Message

The Maine ESOL Meeting/FLAME Conference is coming up soon! I hope you’ll be able to join us (virtually) on March 12th for opportunities to learn together and support each other.

We’ll be announcing this year’s World Languages and ESOL Teachers of the Year, as well as the many other awards FLAME recognizes. There will also be two amazing keynote speakers, from Mid-Atlantic Equity Consortium and Idioma Language Consulting.

AATF-Maine would like to make sure that members are aware that there will be an AATF meeting at this event, and there will be several announcements, including information about the 2022 SUMMER INSTITUTE, which will be held in July on the French islands of St Pierre-et-Miquelon!

See the schedule on page 3 for more details and let me know if you have any questions.

April Perkins
Educator Highlight

This week, intern Isabel Honigman interviews Kalynda Beal, a French teacher at Kennebunk High School.

**Can you tell me a little bit about your background? What motivated you to teach?**

Growing up, I was very fortunate to have parents who were both former educators and fierce advocates for my unique learning needs, as well as a district that did its best - despite lack of funding and geographical obstacles - to provide me with diverse learning opportunities. I was skipped ahead and provided with enriched instruction in most subjects, but I also got to begin learning French at age 6, unlike most of my peers who didn't start until 8th grade. By high school I had added in a few Spanish classes and had decided to take a gap year abroad before college. I spent a year as an exchange student in Switzerland, speaking German at school and French at home, and when I came back to Maine, I intended to study International Relations. Instead, I fell in love with the humanities curriculum at St. Anselm College and chose to major in French. I minored in German and Russian and took some Spanish and Ancient Greek courses on the side. Clearly my interests lay in languages rather than politics, so I ended up heading straight into an M.A. program in English linguistics at UNH, and then some doctoral work at a research institute in Hamburg, Germany. When I moved back to the U.S., I was somewhat rudderless - substitute teaching while trying to finish my dissertation. I found I really enjoyed working with high school students and took some short-term teaching gigs around Maine and New Hampshire before settling in at Kennebunk High School five years ago. As I grew and evolved as a teacher, I realized something my seventeen-year-old self hadn't - that you can't actually separate linguistics from politics, that politics is inherent in everything we do. Not ideological political beliefs, but individual civic engagement in our society and our government. What motivates me now is raising the next generation to be critically thinking and engaged members in all of their communities. I take my cues from something I read for humanities in college, a discourse on education by Cardinal John Henry Newman: "It is the education which gives a [person] a clear conscious view of his own opinions and judgments, a truth in developing them, an eloquence in expressing them, and a force in urging them." To me, that sounds exactly like the kind of people we need to lead us through this next century.

**How do you think your teaching style differs from other French teachers and what is most important to you in the classroom?**

I jokingly tell my students that I don't care if they learn a single word of French, as long as they grow more compassionate and open-minded over the course of their time in my classroom. It's only sort of a joke - how often do we language teachers hear from adults about how they took five, six, eight years of a particular language and can't remember a single thing? Although I believe that our methods of teaching have improved immensely through research in a variety of fields (linguistics, neuroscience, sociology, etc.), I try to teach everything through the skills of intercultural competence. It helps to keep me from getting bogged down in too much grammar. I love diagramming sentences, but I know my students don't!

The other thing that makes me different is that I refuse to teach things that I or my students aren't passionate about. It makes it so much easier to get up and go to work every day knowing that I get to learn new things and share them with my students, and they get to do the same for me.

**How do you navigate having different levels of learners in your classroom?**

Proficiency-based learning and assessment is absolutely the best way to differentiate for students; if only we could do away with the annoying numbers we have to give every quarter! Using proficiency levels (based on ACFL, RFCDC, or whatever you like) to measure language acquisition and production allows students to feel like they're constantly achieving something. In all my classes, I try to remove the fear and consequences of being wrong and replace those with the goal of expressing and interpreting meaning. Maybe one student does it with just a few words and some hand gestures while another spits out a beautifully written paragraph, but they both communicated their points. In the “real world”, that's what really matters.

**What is your favorite part about being a language teacher in Maine?**

I'm glad to be home again in Maine. It's a place with a lot of history, but I can contribute to incredible progress and community building here. People often joke or complain about how homogenous this state is, but I think that's looking at it the wrong way around. We do have all kinds of diversity of culture, language, and ideas here, and we must be extremely self-aware to avoid imposing hegemony of any kind on the small groups of “others” who have sought out this beautiful place to put down roots and join our communities or those who have been here for centuries longer than we have.
**Professional Learning**

All virtual Maine DOE offerings will be recorded and posted to the Maine DOE YouTube channel unless noted with an asterisk.

**ExcEL Leadership Academy**: Free Micro-Credentials (and option for graduate credit) in ESOL Topics

**WIDA Self-Paced eWorkshops are available 9.1.21-8.31.22**

3.7.22: **SLIFE Conference** Presented by MinneSLIFE and Inlier Learning (Option to attend virtually or in-person in Philadelphia.)

3.12.22: **FLAME Conference featuring the Maine ESOL Meeting (Virtual)** - Registration for ESOL teachers who are not yet FLAME members will open after February break!

3.18.22 at 5pm: Kathleen Stein-Smith Book Talk *The Gift of Languages: Paradigm Shift in US Foreign Language Education*

3.18.22-3.19.22: Multi-State Association for Bilingual Education **Dual Language Conference and Pre-Conference School Visits**

3.22.22-3.25.22: **TESOL Convention**

3.27.22-11.20.22: Pejepscot History Center **The Immigrant Experience: A Spring and Fall Book Discussion Group**

4.2.22-4.7.22: Pennsylvania Department of Education **English Language Development Virtual Professional Learning Summit: Reimagining Equitable Access for Multilingual Learners** Free and open to all! Check out the headliners!

