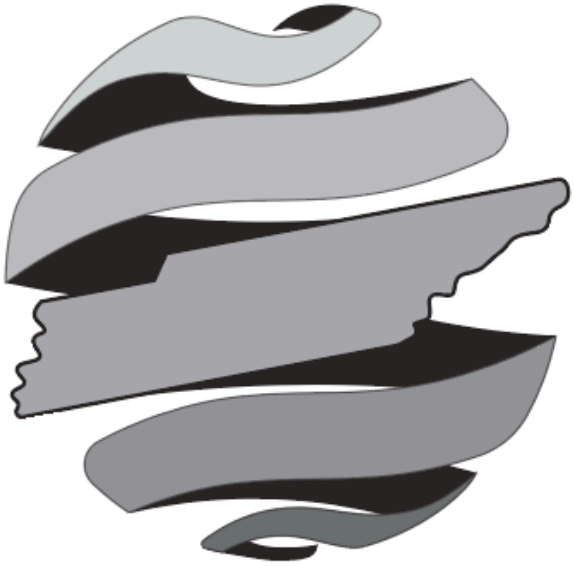


Tennessee World Language
Teaching Association

# Multilingualism in the 21st Century: Reinforcing the Importance of Language in the Workforce

## 58th Annual Conference

with concurrent meetings of the
Tennessee Classical Association
American Association of Teachers of French
American Association of Teachers of German
American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese
The Tennessee Association of Chinese Teachers

**Montgomery Bell Academy**
**Hilton Garden Inn Nashville West End**
**Nashville, TN**

**November 6-7, 2026**

# 2026 TWLTA Conference Committee

**Registration**
Daniel Paolicchi, Montgomery Bell Academy
Erika Stevens, Walters State Community College

**Local Arrangements**
Daniel Paolicchi, Montgomery Bell Academy
Kelly Scheetz, Franklin High School

**Conference Program**
Erika Stevens, Walters State Community College
Abigail Simone, Houston High School

**Exhibits**
Kelly Scheetz, Franklin High School
Kaitlyn Gaskins, Hardin Valley Academy

**Website**
Erika Stevens, Walters State Community College

**Conference Program Materials**
Katie Wimer, Carter High School

**Communications Coordinator**
Cécile Lainé, Harpeth Hall

**Presiders**
Erika Stevens, Walters State Community College

**TWLTA Awards**
Jessica Sexton, Hume-Fogg Magnet High School

**Nominations**
Abigail Simone, Houston High School

## Francille Bergquist Professional Development Scholarship 2026 Recipients

**Ashley Nix**, Kirkwood High School
**Osiris Pizen-Magana**, Antioch High School
**Natalie McGarrity**, Siegel High School

# Welcome From the President

Dear Esteemed TWLTA Members and Conference Attendees,

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the 58th annual Tennessee World Language Teaching Association Conference entitled: "Multilingualism in the 21st century: Reinforcing the Importance of Languages in the Workforce." We hope you embrace our revised format and are sincerely grateful to Montgomery Bell Academy for hosting this event for a second year.

This year's conference theme reflects the focus of our state governing bodies and highlights the role we as world language educators play to support this educational goal. TWLTA has been hard at work this year and last representing the value of the work you do at the state level. Let this year's presenters continue to inspire you to do your best work and reinforce the significance of language education to the individual and community.

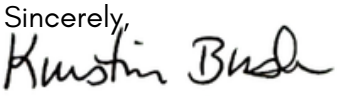
This conference is a testament to the dedication, passion and relentless pursuit of knowledge that TWLTA members share for the world of language. Conference Secretary Kelly Scheetz, 2nd Vice-President Erika Stevens, and the TWLTA Executive Board have worked countless hours creating this year's slate of workshops and presentations, providing an opportunity to enrich your own teaching and extend your personal and professional network of colleagues from across the state.

I hope that each of you will share your feedback about our conference and organization allowing us to better support our members and improve our future offerings. Your participation is needed now more than ever since "none of us is as smart as all of us." (Ken Blanchard)

It has been my privilege to serve as your president this year, but this volunteer organization is only possible due to the tireless energy of the board members, presenters, presiders, and other stakeholders who contribute their time and expertise to benefit educators like you.

Enjoy this weekend of professional development, leave rejuvenated, and always remember that you make a difference not only to your students' lives but also to those of your colleagues. We all benefit because you decided to invest your time. Thanks for showing up for yourself, for your school and for the profession!

Sincerely,



Kurstin Bush
TWLTA President

## TWLTA Past Presidents

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2025 | Abigail Simone | 2012 | Kris Climer | 1999 | Jean Marie Walls | 1985 | Sue Lockett |
| 2024 | Phillip Easterly | 2011 | David Julseth | 1998 | Karen Champion | 1986 | Marty Deschênes |
| 2023 | Raluca Negrisanu | 2010 | Chris Craig | 1997 | Alice Sanford | 1984 | Ortrun Gilbert |
| 2022 | Claire González | 2009 | Deanna Kendall | 1996 | Cindy Ridgway | 1983 | Barbara Carden |
| 2021 | Jessica Sexton | 2008 | Patt Webb | 1995 | Dawn LaFon | 1982 | Shirley Briggs |
| 2020 | Rebecca Peterson | 2007 | Sabra Clayton | 1994 | Juanita Shettlesworth | 1981 | Eduardo Zayas-Bazán |
| 2019 | Kelly Scheetz | 2006 | Eric Henager | 1993 | Dorothy Winkles | 1978-1980 | Phillip Campana |
| 2018 | Daniel Paolicchi | 2005 | Patsy Lanigan | 1992 | Pattie Davis-Wiley | 1976-1977 | Harry Rutledge |
| 2016-2017 | Julie Golden | 2004 | Laura Beasley | 1991 | Beckie Gibson | 1974-1975 | Sue Reynolds |
| 2015 | Meredith Peccolo | 2003 | Jim Davidheiser | 1990 | Jacqueline Elliott | 1972-1973 | Maxine Patterson |
| 2014 | Betsy Taylor | 2002 | Susan Martin | 1989 | Jeff Mellor | 1970-1971 | Jacqueline Elliott |
| 2013 | Dolly Young | 2001 | Aliene Click | 1988 | Sylvia Countess | | Chair of *Ad Hoc* |
| | | 2000 | Joy Maness | 1987 | Joyce Ward | | Committee 1968-1969 |

# 2026 Conference Highlights

Welcome to our 58th Annual TWLTA Conference, "Multilingualism in the 21st Century: Reinforcing the Importance of Languages in the Workplace." This year's conference theme is aimed to help world language teachers advocate for languages as a valuable tool for students, whatever their plans for the future may be.

