Dear MaFLA members,

Can you believe we made it through March? Some of us relied heavily on music brackets, sports brackets, and networking brackets to make it through. Bravo for finding what can fill your bucket and sustain you! For me, sustenance came through traveling to Reno, NV and Norfolk, VA for their regional conferences, as seen in the above photos with the PFFs (professional friends forever) that I saw after 2+ years.

March is a month of World Language Education both because of our state proclamation for languages and also for the plethora of regional conferences. Four of the five ACTFL Regionals (PNCFL, Central States, SWCOLT, SCOLT) held conferences where over a thousand educators met virtually and in person to learn together. Sessions from decolonizing the curriculum to pragmatics in language study motivated participants to make incremental changes in their practice, methods, and techniques for a better program for their students. Each regional conference included research, vendors, resources, activities, ACTFL, JNCL, and an awards ceremony to celebrate what we do in the classroom every day. Two of my big takeaways included ACTFL’s Pair & Share platform to connect with other educators on a specific project and their upcoming grant program.

Folx attended these conferences not only to learn strategies and reconnect with educator friends but also to reignite the why. As spring approaches and the world around us shows its colors, I encourage you to think about what colors in your “why”. Are you teaching this year for a wider view of the world? Is your class focused on language proficiency? Are your assessments meaningful and purposeful and transferable to your world? Post on Social Media your “why” and tag @MaFLAonline so we can be inspired by each other!

Beckie Bray Rankin

As I got off the train in NYC for NECTFL, the first person I saw was Wellesley Elementary Department Chair, Bárbara Barnett, with two suitcases for her session that weekend. Always warm and welcoming, Bárbara excitedly called me over and we connected for a few minutes before meeting back up at the conference venue later. We talked about pipelines to leadership and how teachers can rise in their teacher-leader journey not only through the traditional move towards administration, but also through presenting a session at MaFLA or NECTFL, perhaps then a workshop, or even submit a session to ACTFL. We followed up on the conversation and now you’ll see her name on ACTFL’s Pre-Conference Workshop lineup! We are so excited to have local representation at ACTFL’s Boston Conference in November.

MaFLA Leader in the Spotlight

Upcoming Events

Proficiency Academy registration is open! Join the hundreds of educators who workshop their knowledge and application of proficiency through our “sleepaway camp” model of learning and collaborating in June. ACTFL registration is open! Your MaFLA membership gives you the ACTFL member rate and so much more. Check out the State Education Website for upcoming modules for the new Frameworks!