

Annual Conference Session Descriptions

Opening Remarks & Keynote: 8:30am to 9:30 am

Katina Price, *LILT President*

Wendy Mercado, *NYSAFLT 1st Vice President*

Ben Tinsley, *AfroFranco*

Session 1: 9:45 am to 10:45am

Structuring Input & Eliciting Output in a Time Crunch

Presenter: Alexis Porcelli — Massapequa School District

Grades: K-5 and 6-8

Description: Unlock the potential of your FLES classroom with routines designed to enhance both student comprehension and output. This workshop focuses on how to effectively structure input and scaffold meaningful student output. Learn how to build routines that support language accessibility, foster accountability and encourage spontaneous communication all in a 20 minute lesson!

Bio: Alexis Porcelli earned her B.A. in Italian Language and Literature with a minor in Spanish Language and Literature from SUNY Binghamton. She received her MAT in Italian from SUNY Stony Brook. Alexis holds certification in teaching Italian, Spanish and ENL at both the secondary and elementary levels. Alexis has taught FLES in addition to Italian and ENL in the Massapequa School District.

Using AI Platforms to Augment Your ENL Toolbox

Presenter: Hallie Heller — Levittown School District

Grades: 6-8 and 9-12

Description: With new AI supported educational platforms more readily available, ENL teachers can use these helpful resources to add to their repertoire. Educational platforms such as Diffit, MagicSchool AI, Mentimeter, and ChatGPT can be used to minimize teacher load. These websites can help teachers plan lessons, create supplemental worksheets, design graphic organizers for vocabulary practice, and even generate reading comprehension passages with leveled questions.

Bio: Hallie Heller has a BA in Geology with honors from Hofstra University in 2008, a MAT in Earth Science Education from SUNY Stony Brook in 2010, and is currently working toward my EdD in Supporting Diverse Learning Communities at Molloy University. She has been teaching for a total of 14 years, 9 years Science (Earth Science, Living Environment, Forensics, and Astronomy) and 6 years in ENL (co-teaching in English, Science, Math, Socials Studies, and Sheltered Instruction).

Annual Conference Session Descriptions

Teaching Italian through Art Across Levels Using Authentic Material

Presenters: *Teresa Clausi — Plainview-Old Bethpage; Daniela Casadei-Berwind — RC Murphy JHS; Christen Visceglie — Manhasset Secondary School*

Grades: 6-8 and 9-12

Description: This session explores the innovative use of iconic Italian paintings and frescoes to create an interdisciplinary approach to teaching Italian. By integrating these works into the classroom, educators can engage students in language learning while expanding their knowledge and understanding of Italy's rich history, social changes, and cultural evolution.

Bio: Teresa Clausi is an educator with 9 years of experience specializing in East Asian and Italian Languages and Cultures, with a focus on Italian and Chinese. She holds a degree from the University of Naples "L'Orientale" and later earned a Master's in Foreign Languages and Cultures, along with a TESOL certification from Hofstra University in New York. Currently, she teaches Italian and Chinese at Plainview Old Bethpage JFK High School, where she works with students in grades 9 through 12, with extensive experience teaching Advanced Placement Italian. She has also played an active role in developing the Italian and Chinese curricula for her school district, integrating the latest New York State educational standards into her daily lessons. AATI-LI Past President

Daniela Casadei-Berwind

Milan University MS in Italian Literature

Hofstra University MS in Teaching Spanish

Over 15 years of teaching experience, with expertise in curriculum design, instructional technology, and standards-based instruction. Presenter at LILT and AATI conferences.

AATI-LI President

Christen Visceglie

University of Delaware, Bachelor's in Italian Education

Middlebury College, Master's Degree in Italian, Specialization in Italian Culture & Communication

Christen has 13 years of teaching experience. Currently, she contributes to curriculum

development at Manhasset and has experience teaching levels 1 through Advanced Placement.

She is the Vice President of K-12 for the AATI and has held various roles in the Long Island Chapter's Executive Board.

Take a Break and Recharge Your Batteries with Mindfulness and Chair Yoga

Presenter: Dr. Ava Gibson — Sewanhaka Central High School District

Grades: K-5, 6-8 and 9-12

Description: The profession of teaching is considered to be a very stressful occupation.

Experiencing elevated levels of stress is associated with harmful outcomes such as mental illness, burnout, and attrition from the profession. Teachers who define themselves as stressed demonstrated reduced levels of stress after participating in mindfulness and yoga activities as professional development. Join me in participating in a mindfulness and chair yoga activity to reduce your stress level. This activity is open to all those who seek a moment of self-care. All physical fitness levels are welcome.