As we are still adjusting from the hotel setting for the full conference, we hope you are able to make the most of our two days of conference activities. We are kicking off our conference on Friday morning with two rounds of workshops, followed by language-specific sessions and meetings on Friday afternoon and evening.

On Saturday, we have our full conference with five concurrent sessions, an opening session for all, and our awards luncheon. This year, during our opening session we will recognize those students and teachers who advocated for keeping the world language graduation requirement in Tennessee and hear the keynote speech. Our keynote speaker Dr. Mary Risner is a professor emerita of the University of Florida. In the decade I have known Mary, she has taught both Spanish and Portuguese, served as the director of UF's Center for Latin American Studies, and been a leader in teaching languages for specific purposes. Her Friday workshop and keynote speech on Saturday will help those of us looking to make multilingualism a tangible advantage for students. As we enjoy lunch in the grand MBA dining hall, we will recognize our annual award winners.

Please remember to cast your vote for candidates for the TWLTA Board and turn in your ballot before the end of our awards lunch. New Board members will be announced during our closing session and raffle, beginning at 3:45.

This year's conference was truly a team effort. We appreciate each person who volunteered to present and share their knowledge with us this year. Many thanks to the TWLTA Executive Board for working so hard to organize this conference! Most of those involved are listed on the inside front cover of your program. We are fortunate to have amazing, dedicated colleagues who participate whole-heartedly each year to ensure the continued success of language learning in our institutions. I hope everyone enjoys this opportunity to gather for professional development, reunite with friends and colleagues, and share our enthusiasm for language learning.

Sincerely,

Kelly Scheetz
TWLTA Conference Secretary

# Ready to Help Shape the Future of TWLTA?

## BOARD NOMINATIONS

twlta.org/board-nomination

*Nominate a dedicated member for the TWLTA Board of Directors.*

*Submit your own name or recommend a colleague in good standing. Second Vice-President candidates should have prior Board experience, and Board candidates must have been members for at least three of the past four years. Let's build a strong leadership team together.*

# Session Feedback and Conference Evaluation

TWLTA is YOUR professional organization and strives to provide the best membership experience possible. We welcome your feedback to strengthen our organization. Please take a minute to share your ideas and opinions. Your input is invaluable to the continued success of our organization. **Please use the links or QR codes to share your feedback with the TWLTA Board.**

### SESSION FEEDBACK

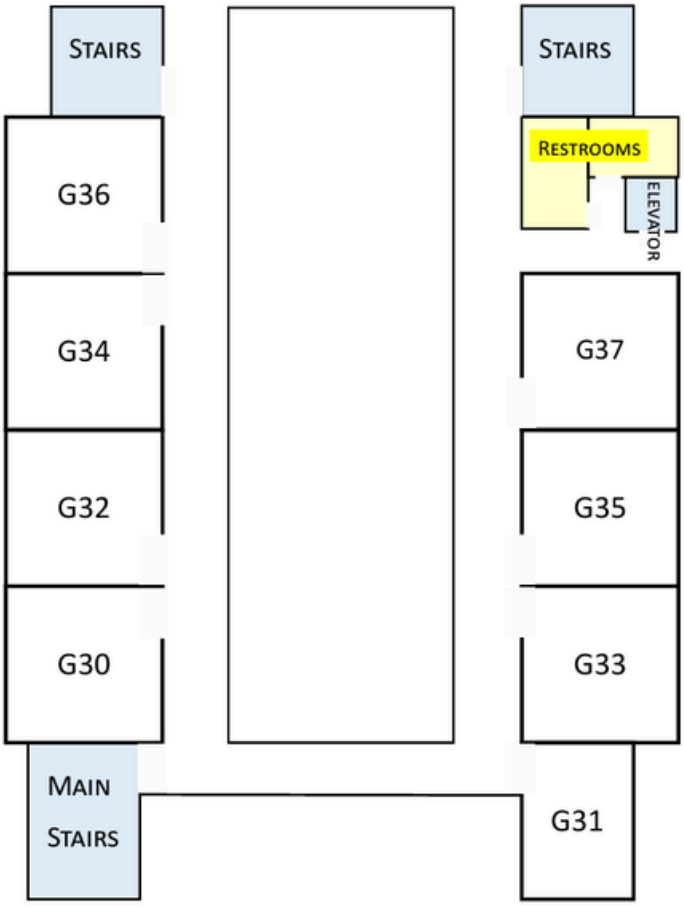
https://bit.ly/TWLTAsessionfeedback24

### CONFERENCE EVALUATION

https://bit.ly/TWLTAConferenceEval24

# Montgomery Bell Academy Gioia Commons Map

2nd Floor Rooms Location



# Plenary Keynote Speaker

## Dr. Mary Risner

Professor Emerita, Center for Latin American Studies
University of Florida

### Re-Imagining World Languages for for Employability and Impactful Careers at Home and Abroad

With more than three decades of leadership in language education, Dr. Mary Risner has developed and managed initiatives that infuse world languages and area studies across the curriculum—from K-12 classrooms to university programs. She has taught Spanish and Portuguese, and has passionately supported the field of Languages for Specific Purposes (LSP), speaking at conferences worldwide and publishing to show how language learning can be tailored to meet real-world professional needs.

A pioneer in Virtual Exchange, Dr. Risner promotes connecting classrooms across borders, giving students authentic, one-on-one and team interactions that sharpen global skills and intercultural competence—critical assets for today's employers and for personal growth. Her initiatives consistently demonstrate how language learning translates directly into workplace readiness and life-long learning.

Beyond her teaching, presenting, and publishing, she has spent much of her career serving on professional boards and championing innovative learning opportunities at state, national, and international levels. Dr. Risner's work empowers educators to design transformative, career-focused language programs that prepare students for the challenges and opportunities of a globalized world.

