



De Rostra

Hello and Greetings from MaFLA! I am MAFLA 2023 President, former Latin teacher, and now World Language Dept Chair, Team Leader, and Co-Organizer of EMFLA. I began my career teaching Latin and Spanish; and studied, in Rome and Madrid under a Fulbright, and at the University of Salamanca. As I progressed through my career, NECTFL consistently invited me to present sessions in NY, since I had earned Gold Chalice Awards for my published curriculum from Ablemedia and was President of CAM. After that and while studying for an advanced graduate degree, I worked for the National Board of Professional Teaching Standards as an assessor, wrote articles for the International Leadership Journal, and am now an NCATE (National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education) reviewer. I have served as a director on the MAFLA Board for 10 years, a year as Sponsors and Exhibits Chair, and, as Vice President, I ran the 2021 Fall Conference. I am now excited to be MAFLA's President for 2023. I am proud to represent such a distinguished organization with an outstanding reputation and long history of excellence, and all the educators within it and that it serves.

The MAFLA Board has recently gone through a series of systematic and systemic changes designed to streamline services and provide more efficient production. One big change was our committee structure. We now have three categories of committees: Executive, Board of Directors, and Member. Each has specific functions that comprise our new structure, how it functions, who it serves, and who can become a bigger part of the organization as a member in general. Our coordinators have also changed and there is now a streamlined three-year executive track. I hope to continue that forward movement by adding organizational development as the 'icing on the cake' through clear communication that reflects our guiding principles, mission, and vision. My vision for MaFLA is also to continue providing additional high quality professional development for teachers and students and to serve the membership by bridging the gap between the board and the membership.



Mike Farkas & Teresa Benedetti

One way to do that is hosting MaFLA Meets once every month for members and the Board to interact. Thanks to Mike Farkas and Teresa Benedetti who have taken that on and are facilitating them. These *meets* provide an ideal opportunity to include those members at a geographical distance so that they feel closer to each other and the MaFLA Community and can share ideas and resources. These *meets* also help to make all aware of the excellent Professional Development MaFLA offers such as our Winter Workshops currently in progress. Board members work diligently to ensure that teachers have access to the latest and newest elements in the new World Language Framework so that

students can acquire a comprehensive and thorough World Language education and Global experience. And, we want to ensure a strong connection to members so that they feel included and represented. I will provide additional information on the scheduling of the next Curriculum Alignment Labs in a future message as it becomes available.

Member in the Spotlight

MAFLA presented Catherine Ritz with its prestigious Distinguished Service Award at ACTFL in Boston this past November, where Nicole Sherf had these comprehensive remarks:

“For her dedication and her strong record of impactful service in the state and the nation, Catherine Ritz is most deserving of the MaFLA Distinguished Service Award. She exemplifies distinguished service in all she does; from presenting, to publishing, to organizing strong professional development opportunities to teaching and program coordination. She is transforming the teaching and programming of world languages in the state and the nation.”



Upcoming Events

You won't want to miss out on any of our Professional Development Programs being offered throughout the year either. We are fortunate to be able to offer rich, engaging, and relevant workshops with national and local presenters that provide current pedagogy on instructional topics of interest to educators from K-16. This winter we will be offering our Winter Workshops (virtually) and in March we will be in person with the MAFLA Core Practices Institute. Don't forget to read MAFLA emails and follow us on social media to find out the latest information and keep up to date on all our Professional Development and other news. We wish you a Heathy, Happy New Year and we are here for all your PD, advocacy, and World Language leadership needs in 2023 as your 'go to' state language organization!

Virtual: [Winter Workshops](#), MOPI

In person: [Core Practices](#), [Proficiency Academy](#), Summer Institute
and the MAFLA Fall Conference



Call for Proposals

The [MaFLA Conference Session Proposal portal](#) is open and MaFLA is awaiting your submission. Share your talents, experience, and expertise at our MaFLA Fall Conference.

Wishing you all a Happy New Year!

Peace, Joy and Friendship

Paz, Alegría y Amistad

和平、喜悅與友誼

السلام والفرح والصدقة

Paix, joie et amitié

Мир, радость и дружба

Pat DiPillo, Ed.D.
MAFLA President, 2023