Bio: Jr/Sr teacher of French language for 22+ years

Past Presentations: Sewanhaka Central HS District and LILT

Concordia University - Doctorate in Education

College of St Rose- MS Education

Pace University- MA Education

The City College of NY- MA Psychology

The City College of NY- BA Psychology

Annual Conference Session Descriptions

Screen-Free, Student-Focused: Energizing Your WL Classroom

Presenter: Katina Price — Sewanhaka Central High School District

Grades: 6-8 and 9-12

Description: Let's get back to the basics—and go screen-free! This interactive workshop will introduce a variety of low-prep, high-movement activities designed to spark communication and engagement in any world language classroom. These strategies can be easily adapted for all proficiency levels and require minimal materials. Participants will also have the opportunity to share their own favorite no-tech ideas, leaving with a toolbox of ready-to-use activities to implement the very next day.

Bio: Katina Price is the District Coordinator of World Languages at Sewanhaka CHSD and has over 15 years of teaching experience. She holds degrees from Hofstra University, Saint Louis University (Madrid Campus), and St. John's University. She has presented a variety of workshops for several organizations such as LILT, NYSAFLT, AATI and LITES on language acquisition, technology and curriculum design.

Words That Travel: Unleash the Power of Academic Vocabulary and Cognates

Presenter: Keri McLaughlin — Longwood Central School District

Grades: 6-8 and 9-12

Description: This workshop will be a hands-on approach to help teachers incorporate academic vocabulary from the Academic Word List compiled by Averil Coxhead in the World Language Classroom. Through the use of current events, cognates, questioning techniques, and the assistance of Artificial Intelligence, teachers will be provided with sample activities as well as guidance on creating their own classroom activities that incorporate academic vocabulary in a comprehensible manner, even for novice learners. The approach helps teachers and students alike build confidence in keeping the thinking demand high even when students need a lower target language demand at the novice level.

Bio: SUNY Binghamton, SUNY Stony Brook MAT, 20 years teaching. I have presented at AATI as well as presented 10+ times as a technology coach. I would love to share the renewed passion I have for fostering higher-order thinking and academic vocabulary. Our district was provided PD from Amy Benjamin, an enthusiastic education consultant who helped us tap into the power of academic vocabulary regardless of the content area. I would love to share the new ideas and excitement I gained from unleashing the power of academic vocabulary in the world language classroom to support all students.



Annual Conference Session Descriptions

Session 2: 11:00am to 12:00pm

Vista Higher Learning Workshop (Vendor Session)

Presenter: Vista Higher Learning

Grades: All

Description: Description forthcoming.

Bio: Sponsored by Vista Higher Learning, publisher and provider of world language instructional resources.

Designing with Purpose: Building Middle School ENL Curriculum through Anchor Texts and Backward Design

Presenters: Kristyn Pellegrini — Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District; Jillian Lewis — Grand Avenue Middle School

Grades: 6-8

Description: This workshop explores how to create meaningful ENL Standalone units of instruction that build language skills and connect to middle school content learning. We will use anchor texts and media to guide unit design, ensuring English learners develop proficiency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Participants will engage in backward design planning to align lessons with Middle School Next Generation Standards and walk away with ready-to-use templates and ideas for classroom application.

Bio: Kristyn Pellegrini is the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District Chairperson of ENL and John F. Kennedy High School Chairperson of World Languages, in her third year of administration. Ms. Pellegrini was previously a Spanish/ ENL teacher and holds a MA in TESOL and BA in Spanish Education.

Jillian Lewis is an ENL Teacher at Grand Ave Middle School and holds a BA in Early Childhood Special Education and a MA in TESOL.

Grade For Growth, Ease, & Alignment

Presenter: Ben Tinsley

Grades: 6-8 and 9-12

Description: Are you grappling with overwhelming grading practices and seeking a shift toward equity? Join us for this focused workshop, offering immediate strategies and customizable materials to streamline grading and empower student growth.

Bio: A teacher of almost 2 decades and a lifelong student, Ben has dedicated his professional and personal life to the pursuit of substantive diversity, equity, and belonging in education. In the classroom, he has had the opportunity to work with teachers and schools around the world to develop curricula that center Black Indigenous Communities of Color and other historically marginalized peoples. Ben's recent work has focused primarily on leveraging language acquisition and language education toward developing global literacy and 21st-century competencies.

Annual Conference Session Descriptions

Middle School, Many Worlds: Strategies for Heritage Success

Presenter: Alexandra Cabrera — Bay Shore Union Free School District

Grades: 6-8 and 9-12

Description: Does teaching Heritage students overwhelm you? Are you often unsure of what to do in order to get them excited about literacy and academic language? This workshop aims to equip teachers with themes, grammar topics, literacy strategies, and cultural activities to energize middle school Heritage students while still meeting the needs of the Checkpoint A exam.