# TWLTA Conference at a Glance
## Friday, November 6, 2026

**8:00 AM- 2:00 PM- *Registration Open*- Hilton Garden Inn 2nd Floor**

| Workshops Round 1<br>9:00-11:45 AM | Workshops Round 2<br>1:00-3:45 PM | Language Sessions 1<br>4:00-4:50 PM | Language Sessions 2<br>5:00-5:50 PM |
|---|---|---|---|
| **The New AP Exam - What I learned from the APSI**<br>*K. Gaskins*<br>All Languages | **Eurovision in Tennessee**<br>*R. Linger, K. Wimer*<br>All Languages | **AATF-sponsored Meeting and Session**<br>French | **TCA-sponsored Meeting and Session**<br>Latin |
| ***Ō, loca ad quae ībimus!***<br>*W. Lee, P. McFadden*<br>Latin | **Global Skills, Local Classrooms: Integrating Career Pathways into the World Langauge Curriculum**<br>*M. Risner, E. Stevens*<br>All Languages | **AATSP-sponsored Meeting and Session**<br>Spanish | ***Una Tertulia para profesores y maestros de español***<br>Spanish |
| **Creating Communicative Online World Language Courses**<br>*E. Stevens*<br>All Languages | **FeedForward: Tips for Providing Feedback That Promotes Student Growth**<br>*A. Wilkinson, M. Maher*<br>All Languages | **AATG-sponsored Meeting and Session**<br>German | **TWLTA Past Presidents Meeting** |

# THE ECHO

**Want to stay updated? Check out the most current ECHO, our TWLTA Newsletter!**

# TWLTA Conference at a Glance
## Saturday, November 7, 2026

### 7:30- 10:00 AM- *Registration Open*- Montgomery Bell Academy Gioia Commons

| ROOM | Concurrent Sessions I 8:00-8:50 | Plenary Session 8:55-9:55 | Concurrent Sessions II 10:05-10:55 | Concurrent Sessions III 11:15-12:05 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **G30** | **Exploring Cities and Languages: Interactive Learning with Google Maps and Google Earth**<br>*E. Caron*<br>All Languages | | **Support WL Teaching Through Meaningful Technology Integration**<br>*H. He*<br>All Languages | **Teaching Languages for Social Justice: Embedding Human Rights in World Language Education**<br>*M. Guerreiro-Aires*<br>All Languages |
| **G32** | **International Film Studies.. new elective at your school!**<br>*S. Nebenfuehr*<br>All Languages | *PLENARY SESSION HELD IN DINING HALL*<br><br>**Introduction of Board Candidates & Recognition of Outgoing Board Members**<br><br>**Advocacy Recognition**<br><br>**Friends of World Language Recognition**<br><br>**KEYNOTE ADDRESS:**<br><br>**Re-Imagining World Languages for Employability and Impactful Careers at Home and Abroad**<br><br>Dr. Mary Risner, *Emerita*, University of Florida | **New Teacher Bootcamp: Shape Up and Ship Out!**<br>*P. Jennemann, P. Fraser*<br>All Languages | **From Burnout to Balance: Supporting Longevity in Language Teaching Careers**<br>*R. Whitehead*<br>All Languages |
| **G34** | **From Latin to Verlan: A (Fun!) History of the French Language**<br>*W. Thompson*<br>French | | **De-Centering the Monolith: Culturally and Pedagogically Responsive Practices in the French Language Classroom**<br>*A. Haines, K.Wimer*<br>French | **Story Asking Haters Club**<br>*M. Bertani*<br>All languages |
| **G33** | **Augustan Propaganda? Moral Ambiguity in Vergil's "maius opus" and AP Students' World**<br>*P. McFadden*<br>Latin | | ***quomodō Linguam Latīnam docēāmus?***<br>*W. Lee*<br>Latin | **Welcoming International Students**<br>*R. Dines*<br>All Languages |
| **G35** | **UDL Speaks Every Language**<br>*J. Pacheco-Toye*<br>All Languages | | **Building a Local Language Network: Session 1 - Creating Community over Coffee**<br>*D. Walker & J. Nave*<br>All Languages | **Building a Local Language Network: Session 2 - Meet Us at the Table**<br>*D. Walker & J. Nave*<br>All Languages |
| **G37** | **Listen up! Making authentic listening accessible to every learner: strategies you can use on Monday**<br>*J. Peritz Wynne*<br>All Languages | | **Novel Beginnings: examine how to start the year with a novel in levels 2 and up**<br>*J. Victoria*<br>Spanish | **The Future of Japanese Language Education in Tennessee: A Teacher Roundtable**<br>*Tezuka-Arnold, Poarch, Hammond, Nakano*<br>Japanese |
| **G36** | | | **Human-Realistic AI Partners: The Future of Interpersonal Speaking Practice**<br>*B. Altschuler*<br>All Languages | **TN Teachers: Help Shape What's Next**<br>*T. Brown*<br>All Languages |

# TWLTA Conference at a Glance
## Saturday, November 7, 2026

| ROOM | Awards Luncheon 12:10-1:30 | Concurrent Sessions IV 1:45-2:35 | Concurrent Sessions V 2:45-3:35 | Closing Session 3:40-4:00 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **G30** | **The TWLTA Awards Luncheon is sponsored by Avant Assessment.**<br><br>*Please join us in the Dining Hall for lunch which is provided for all attendees.*<br><br>**FRANCILLE BERGQUIST PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SCHOLARSHIPS**<br><br>**JACQUELINE ELLIOTT AWARD FOR SERVICE IN HIGHER EDUCATION**<br><br>**JOYCE WARD TEACHER OF THE YEAR**<br><br>**TWLTA HALL OF FAME** | **Prompts, Practice & Policy: Teaching Students Responsible AI Use for Language Learning**<br><br>*E. O'Neill*<br>All Languages | **Maximizing Student Output in a World Language Classroom: AI and the 70/30 Rule**<br><br>*Y. Zhao*<br>All Languages | **ELECTION RESULTS**<br><br>**EXHIBITORS RAFFLE** |
| **G32** | | **Building Conversation through Reading**<br><br>*B. Baily*<br>All Languages | **Building Balance: Support for New and Veteran World Language Teachers**<br><br>*M. Bertani*<br>All Languages | |
| **G34** | | **The Prepared Adult: Montessori and French Perspectives on Language Teaching**<br><br>*T. Floch*<br>All Languages | ***Produits, Pratiques & Perspectives pour tous les niveaux***<br><br>*W. Saylor & A. Headrick*<br>French | |
| **G33** | | **Iranian Loanwords in Greek and Roman Mithraism**<br><br>*D. Sick*<br>Latin | **The TJCL and you: Connecting students to Classics outside of the Classroom.**<br><br>*A. Simone & S. Ellery*<br>Latin | |
| **G35** | | **INNOVATION ROOM:**<br>• *Gustafson* - AP Changes<br>• *Rajendran* - Advocating for WL classes, Building Communities<br>• *Coda* - Role of Transformative Experience for Educators<br>• *Hungerford* - Increasing Engagement with Manipulatives | **Taking a Break from Tech and Making Them Talk**<br><br>*T. Todd*<br>All Languages | |
| **G37** | | **World Language Advocacy in Tennessee and the U.S.**<br><br>*G. Keith, K. Sorenson*<br>*R. Apgar*<br>All Languages | | |

# Friday, November 6, 2026
## Hilton Garden Inn, West End- 2nd Floor

### 8:00AM- 2:00PM- Registration Desk Open- Hilton Garden Inn

### 9:00AM- 11:45AM- Workshops Round I (w*ith purchased tickets*)

#### I. The New AP Exam - What I learned from the APSI

*Presenter*: Kaitlyn Gaskins, Hardin Valley High School

*Language Focus:* Spanish

Do you want to know more about the changes made for the new AP Exam? I will share everything I learned at the APSI in Seville, Spain! We will look at the new themes, tasks, rubrics and more! In addition to this, we will look at tips and tricks for spiraling these tasks down to the lower levels!