4.22.22-4.24.22: **National Chinese Language Conference**

Summer 2022: **CARLA Summer Institutes** schedule now available

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**Maine ESOL Meeting and FLAME Conference: Tentative Schedule of Events**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:30-9:00</td>
<td>Login and Social Time</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00-9:30</td>
<td>ESOL Welcome and Plenary</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:30-10:30</td>
<td>Keynote by Young-chan Han, Mid-Atlantic Equity Consortium, “Be a Voice: What About English Learners?” (on realizing our shared responsibility)</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:30-11:30</td>
<td>Awards, Voting, President’s Speech, DOE Specialist Speech</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:30-12:30</td>
<td>Lunch/Group Meetings (AATF, AATG, ESOL, Spanish, Latin, Chinese, Just Chatting)</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:30-1:30</td>
<td>Keynote by Idioma Language Consulting on SEL in the Second Language Classroom</td>
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**Articles of Interest**

Maine DOE Newsroom: Educator Spotlight: Aspiring World Languages Educator Attends 2022 NECTFL Conference on National Scholarship

Portland Phoenix: The Bridge Between: Breaking the cycle of generational trauma

Amjambo Africa: The Samosa Story

Bangor Daily News: Bangor will see 15 refugees this summer after feds greenlight their resettlement

SmartBrief: Keeping the spotlight on English learners

Newswires: (UNESCO) Why mother language-based education is essential

Rand: Investment in Languages Education Could Return Double for UK Economy

Edutopia: 3 Tips for Co-teaching Multilingual Students

Amjambo Africa: I come from a place they call away
ACCESS Administration Window Open 1/10/22 – 3/18/22

Materials must be shipped to DRC no later than 3/21/22!!

All completed test booklets and secure test materials must be shipped back to DRC no later than March 21st, 2022. This will ensure that while we have extended the window for this year, Maine SAUs will still receive student data prior to the close of the school year.

Final Reminder to ACCESS Coordinators: The Assessment Team requests District Test Coordinators to conduct at least one local assessment observation during the Winter 2022 ACCESS for ELLs administration, using the updated Observational Checklist Tool.

Observational Checklist Tool

Questions? Concerns? Please don’t hesitate to reach out:
Jodi Bossio-Smith, State Coordinator for Alternate and WIDA Assessments
Jodi.bossio-smith@maine.gov
207.530.1462

Maine Seal of Biliteracy

Do you have students graduating this year who are bilingual or multilingual? Encourage them to apply for the Maine Seal of Biliteracy! See the website for details about eligibility criteria, assessment options, the online application, and FAQ. Applications are due 5/15/22*. Contact April Perkins at april.perkins@maine.gov with any questions.

Maine Seal of Biliteracy Overview Webinar

*Students whose AP or IB exam scores are not available by May 15th can apply through 7/15/22.
Job Opportunities

**USM Part-Time Faculty in Linguistics (Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Italian, and Spanish)**

**RSU 21 Long-Term Sub Elementary Spanish Teacher**

**AOS 91 French Teacher**

**Augusta ESOL Ed Tech II Part-Time**

**Freeport ELL Teacher**

**Biddeford ELL Middle School Classroom Teacher**

**Sebago Part-Time ESL Teacher (2022-23)**

**RSU 5 Long-Term Sub Spanish Teacher 7th/8th Grade**

**Maine Central Institute Spanish Teacher (Anticipated)**

**WIDA Professional Learning Specialist**

**MSAD 54 Part-Time ELL Tutors (Elementary/Middle School)**

**Center for Applied Linguistics Director of PreK-12 Language and Literacy**

**St. John’s Catholic School Long Term Substitute - Music & Latin Teacher (PK-8)**

**RSU 44 Spanish Teacher**

**Cape Elizabeth ELL Ed Tech III**

**RSU 64 High School Spanish Teacher**

Announcements

**ACTFL Scholarships**
French, Spanish, and Greek teachers are invited to apply for a **scholarship to study abroad** this summer. Application deadline is 3.16.22.

**Scholarships for Immigrant Students**
ProsperityME is offering scholarships to students who are not eligible for financial aid through the FAFSA. Applications are due by 3.1.22. See more details [here](#).

**OELA Factsheet**
OELA has released a factsheet on **English Learners and Homelessness**. Contact Amelia Lyons, McKinney-Vento Coordinator at the Maine DOE, with any questions related to available supports for students experiencing homelessness. amelia.lyons@maine.gov

**Free Screening of “Le Carrefour” at USM**
On 3.19.22 at 5pm, Alliance Française is offering a free public screening of this documentary film, which centers on the intersection of francophone communities in Maine. RSVP to afdume@gmail.com.

**Summer Courses in Spain**
The Education Office of the Embassy of Spain invites Maine Spanish teachers to apply to travel to Spain and attend a three-week course this summer. Applications are due April 1st. Details, including costs and the application, can be found [here](#).

**Free Workshops for Spanish Teachers**
The Education Office of the Embassy of Spain, in collaboration with prestigious universities in Spain, is offering three workshops in March. Check out [the details](#) and **register**.

**New Resource from Mid-Atlantic Equity Consortium**
**21st-Century Learning at Home: A Guide for Families and Caregivers of English Learners to Support Project-Based Learning at Home**

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**Monthly ESOL Office Hours**

At least five registrants are required in order for office hours to be held.

Next: 3.16.22 at 3:00pm
Focus Topic: Family Engagement & Approaching the End of the ACCESS/Alternate ACCESS Administration Window

Register by 3.13.22