Bio: Alexandra Cabrera has a Bachelor's Degree in Adolescent Spanish Education, and an Master's Degree in Curriculum Development and Instructional Technology from SUNY Albany. I have been teaching Spanish at Bay Shore Middle School for 9 years, and have taught all levels of Dual Language (6, 7, 8), Spanish 1A, and Heritage 8. I've presented previously both at LILT and NYSAFLT Conferences.

Making It Fun and Meaningful: Integrating Projects in the 3 Modes of Communication

Presenter: Jennifer Campagnoli-Kearney — East Williston Union Free School District; Pilar Príncipe-Franco - The Wheatley School

Grades: K-5, 6-8 and 9-12

Description: In this interactive workshop, participants will explore how to design creative, hands-on projects that integrate the three modes of communication—interpretive, interpersonal, and presentational—while aligning with grammar, vocabulary, and cultural learning goals. Using the principles of backward design, teachers will discover how projects can serve as both powerful learning tools and authentic assessments. Participants will see real examples of classroom projects that foster engagement, language growth, and cultural awareness while making learning enjoyable and purposeful for students.

Bio: Pilar Príncipe-Franco: I was born and raised in Lima, Peru, and have taught Spanish for over 20 years, from beginner to AP, including 21 years at the East Williston School District. I hold a Bachelor's in Spanish Language and a Master's in Secondary Education from CUNY Queens College. For 12 years, I've been an AP Reader, bringing insights from the exam to my classroom. I was Teacher of the Year in 2016 and Best of LILT in 2024. I also work as an AP Consultant and recently presented at the 2025 NYSAFLT and AP Annual Conferences.

Jennifer Campagnoli-Kearney: I have taught Spanish and French on Long Island from Kindergarten FLES to College Level 12th Grade for the past 13 years. I currently teach at East Williston School District where I teach FLES and Checkpoint A at Willets Road Middle School. I studied at Adelphi and earned a Bachelor's in Spanish and French and Master's in Secondary Education. My biggest strengths are integrating technology in meaningful ways, integrating culture throughout my curriculum and sharing the resources that I create and curate to best support student engagement and learning.



Annual Conference Session Descriptions

Landing Your Next Job as a World Language Teacher or Leader

Presenter: Will Anderson — Hofstra University

Grades: K-5, 6-8 and 9-12

Description: Are you looking for a new position as a World Language teacher? Maybe you are an aspiring World Language leader and applying for administrative positions. Join us as we discuss resume and cover letter design, job search strategies, and mock interviews.

Bio: Will Anderson is an Associate Dean of External Relations and Field Placements at Hofstra University, where he oversees Student Teaching Placements. Previously serving as the Curriculum Associate for Massapequa School District, Will has been involved in professional organizations for over 20 years, previously serving on the NYSAFLT Executive Committee and as the Interim Executive Director of NYSAFLT. He frequently works to support aspiring teachers and administrators to grow in their skills and support World Language and ENL.

Annual Conference Session Descriptions

Session 3: 12:15pm to 1:15pm

Leveraging AI for Assessing Language Proficiency in the WL Classroom

Presenter: Daniel Rodríguez — Longwood Central School District

Grades: 9-12

Description: As artificial intelligence continues to evolve, it presents exciting opportunities for innovation in the world language classroom—especially in the area of assessment. This session will explore how AI tools can be used to support and enhance the evaluation of students' language proficiency across the interpretive, interpersonal, and presentational modes. Participants will examine practical strategies for incorporating AI-driven platforms for feedback, data analysis, and formative and summative assessment tasks, while maintaining a focus on authentic language use and proficiency-based instruction. The session will also address key considerations such as academic integrity, rubric alignment, and equity in access. Attendees will leave with ready-to-implement ideas and a deeper understanding of how AI can serve not as a replacement for teacher expertise, but as a powerful partner in the assessment process.