#### II. *Ō, loca ad quae ībimus!*

*Presenters*: William Lee, Hands Up Education and UTSA &
Patrick McFadden, Ph.D., St. Mary's Episcopal School

*Language Focus:* Latin

Following the first year of the revised AP Latin curriculum, this session offers practical strategies for a balanced teaching approach. We will explore ways to build linguistic confidence, literary interpretation, and skill-based assessment fluency. Participants will analyze student samples from the 2026 AP Reading and develop techniques to scaffold complex passages, build sight-reading skills, and integrate vocabulary in context. The session also demonstrates how technology, such as digital annotation and gamified tools, enhances engagement. Educators will gain adaptable lesson structures and assessment ideas to help students excel in the updated course.

#### III. Creating Communicative Online World Language Courses

*Presenter*: Erika Stevens, Ed.D., Walters State Community College

*Language Focus*: All Languages

A continuation of last year's workshop, this workshop will help you fine tune your online WL courses. Using principles of instructional design, you will learn how to focus on your audience, content, and purpose. Be sure to come with a specific course in mind that you wish to work on. Laptops are encouraged if you want to get feedback on current course design.

A Refreshment Break sponsored by Wayside Publishing
is included with all workshops.

Friday Lunch is on your own.

# Friday, November 6, 2026

## 1:00 PM- 3:45 PM Workshops Round II (w*ith purchased tickets)*

### I. Eurovision in Tennessee

*Presenters*: Ryan Linger, Farragut High School & Katie Wimer, Carter High School

*Language Focus:* All Languages

In this session, we'll discuss Eurovision in TN for 2027. We'll show the plan and highlights we used for Eurovision 2026 to unite several schools across East TN in this cultural experience, how we built to to be a great, easy to use, tool to engage students, and our goals going into the next Eurovision competition season.

### II. Global Skills, Local Classrooms: Integrating Career Pathways into the World Langauge Curriculum

*Presenters*: Mary Risner, Ph.D., Emerita, University of Florida &
Erika Stevens, Ed.D., Walters State Community College

*Language Focus:* All Languages

In this workshop we will examine current and projected workforce demands and career pathways that are enhanced through multilingualism. After reviewing examples of career-connected curriculum, we will work collaboratively to brainstorm and develop ready to use activities for your classroom, keeping in mind Tennessee's regional context(s), and how we might motivate students at all language levels. We will share resources and ways to connect with other educators who are innovating their world language curriculum and providing students with engaged learning and the skills they can use for a lifetime. Participants will leave with new perspectives of how their curriculum can be a gateway to the evolving labor market while still promoting the traditional humanistic value of language learning.

### III. FeedForward: Tips for Providing Feedback That Promotes Student Growth

*Presenters:* Monica Maher and Amber Wilkinson, Centennial High School

*Language Focus*: All Languages

This workshop will first offer practical, high-impact strategies for providing efficient, targeted feedback on writing and speaking assignments. The presenters will provide tools harnessing the power of student-led feedback to build ownership and reduce routine commentary. AI tools (specifically Magic School) will be used for teacher exploration and prompts will be shared for guiding AI to provide immediate feedback.
Participants are invited to bring some writing or speaking samples to review. Teachers will also design their own simple, sustainable student-led feedback routines that will free teacher time for high-leverage instruction leading toward higher proficiency.

## 4:00- 4:50 PM- Language Sessions I

- AATF-sponsored session and meeting, French
- AATSP-sponsored session and meeting, Spanish
- AATG-sponsored session and meeting, German

## 5:00-5:50 PM- Language Sessions II

- TCA-sponsored session and meeting, Latin
- *Una tertulia para profesores y maestros de español*, Spanish
- TWLTA Past Presidents Meeting

# Saturday, November 7, 2026
# Montgomery Bell Academy

## 7:30-10:00 AM- Registration Desk Open- Gioia Commons
## Breakfast Available in Dining Hall (*included*)

## 8:00AM -3:00PM- Exhibit Hall Open

## 8:00-8:50 AM- Concurrent Sessions I

### A. Exploring Cities and Languages: Interactive Learning with Google Maps and Google Earth

*Presenter*: Elise Caron, University of Tennessee, Knoxville
*Language Focus:* All Languages
*Room*: G30 *Presider*: Matthew Harrison

This presentation introduces a task-based, digitally immersive activity that uses Google Maps and Google Earth to help students engage with the target language through virtual city exploration. Designed for undergraduate language learners who may have limited opportunities to use the language in-country, the activity creates a structured, low-stakes way to practice real-world communication skills while interacting with authentic visual and cultural contexts. Participants will learn how to set up a guided "city walk" through the example of Lille, France. The session will demonstrate how to adapt the activity for multiple proficiency levels, showing how instructors can easily modify the task list from beginner-level vocabulary identification to more advanced skills.

### B. International Film Studies.. new elective at your school!

*Presenter*: Sabine Nebenfuehr, Oak Ridge High School
*Language Focus:* All Languages
*Room*: G32 *Presider*: Phillip Easterly

Are you looking to add electives to increase student engagement? Consider offering International Film Studies! This presentation will discuss all the steps needed to create and implement the course International Film Studies. Get to know all steps: how to go in front of the school board to get a new class accepted, how to inform yourself and how to conduct the class from the beginning to a successful completion. International Film Studies is offered to all grade levels and can be taught emphasizing any language.

### C. From Latin to Verlan: A (Fun!) History of the French Language

P*resenter:* Will Thompson, University of Memphis
*Language Focus:* French
*Room*: G34 *Presider*: Katie Wimer

The French language is ever-evolving, as it has been for more than a thousand years. How can we make the story of French an integral part of our classroom activities, and in a way that helps students to understand how language functions and how languages are all interconnected? Looking at phenomena such as slang, loanwords, calques, neologisms, and drift, we will share fun facts about French that will engage students with the language in a manner not often found in traditional textbooks.

