



**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA**  
**Department of Education**

August 29, 2014

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: Steven R. Staples, Superintendent of Public Instruction

**SUBJECT: Annual Conference of the Foreign Language Association of Virginia**

The Foreign Language Association of Virginia (FLAVA) will hold its annual statewide conference on September 25-27, 2014, at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, Williamsburg, Virginia. Conference highlights will include over 200 sessions and workshops; exhibits; and the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) sponsored Modified Oral Proficiency Interview (MOPI) Institute. The 2014 conference theme is *Language Matters!*

In addition to language-specific sessions for Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Japanese, Latin, and Spanish, there will be sessions during every time slot that are useful to any language teacher at any level from elementary school through higher education. The Virginia Community College System (VCCS) Peer Group will have a strand at the conference with sessions designed for postsecondary teachers.

General presentation topics include technology integration, the teaching of culture, the teaching of literature, service learning, and professional issues. Additional information is available from the FLAVA Web site at <http://flavaweb.org/conference/>. Participants may register and pay online through the FLAVA Web site, by mailing in a registration form and check, or on-site at the conference. Preregistration is encouraged, and the Saturday FLAVA Awards Luncheon will be available only to those who have preregistered.

**Thursday Workshops** – The Thursday workshops offer an opportunity to select a specific topic for more in-depth training than the shorter conference sessions. There are 18 workshops to choose from this year. Teachers are encouraged to participate in one or more of the workshops, many of which have direct correlations to the Virginia Standards for the Professional Practice of Teachers. Examples include:

- *More Best Practices of a Language Teacher Who Loves What She Does!* – Back by popular demand! An accomplished teacher leads the participants in an exploration of best practices, including differentiated instruction and communicative activities.
- *Teacher Effectiveness for Language Learning* – In this workshop, participants will use the Virginia Standards for the Professional Practice of Foreign Language Teachers (VSPPT/FL) and the Teacher Effectiveness for Language Learning Project (TELL) to identify and explore characteristics of effective foreign language teachers.
- *Have a Real Conversation? Can-Do!* – This fun and interactive session will take a look at the key elements of authentic interpersonal speaking to have realistic conversations. Participants will gain practical insights, objectives, and lesson plans that integrate conversational elements with the NCSSFL-ACTFL Can-Do Statements.

**Language Association Meetings** – Virginia chapters of national and regional foreign language associations will meet at various times during the FLAVA conference.

- The Virginia Foreign Language Supervisors' Association (VFLSA), The American Association of Teachers of French (AATF), and the Classical Association of Virginia (CAV) will hold luncheon meetings on Friday afternoon. Preregistration is required for all Friday luncheons.
- The Virginia Chapters of the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese (AATSP), The American Association of Teachers of German (AATG), and The Mid-Atlantic Association of Teachers of Japanese (MAATJ) will hold their respective business meetings and receptions on Friday evening.

Please contact the respective chapter presidents for information and preregistration.

**Awards and Recognitions** – The FLAVA Awards Committee will recognize and announce the winners of the following awards at the luncheon on Saturday:

- *David Cox FLAVA Award for Excellence in Foreign Language Teaching, K-12* – This award recognizes a foreign language educator in grades K-12 who has demonstrated excellence in foreign language instruction and who may be forwarded as the FLAVA candidate to the regional Teacher of the Year (TOY) competition.
- *The Marshall Brannon FLAVA Excellence in Teaching Award, Postsecondary.*
- *Helen Warriner-Burke Distinguished Service Award* – This award recognizes foreign language educators in Virginia who have made outstanding contributions to the profession.
- *FLAVA Friend of Foreign Language Education Award* – This award recognizes individuals and institutions that have made a significant contribution in building a strong foundation of support for foreign language education.

For further information, please contact Dr. Lisa Harris, specialist for foreign languages, Office of Humanities and Early Childhood, by e-mail at [Lisa.Harris@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:Lisa.Harris@doe.virginia.gov) or by telephone at (804) 225-3666.

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