Bio: Chairperson of World Languages at Longwood High School
7 years teaching

Presenter at LILT 2023 and 2024

Presenter at NECTFL 2025

Presenter at PNW BOCES World Language Conference 2025

Masters in the Teaching of Spanish as a Foreign Language from the International University of Valencia

Bachelors of Hispanic Languages and Literature from Stony Brook University

Addressing the Needs of Heritage Learners and ELLs: A Year 3 Check-In

Presenter: Emilio Sosa — Longwood Central School District

Grades: 9-12

Description: Are you wondering how your World Language Department can best meet the needs for Heritage Learners and ELL's? If you are, then this workshop is for you! This workshop is a follow up to our presentation at LILT's 2023 and 2024 Annual Conferences. We will share details about year 1 and 2 of our Spanish Language Arts Program implementation, the adjustments we made and how we have planned for year 3 of implementation. In this workshop we will also share the steps taken to initiate programs and courses that are designed to best address the needs of Heritage Learners and ELL's in the World Language Classroom. In this workshop curricula, activities, and strategies will be shared as well as what we did to get courses and programs approved to support the academic success of a growing sub group of our student population.

Bio: Emilio is an Assistant Principal at Longwood High School, supervising World Languages and ENL at the high school. He is currently serving on the LILT Executive Board as the Historian. He has also provided various workshops with LILT at several Fall Annual Conferences and the Spring Workshop Series. Emilio graduated from Stony Brook University with a Bachelors in Spanish Language and Literature and a Masters in Hispanic Languages and Literature. Emilio is World Language Chairperson at Longwood High School. He holds Advanced Placement certifications from the College Board in AP Spanish Language and Culture as well as Spanish Literature and Culture courses. In 2013 Emilio studied abroad at the University of Alcalá de Henares in Spain and in 2010 at the Sorrento Lingue Institute of Language in Sorrento, Italy. Prior to working at Longwood Emilio taught at St. John the Baptist Diocesan High School. Emilio looks forward to working with current and prospective LILT members to continue to grow the organization to best serve World Language and ENL teaching professionals.

Annual Conference Session Descriptions

Talk, Read, Talk, Write: A Student-Centered Approach to NYS World Language Standards

Presenter: Maria Quintanilla — NYC Public Schools

Grades: 6-8 and 9-12

Description: In this session, we will explore a hands-on step by step guide to the TRTW Strategy in the World Language classroom. We will discuss how this strategy/routine can help students master a dense rigorous curriculum, negotiate meaning from peers, and develop independent thinking and literacy skills in a safe environment.

Bio: Maria Quintanilla teaches Spanish for Spanish Speakers at Energy Tech High School in Queens, NY. She has mentored new teachers and has served as teacher mentor for the College Board. She is currently working with the DOE's Division of Multilingual Learners, developing lesson plans for Heritage Speakers of Spanish to be utilized by NYC teachers. She serves as Content Manager for the evaluation of the World Language Exam (formerly known as LOTE) and she is heavily involved in the implementation of the New York State Seal of Biliteracy for graduating seniors. Ms. Quintanilla is a firm believer in a student-centered classroom, eliciting the unique qualities of each student in order to create a comfortable and safe learning environment. She is an etymology and linguistics enthusiast.

Empowering Language Learners through Visualization and Vision Boards

Presenters: Dr. Dina Pannone & Nicole Bjarnason — Deer Park School District

Grades: K-5, 6-8 and 9-12

Description: The "Empowering Language Learners through Visualization and Vision Boards" workshop is designed to align with the theme of "Empowering Language Learners for Global Change." This interactive session will guide educators in leveraging visualization techniques and vision boards to create more relevant, authentic, and real-world learning experiences for students. Participants will explore how these tools can help students access the language and knowledge they need to effect positive change, promote global citizenship, and build meaningful connections within and beyond the classroom.

Bio: Dr. Dina Pannone is a 24-year veteran educator with certifications in K-12 Spanish, school building leadership, and district-level administration. She currently serves as the Associate Principal of Guidance & Support Services at Deer Park High School. Dr. Pannone holds a Master of Science in Education from Queens College and a Doctor of Education in General Education from National University. Her research and dissertation focused on developing professional development courses designed to equip educators with the tools to support the social-emotional and cultural needs of students. Nicole Bjarnason teaches World Languages at Deer Park High School, specializing in student engagement and social-emotional learning.

Annual Conference Session Descriptions

¡Sí Se Puede! Building Community and Leadership in the Spanish Language Arts Class

Presenter: Regina Casale — Longwood Central School District

Grades: 6-8 and 9-12

Description: This workshop will present an overview of how the heritage language program at level 1 has been able to provide leadership opportunities for their students, through projects, trips, and school activities that reach beyond the classroom. Examples of collaborative work, in programs such as NYSUT's Take a Look at Teaching, A Day in the Life of Fire Island, and Teachers College Project Belonging will be focus points.

Bio: The facilitator has over 25 years teaching at both public and private schools locally and internationally. She infuses her cultural experiences into her teaching and develops a greater understanding of her students. She is currently completing her dissertation on Digital Narratives of Immigrant Latinx Youth at Teachers College Columbia University.