### D. Augustan Propaganda? Moral Ambiguity in Vergil's "maius opus" and AP Students' World

*Presenter*: Patrick McFadden, St. Mary's Episcopal School
*Language Focus:* Latin
*Room*: G33 *Presider*: Salvador Bartera

The *Aeneid* is often dismissed as a sycophantic piece of Augustan propaganda, a view moderately supported in the first half of the poem by Jupiter's prophecy (Book 1) and the Parade of Heroes (Book 6). In the second half of the poem, the maius opus, such support crumbles, particularly with the Shield of Aeneas (Book 8) and the death of Mezentius (Book 10), which depict Aeneas and Augustus himself with unambiguously negative, monstrous imagery and create deliberate moral ambiguity. Rome's national epic at the end of 100 years of social conflict offers AP students thoughtful lessons in Teacher's Choice Passages.

# Saturday, November 7, 2026

## 8:00-8:50 AM- Concurrent Sessions I *continued*

### E. UDL Speaks Every Language

*Presenter*: Julie Pacheco-Toye, Wayside Publishing
*Language Focus:* All Languages
*Room*: G35 *Presider*: Gibson Keith

Are you ready to remove barriers to your students' learning? Explore the Universal Design for Learning framework through a World Languages lens and leave with practical strategies for bringing UDL into your classroom. UDL is an educational framework designed to create equitable learning opportunities for all students. Key principles include setting firm goals, maintaining high expectations, removing barriers to learning, and offering multiple means of representation and expression. Join us to discover what this can look like in a proficiency-based world language classroom!

### F. Listen up! Making authentic listening accessible to every learner: strategies you can use on Monday (Exhibitor Session)

*Presenter*: Judy Peritz Wynne, This Is School
*Language Focus:* All Languages
*Room*: G37 *Presider*: Cécile Lainé

Authentic listening doesn't have to feel out of reach!
In this interactive session, we'll explore practical, classroom-ready strategies for helping every learner engage confidently with real-world language and build their interpretive listening skills. Best of all, these aren't just ideas that sound good in theory; they're tried-and-tested strategies shared by World Language teachers who are using authentic resources with their students right now. You'll experience the activities from a student's perspective and explore simple ways to scaffold authentic input without losing any of the cultural and linguistic richness.
You'll leave ready for Monday morning—with a ready-to-use Strategy Pack to take back to your classroom

## 8:55-9:55 AM- Plenary Session & Keynote - *Dining Hall*

**Welcome and Overview**- Kurstin Bush, TWLTA President

**Recognition of Outgoing Board Members**

**Introduction of Board Candidates**

**Advocacy Recognition**

**Friends of World Languages Award**

**Keynote Address**
Re-Imagining World Languages for Employability and Impactful Careers at Home and Abroad, Mary Risner, Emerita, University of Florida

# Saturday, November 7, 2026

## 10:05-10:55 Concurrent Sessions II

### A. Support WL Teaching Through Meaningful Technology Integration

*Presenter*: Hanrui He, Austin Peay State University
*Language Focus:* All Languages
*Room*: G30 *Presider*: Sue Zhao

Language teachers use a variety of tech tools to facilitate student learning, enhance their own instructional methods, and engage in professional development. Given the rapid development and change in the edtech world, it is essential for world language teachers to also be equipped with the foundational knowledge of Educational technology frameworks that can help them evaluate whether the use of certain digital tools meaningfully supports learning or, conversely, adds distractions and complexity. The goal of this presentation is to familiarize language teachers with various technology frameworks commonly taught in teacher education preparation programs to guide pre-service teachers' tech integration, including the Triple E framework, the SAMR Model, the T-PACK, and AI integration guidelines for Language teachers. The audience will have the chance to share their current tech integration experience, concerns, and brainstorm ideas.

### B. New Teacher Bootcamp: Shape Up and Ship Out!

*Presenters*: Paul Jennemann, Brownville Road Elementary School &
Patrick Fraser, Memphis-Shelby County Schools, Curriculum & Instruction
*Language Focus:* All Languages
*Room*: G32 *Presider*: Ryan Linger

Are you a a mentor teacher or curriculum director and unsure of where to start in showing your new teachers what they need to know for the new school year? Lace up those curricular boots for The New Teacher Bootcamp! We will get you started with ideas on how to demonstrate the following to your teacher cadets: proficiency-based instruction, clear curriculum guides, performance-based assessments, and classroom observation. With guidance from seasoned teachers turned district advisor and teacher mentor, we provide examples from our program in Memphis-Shelby County Schools

### C. De-Centering the Monolith: Culturally and Pedagogically Responsive Practices in the French Language Classroom

P*resenter:* Augustus Haines, Central High School (KCS) & Katie Wimer, Carter High School
*Language Focus:* French
*Room*: G34 *Presider*: Wesley Saylor

Traditional French curricula often remain tethered to Eurocentric norms that treat Parisian French as the sole standard and l'Hexagon as the primary cultural context. This narrow focus marginalizes the diverse backgrounds of modern learners and restricts their career horizons in an increasingly interconnected global economy where French is a vital asset in international business, diplomacy, healthcare, and development. This fast-paced, 60-minute session offers a practical roadmap to transform your classroom into a pluralistic space that treats French as a global language rather than a course solely about France.

### D. *quomodō Linguam Latīnam doceāmus?*

*Presenter*: William Lee, Hands Up Education & University of Texas at San Antonio
*Language Focus:* Latin
*Room*: G33 *Presider*: Ashley Nix

The teaching of Latin has evolved over the years. Now, as Latin teachers, we should ask ourselves how we can help students experience Latin as a real language rather than a code to be deciphered. This session explores how we can create lessons that support meaningful language acquisition while still preparing students for success in advanced coursework, assessments, and authentic Latin texts. Participants will examine best pedagogical practices for building comprehensible, engaging, & culturally rich reading experiences. This session will also highlight practical ways to incorporate technology tools for meaningful engagement (e.g. Gamified Formative Assessment tools like Kahoot!, among others). Teachers will leave with adaptable strategies for designing Latin lessons that prioritize comprehension, student confidence, and sustained engagement with Latin as a language

# Saturday, November 7, 2026

## 10:05-10:55 Concurrent Sessions II *continued*

### E. Building a Local Language Network: Session 1 - Creating Community over Coffee

*Presenters*: Darlene May Walker, Treadwell Elementary Dual Language Program &
Joshua Nave, Multilingual Memphis Regional Network
*Language Focus:* All Languages
*Room*: G35 *Presider*: Will Thompson

Are you ready to remove barriers to your students' learning? Explore the Universal Design for Learning framework This interactive session introduces the grassroots development of the Multilingual Memphis Regional Network and the current Coffee Chat model as a way to build stronger connections among educators and community organizations. Participants will experience a facilitated coffee chat centered on themes related to multilingual learners and see how structured conversation can surface shared priorities, strengthen local networks, and support world language communities. Attendees will leave with a clearer understanding of how the Coffee Chat model functions and how dialogue-centered spaces can foster meaningful connection in their own communities. Participants are invited to continue with a fully brewed simulation in Coffee Chat to Community -Session 2: Meet Us at the Table.

