

Finis Coronat Opus

The title of this message indicates that this is my last message as President of MAFLA. It has been quite an exciting and enriching learning experience in many ways. Throughout the year and in my theme of transparency in communication, I tried to highlight all the areas of MAFLA that needed attention and support. We are without a doubt the state's leading professional development provider. I wanted us to advocate for other aspects of our work to support those efforts as well. Through our various committees, it seems we can accomplish a more well-balanced focus as we move forward. Every aspect of MAFLA deserves equal attention. I have some thoughts I will share with the Board as I depart my role.

A major focus for me was standards-based grading as an example of my approach to organizational development. I hope to publish an article based on Joe Feldman's two books. He has had input into this project and I rely on him for directional guidance. I also spent time at ACTFL in Chicago this year concentrating on this topic as I can see that this issue will be critical to learning and instruction in the future. And here is why:

“Not only do grades not encourage growth, they inhibit it. Grades take the focus off feedback.” (Chiarevelli, 2020)



This year, I feel we also made progress concerning our mission, vision, and guiding principles including adopting a new tagline for our logo. Our world is becoming more inclusive and our organization needs to keep pace with it in every way. The graphic of the Global Leader says it all.

That said, I hand over the responsibilities to Vilma Nasuti Bibeau as I move to the Past President role and know that under her leadership MAFLA will continue to make progress, grow, and thrive!

With all best wishes, Happy Holidays to All!

Pat DiPillo