

The MAFLA Fall Conference is the
(Sine qua non)
of World Language teaching

As the title indicates Board members and members alike have just returned from our Fall Conference in Springfield. If you want to learn about Proficiency, it is vital that you attend. This is our first in-person conference since 2019 and was a great opportunity to connect, reconnect, network, and socialize with colleagues from all over the state of Massachusetts. Joyce Beckwith, Kathy Stein Smith and Janel LaFond Paquin shown here represent officers of the Palmes Académiques, an honor of the French Government and connected to promote French.



The Conference began with two six-hour sessions on Thursday morning presented by Nicole Sherf/Tim Eagan and Leslie Grahn. Also, there was a four-hour evening Workshop with Katia Marticorena and Maria Datel. The exhibit hall opened on Thursday with a brief preview.



Friday offered three-hour workshops as well as a regular schedule of concurrent sessions. The keynote speaker, an Italian film maker, displayed his most recent movie and spoke about represent Black Italy. The full exhibit hall opened as well. Joshua Cabral brought his World Language Classroom podcast to the Conference for the first time. Pictured below are Amy

Litman and her colleague from Xperitas. Friday evening wrapped up a hectic session schedule day with the member reception. On Saturday, we concluded our three days of learning and sharing additional workshops and sessions along with an Immersion breakfast and the Annual Business and Awards Luncheon.



We elected new Board members and said goodbyes to Board members cycling off of the Board as well as recognizing the MAFLA Teacher of the Year, Heidemarie Floerke from the Boston Latin School. She proceeds to the regional level and competes at NECTFL in February. Next, we will determine Best of MAFLA

and send that submission to NECTFL as a presentation at the Regional-level as well. Mike Travers, President-Elect and 2024 Conference Chair, revealed the theme of the 2024 MAFLA Fall Conference: ***“World Languages, A Core Subject”***.

The inset below shows the winning student poster award produced by a student from Acton-Boxborough. One of our most noteworthy items of this



conference was the revealing of MAFLA’s new logo and tagline:

“Leading Massachusetts to Multilingualism”. It reflects our cutting-edge commitment to the teaching of world languages as well as their cultures. Most of all , thank you to everyone who had a role in making this conference come together, but most of all to Vilma Nasuti Bibeau as Conference Chair whose diligence and perseverance was the glue that held it all together. Bravo!

Those are the highlights, and I look forward to reflecting and creating a look to the future next month! Enjoy the holidays. Everyone!