### F. Novel Beginnings: Examine how to start the year with a novel in levels 2 and up

*Presenter*: Joy Victoria, Montgomery Bell Academy
*Language Focus:* Spanish
*Room*: G37 *Presider*: Cécile Lainé

In this session, we will examine how to start the year with a novel in levels 2 and up. Rather than beginning with a traditional grammar review unit, this session will look at how to use a leveled reader to jump start the year, integrating contextualized language instruction, culture, community and literacy practices through a whole class novel. While session examples and materials will specifically draw from a beginning of the year unit, the ideas shared will be transferrable to a whole class novel study at any point in the year.

Please note: this session will be conducted in Spanish.

### G. Human-Realistic AI Partners: The Future of Interpersonal Speaking Practice ***Exhibitor Session***

*Presenter*: Ben Altschuler, Speakology AI
*Language Focus:* All Languages
*Room*: G36 *Presider*: Errol O'Neil

Scaling 1-on-1 interpersonal speaking practice in world language classrooms can be challenging. Many students do not receive enough conversation time, struggle to find the right words, and feel less confident as a result. This session explores how teacher-driven AI conversation partners can expand individualized speaking practice and personalized feedback while teachers control the content, pedagogy, and "brain" behind the AI.

What will we discuss?

- Challenges of individualized speaking feedback
- How AI supports frequent, natural conversation practice
- How to program an AI avatar for effective conversations
- Methods for delivering personalized feedback to every student

# Saturday, November 7, 2026

## 11:05-11:55 Concurrent Sessions III

### A. Teaching Languages for Social Justice: Embedding Human Rights in World Language Education

*Presenter*: Mathias Guerreiro-Aires, Georgia State University
*Language Focus:* All Languages
*Room*: G30 *Presider*: Katie Wimer

This presentation explores the integration of human rights into world language education through the lens of critical language pedagogy. It argues that engaging learners with issues of equity, inclusion, and social justice can meaningfully enhance communicative competence and intercultural awareness while fostering career readiness and critical engagement with global realities. Drawing on pedagogical principles and classroom practice, the session presents practical strategies for embedding human rights themes into language curricula. Participants will learn how such approaches can support more socially responsive and critically informed language teaching across diverse educational contexts.

### B. From Burnout to Balance: Supporting Longevity in Language Teaching Careers

*Presenters*: Rebecca Whitehead, Oak Ridge High School
*Language Focus:* All Languages
*Room*: G32 *Presider*: Camille Hackney

Do you find yourself worn out at the end of the school day and year? What if you invested as much into yourself as you do into your teaching? This presentation will address concrete strategies to alleviate our workload as World Language teachers while still meeting our students' needs and advocating for our profession.

### C. Story Asking Haters Club

P*resenter:* Michelle Bertani, Baylor School
*Language Focus:* All Languages
*Room*: G34 *Presider*: Augustus Haines

This session is for teachers for whom Story Asking is not a strength, or for teachers who have that one class, you know the one, or for teachers who just want to mix things up a bit. Attendees will participate in 5 variations on the acquisition-driven instructional technique of Story Asking. Applicable for all levels of all languages. Handouts included.

### D. *Welcoming International Students*

*Presenter*: Rachel Dines, ETSU
*Language Focus:* All Languages
*Room*: G33 *Presider*: Gibson Keith

Despite recent immigration constraints, the US remains a dream destination for many across the world. With their emphasis on cultural competency, World Language classrooms are uniquely positioned to welcome the children of international families in our state. Join us to learn cultural information and strategies for making these students feel welcomed and willing to share their unique perspectives and rich cultural knowledge.

### E. Building a Local Language Network: Session 2-- Meet Us at the Table

*Presenters*: Darlene May Walker, Treadwell Elementary Dual Language Program &
Joshua Nave, Multilingual Memphis Regional Network
*Language Focus:* All Languages
*Room*: G35 *Presider*: Josh Nave

Meet us at the table for a full Coffee Chat experience! This interactive session centers on topics related to multilingual learners and allows attendees to participate in an actual Coffee Chat model. Participants will have time to reflect, connect, and discuss practical next steps (locally and state-wide) and will leave with a stronger sense of how this structured conversation model can deepen relationships, extend networks, and support ongoing collaboration locally and across the state. (Attendance at Session 1 Coffee Chat to Community: Brewing the Network is suggested but not required.)

# Saturday, November 7, 2026

## 11:05-11:55 Concurrent Sessions III *continued*

### F. The Future of Japanese Language Education in Tennessee: A Teacher Roundtable

*Presenters*: Junko Tezuka-Arnold, East TN State University; Ryoko Poarch, Middle TN State U; Kyoko Hammond, University of TN-Martin; & Asami Nakano, Vanderbilt University

*Language Focus:* Japanese
*Room*: G37

This interactive session brings together Japanese language educators from across Tennessee to discuss the current state and future of Japanese programs. Participants will share their experiences, successes, and challenges related to enrollment, program development, student interest, and institutional support. Through open discussion, we will identify common concerns and explore ways to strengthen connections and collaboration among Japanese teachers across the state. We will also discuss how educators can communicate the value and importance of Japanese and second-language education to students, families, schools, communities, and educational leaders. The session aims to generate practical ideas for developing, sustaining, and advocating for Japanese language programs in Tennesse

### G. TN Teachers: Help Shape What's Next
***Exhibitor Session***

*Presenter*: Tanya Brown, Wayside Publishing
*Language Focus:* All Languages
*Room*: G36 *Presider*: Tim Russell

Tennessee teachers, we want to hear from you! As Tennessee prepares for the upcoming LOTE instructional materials adoption, join Wayside for an interactive roundtable focused on your classroom experiences, challenges, and needs. Share what's working, what's missing, and what you need most from instructional materials and publisher support. Your voice matters and your insights will help us better understand how to support Tennessee teachers and students throughout the upcoming adoption.

## 12:10-1:30 Awards Luncheon Sponsored by Avant Assessment- ***Dining Hall***

*Please join us in the Dining Hall for lunch, which is provided for all attendees. Lunch is served buffet style, so grab your plate, go through one of two lines, and find a seat in the Dining Hall with a new friend*!