Using Duolingo for Promoting Student Engagement

Presenter: David Schultz — North Shore Central School District

Grades: K-5, 6-8 and 9-12

Description: In this workshop, NYSAFLT NYC/LI director David Schultz will showcase how duolingo is used to enhance student engagement at-home and in-class. He will also deliver an NYSAFLT advocacy message.

Bio: David Schultz has been the FLES-Mandarin teacher at North Shore School District since 2016. Prior to his tenure at North Shore Schools, David taught, studied, and lived in China for ten years, completing a graduate degree in Chinese at Peking University. He is currently serving as the Director for NYC Long Island and FLES committee chairmen on the Board of New York State Association for Foreign Language Teachers (NYSAFLT).

Annual Conference Session Descriptions

Session 4: 1:30pm to 2:30pm

From Standards to Practice: Embedding Cultural Responsiveness in WL Instruction

Presenters: Annalisa Brady & Amanda Zamora — Longwood Central School District

Grades: 6-8 and 9-12

Description: This interactive workshop will guide educators in exploring how the New York State World Language Learning Standards can be used as a framework for building culturally responsive classrooms. Participants will examine ways to integrate students' cultural and linguistic backgrounds into meaningful instruction, ensuring that all learners feel represented and empowered.

Bio: Annalisa Brady has been teaching world languages at Longwood for the past nine years, bringing a total of 14 years of classroom experience. She holds both a bachelor's and master's degree from Stony Brook University and is certified to teach Italian and Spanish for grades 7–12. She also serves as the co advisor for the Junior Foreign Language Honor Society.

Amanda Zamora has been teaching world languages at Longwood for four years. She earned her Spanish teaching certification from the University of Delaware and her master's degree from Stony Brook University. Amanda serves as co-advisor of the Foreign Language Honor Society, along with other clubs and projects throughout the district.

Supporting ELLs in History: Building Background Knowledge and Academic Skills

Presenter: Laura McCarthy — Levittown School District

Grades: 6-8 and 9-12

Description: This workshop is designed for ENL teachers seeking effective strategies to support English Language Learners (ELLs) in history classes. Participants will explore practical ideas to expand students' background knowledge on historical topics, develop their academic vocabulary, and strengthen their listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills. Through collaborative activities and examples, teachers will leave equipped to enhance ELLs' engagement and success in social studies content.

Bio: I earned my History/Secondary Education degree with a Spanish minor from Salisbury University and studied abroad at the University of Granada. With school administration certificates from Molloy and a TESOL master's from Hofstra, I've taught Social Studies since 2002 and currently teach ENL. I love teaching, traveling, and reading.

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Words That Travel: Unleash the Power of Academic Vocabulary and Cognates

Presenter: Keri McLaughlin — Longwood Central School District

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(Repeat Session)

Celebrating Dantedì: A Model for Schoolwide Italian Cultural Events

Presenters: Giuseppina Santi, Kristen Fusco Woods, & Andre Vettorato — Connetquot Central School District

Grades: 6-8 and 9-12

Description: Discover how to transform Dantedì into an engaging schoolwide event! Learn practical ways to celebrate Dante and Italian culture through themed classroom rotations, food, and interactive activities that promote language learning and cultural awareness.

Bio: Giuseppina Santi, Kristen Fusco Woods, and Andre Vettorato are veteran Italian educators at Connetquot High School and each has over 20 years of classroom experience. Together, they promote Italian language and culture through innovative, large-scale school events. Giuseppina Santi has a Bachelor's in Italian and Spanish at Binghamton, Masters in Teaching Italian from Stony Brook.

Making It Fun and Meaningful: Integrating Projects in the 3 Modes of Communication

Presenter: Jennifer Campagnoli-Kearney — East Williston Union Free School District; Pilar Príncipe-Franco - The Wheatley School

Grades: K-5, 6-8 and 9-12

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College. For 12 years, I've been an AP Reader, bringing insights from the exam to my classroom. I was Teacher of the Year in 2016 and Best of LILT in 2024. I also work as an AP Consultant and recently presented at the 2025 NYSAFLT and AP Annual Conferences.

Jennifer Campagnoli-Kearney: I have taught Spanish and French on Long Island from Kindergarten FLES to College Level 12th Grade for the past 13 years. I currently teach at East Williston School District where I teach FLES and Checkpoint A at Willets Road Middle School. I studied at Adelphi and earned a Bachelor's in Spanish and French and Master's in Secondary Education. My biggest strengths are integrating technology in meaningful ways, integrating culture throughout my curriculum and sharing the resources that I create and curate to best support student engagement and learning.

(Repeat Session)