the dissertation writing stage. These grants can provide resources at any stage of dissertation writing, e.g., data gathering, data transcription, data analysis, or write-up of the findings.

NFMLTA/MLJ New Professors Research Support Grants

Initiated in 2022, this grant program (2 offered at \$5,000 each) supports those new to the professoriate (1-5 years in their teaching positions at colleges or universities in the United States immediately after defending the dissertation) who are conducting research projects, whose results can have a positive impact on the field of applied linguistics or language learning and teaching.

NFMLTA/MLJ Career Researchers Support Grants

Initiated in 2022, this grant program (2 offered at \$5,000 each) supports established researchers at colleges or universities in the United States who have a proven record of research and publishing success and are conducting research and publishing results which are critical to the growth and progress in the field of applied linguistics or language learning and teaching.

NFMLTA/MLJ Research Roundtable Conference Grants

The NFMLTA/MLJ invites proposals worldwide for funding small conferences or symposia/colloquia. The chosen theme should be of significant current theoretical or practical interest in the field of language teaching and learning.

Learn more at nfmlta.org