## Recognition of Francille Bergquist Professional Development Scholarships

## Presentation of Jacqueline Elliot Award for Service in Higher Education

## Presentation of Joyce Ward Teacher of the Year

## TWLTA Hall of Fame Induction

# Saturday, November 7, 2026

## 1:45-2:35PM Concurrent Sessions IV

### A. Prompts, Practice & Policy: Teaching Students Responsible AI Use for Language Learning

*Presenter*: Errol O'Neil, University of Memphis
*Language Focus:* All Languages
*Room*: G30 *Presider*: Tim Rossell

In this session, the presenter will share how he designed and taught a course on AI and Language Learning, focusing on three pillars: teaching students how to prompt and use AI chatbots and other tools effectively, helping students practice with Generative AI in meaningful ways, and establishing clear ground rules and policies for when and how to use (and not use) AI. This session will include examples of hands-on activities that can be used as-is or adapted for students at a variety of levels and at different points on their language learning journey.

### B. Building Conversation through Reading

*Presenter*: Brandon Baily, Lebanon High School
*Language Focus:* All Languages
*Room*: G32 *Presider*: Elizabeth Castleman

Reading texts provide great information to expand conversation in a structured manner. It also gets students thinking about questions and building language on their own. I will provide reading examples in Spanish, French and German and show how to work through a class period reading and having conversations.

### C. The Prepared Adult: Montessori and French Perspectives on Language Teaching

P*resenter:* Theresa Floch, Lamplighter Montessori School
*Language Focus:* All Languages
*Room*: G34 *Presider*: Augustus Haines

This session explores the preparation of the guide (teacher) through the lenses of Montessori philosophy, French scholarship, and lived classroom practice. Drawing on thinkers such as Maria Montessori, Albert Camus and Simone Weil, participants will examine how attention, observation, environment, and adult presence shape language learning and classroom culture. Through reflection, classroom examples, and practical strategies, educators will consider how preparing the adult—not only the lesson—can foster concentration, connection, and meaningful engagement in the world language classroom. This session is designed for both Montessori and traditional educators seeking a more humane and intentional approach to teaching.

### D. Iranian Loanwords in Greek and Roman Mithraism

*Presenter*: David Sick, Rhodes College
*Language Focus:* All Languages
*Room*: G33 *Presider*: Pat McFadden

There are very few words borrowed into Graeco-Roman Mithraism from Indo-Iranian languages: (A) the name of the god himself, Mit(h)ra(s), (B) the name of one or two other Zoroastrian divine figures, and (C) the honorific exclamation nama meaning 'honor, reverence, glory.' This presentation will review these examples with the goal of diversifying our impression of the classical languages, Latin in particular. We will focus on nama, whose cognate is famous today from the phrase namaste, used by practicers of yoga. Inscriptions of acclamation using nama have been found at Mithrea in Dura-Europos (Syria) and under the church of St. Prisca on the Aventine in Rome

### E. World Language Advocacy in Tennessee and the U.S.

*Presenters*: Gibson Keith, Metro-Nashville Public Schools Supervisor,
Karen Sorenson, Austin Peay State University &
Richard Apgar, Sewanee: The University of the South

*Language Focus:* All Languages
*Room*: G37 *Presider*: Katie Wimer

Please join us for an informative session on world language advocacy. This year the TN department of education has voted to keep the two year world language graduation credit in the same language after a very intense year of debate. Join us to hear about the current new waiver. We will also be learning about JNCL and advocacy efforts we participated in last year in Washington DC. Come advocate with us!

# Saturday, November 7, 2026

## 1:45-2:35PM Concurrent Sessions IV *continued*

### F. Patti Davis-Wiley Innovation Room

*Room*: G35

*The Patti Davis-Wiley Innovation Room creates a nexus for networking and new ideas. Presenters will be set up in different areas of the room and will give 5-15 minute presentations or have conversations with interested attendees.*

*The following topics will be presented and are appropriate for all languages.*

**Navigating what's new - What we are keeping from the old and learning from the newly updated AP exam**
Emily Gustafson, Webb School of Knoxville
**More Than Words: Advocating for Language Classes, Building Stronger Communities**
Mary Rajendran, Gallatin High School
**First Stop, Panajachel: The Role of Transformative Experience for Educators**
James Coda, University of Tennessee Knoxville
**Increasing engagement in the world language classroom with manipulatives**
Lacey Hungerford, Franklin High School

# TWLTA 2027

Paving New Pathways in
World Language Education

**November 5-6, 2027**

**PROPOSAL SUBMISSIONS**

https://forms.gle/zdpHUeKGyBoa29cS6

**AWARDS NOMINATIONS**

http://www.twlta.org/awards.html

# Saturday, November 7, 2026

## 2:45-3:35PM Concurrent Sessions V

### A. Maximizing Student Output in a World Language Classroom: AI and the 70/30 Rule

*Presenter*: Yen (Sue) Zhao, Merrol Hyde Magnet School
*Language Focus:* All Languages
*Room*: G30 *Presider*: Gibson Keith

How can world language teachers ensure students spend 70% of class time actively producing the target language, while teachers spend only 30% guiding them? In a traditional world language classroom, achieving this balance is an uphill battle.
This presentation explores how AI tools help bridge the gap by generating level-appropriate texts, creating interactive speaking prompts and activities, and providing real-time feedback for diverse learners. By shifting the burden of lesson prep and content delivery to AI, educators can transform from lecturers into facilitators, and create a highly engaged, student-centered classroom that maximizes proficiency and active language production.

### B. Building Balance: Support for New and Veteran World Language Teachers

*Presenter*: Michelle Bertani, Baylor School
*Language Focus:* All Languages
*Room*: G32 *Presider*: Elizabeth Castleman

Hacks and tips for reducing and avoiding burnout in the world language classroom. This session applies to all levels of all language teachers. Handouts will be provided.

### C. *Produits, Pratiques & Perspectives pour tous les niveaux*

P*resenters:* Wesley Saylor, Battle Ground Academy &
Ashlee Headrick, Battle Ground Academy
*Language Focus:* All Languages
*Room*: G34 *Presider*: Augustus Haines

Join us to explore how authentic materials can deepen learners' understanding of practices and perspectives across the French-speaking world. Participants will engage with adaptable strategies for all levels.

### D. The TJCL and you: Connecting students to Classics outside of the Classroom

*Presenters*: Abigail Simone, Houston High School & Sarah Ellery, Montgomery Bell Academy
*Language Focus:* All Languages
*Room*: G33 *Presider*: Reagan Ryder

Discover how to connect your Latin students with the Tennessee Junior Classical League (TJCL) to expand learning beyond the classroom. This session highlights key opportunities, including conventions, competitions, and leadership roles, that build academic skills and foster connections with students across the state. In addition, presenters will share practical strategies for promoting student participation, integrating TJCL activities into your curriculum, and creating pathways for students to connect with peers from other schools.

### E. Taking a Break from Tech and Making Them Talk

*Presenters*: Teresa Todd, Ensworth School
*Language Focus:* All Languages
*Room*: G35 *Presider*: Errol O'Neill

This session, which will most apply to secondary school students, will give examples of no-tech games and activities which get kids speaking. All levels from level 1 to level AP and beyond will be discussed.

## 3:50-4:30 PM Closing Session Dining Hall

**Election Results and Installation of Board Members**

**Exhibitors Raffle**

# Joyce Ward Teacher of the Year

# Wendy Stewart

Latin Teacher,
Briarcrest Christian High School

Wendy Stewart teaches Latin at Briarcrest Christian High School in Eads, TN. A graduate of Briarcrest and a valued member of its faculty since 2021, she has become an integral part of the school community and a recognized leader in language instruction. She previously taught middle school Latin at Woodland Presbyterian School in Memphis.

Mrs. Stewart has consistently demonstrated a commitment to high-quality education and to helping students discover the relevance and beauty of the ancient world. Her teaching expertise spans from Latin I through AP and Dual Enrollment Latin where she combines academic rigor with creativity and innovation to create engaging, student-centered learning experiences.

In the classroom, Mrs. Stewart skillfully integrates technology into her lessons, providing students with opportunities to engage with the Latin language in authentic and meaningful ways. Through storytelling, interactive games, and cultural exploration, she helps students advance from memorization to meaningful language acquisition and a deeper historical understanding. Through creative projects such as translating popular songs into Latin, producing videos inspired by classical texts, creating mythology-based comic strips, and playing Roman games, Mrs. Stewart makes challenging content accessible and relevant to her students, while maintaining high standards. Her students consistently earn gold and silver medals on the National Latin Exam and achieve AP Latin results that exceed state and national averages. Enrollment in her courses continues to grow, reflecting both the strength of her program and the enthusiasm she inspires in her students.

Beyond the classroom, Mrs. Stewart serves as sponsor of Briarcrest's Latin Club and leads transformative educational travel experiences to Italy and Greece. These opportunities allow students to stand among the ruins of Rome and Pompeii and experience the cultures they study in class.

Mrs. Stewart's influence reaches well past academics. As an assistant varsity volleyball coach and club volleyball coach, she models perseverance, teamwork, leadership, and sportsmanship while investing countless hours in the development of young people. Colleagues admire her professionalism, organization, and collaborative spirit, and students know her as a teacher who is always willing to arrive early, stay late, and provide encouragement when it is needed most.

Whether helping a struggling student master a difficult translation or guiding advanced scholars through college-level coursework, Mrs. Stewart consistently demonstrates a commitment to excellence and care for every learner. Therefore, the Tennessee World Language Teaching Association is very proud to celebrate her as the 2026 Joyce Ward Teacher of the Year.

**About Joyce Ward:** *A long-time teacher of Latin at the Harpeth Hall School in Nashville, she regularly took her students to Junior Classical League local, state, and national contests, in all of which her students distinguished themselves. She was an active learner throughout her career, keeping her teaching style fresh and innovative. She loved to take her students overseas to visit Rome, Greece, and Egypt. She served as the President of the Tennessee Classical Association and of the Tennessee Foreign Language Teaching Association. Her reputation as one of Tennessee's best is a lasting testament to her love of teaching and her dedication to her discipline.*

# Jacqueline Elliott Award for Service in Higher Education

## Dr. Debbie Barnard

*in memoriam*

The 2026 recipient of the Jacqueline Elliott award is Dr. Debbie Barnard, Professor of French in the Department of World Languages Tennessee Tech University. Dr. Barnard graduated with her Bachelor's degree from Western Carolina University in 1991, and earned her Master's and Ph.D. degrees in French language and literature from Vanderbilt University in 1995 and 2003, respectively.

Over nearly two decades of teaching, Dr. Barnard distinguished herself as a "warm, energetic, and passionate educator" who consistently sought to "connect what students learn in the classroom with opportunities that they could take advantage of outside the classroom." Her commitment extended far beyond the lecture hall.

As a Fulbright Scholar in France and Tunisia, Dr. Barnard brought international perspective to her scholarship on francophone literature and culture, with particular expertise in North Africa. Recognizing the transformative power of mentorship, she became the Fulbright Scholar Student Program Advisor at Tennessee Tech in 2007, a role through which she guided seven students to Fulbright awards, multiplying her own scholarly journey through the next generation of global citizens.

Dr. Barnard's innovations in pedagogy demonstrated her forward-thinking approach to language education. She spearheaded the French for the Workplace Certificate, equipping students with "the language and cultural foundations that they need to succeed in a French-speaking work environment." Additionally, she worked to create Open Educational Resources for the French curriculum, eliminating textbook costs for students while maintaining academic rigor.

Her advocacy for world language education has proven instrumental during challenging times. Dr. Barnard championed world language on curriculum committees, ensuring that the discipline would become general education options for all Tennessee Tech students, reversing nearly two decades of exclusion. She organized the 2026 TWLTA Summer Workshop around the theme "World Languages Mean Business," demonstrating the economic and professional relevance of language study to stakeholders across Tennessee.

Her community engagement through the Tennessee World Affairs Council, WCTE, and NAACP reflected her commitment to building a more globally aware society. Dr. Barnard exemplified excellence in teaching, scholarship, and service to higher education.

For her unwavering advocacy of world languages and global citizenship over two decades of teaching and service, Dr. Debbie Barnard is a most deserving and distinguished recipient this year of the Jacqueline Elliott Award for Service in Higher Education.

**About Jacqueline Elliott:** *On April 30, 2003, TFLTA lost one of its founders, Madame Jacqueline Elliott. Her life was a testimony to her belief that effective communication can peacefully bond people of different cultures, religions, and backgrounds. After serving her country in the French Resistance during WWII, she married an American soldier and made this country her home. As a co-founder of TFLTA over 50 years ago, she set the stage to continue to promote and to advocate for foreign language education in the state, and to provide assistance and resources to those teaching foreign langugaes at all levels. Her smile always radiated encouragement. Her laughter sparked adventure. Her kindness touched us all.*

# Friend of World Languages

## C. Wright Pinson, MBA, MD

The Tennessee World Language Teachers Association proudly presents the Friends of World Languages Award to Dr. C. Wright Pinson in recognition of his leadership and advocacy in preserving Tennessee's two-year world language graduation requirement. A distinguished physician executive, academic leader, and civic leader, Dr. Pinson formerly served as Deputy CEO and Chief Health System Officer of Vanderbilt University Medical Center. He recently stepped down from that position, and he currently serves as President of the Vanderbilt Health Affiliated Network. In addition, he will continue his service as a senior counselor to the CEO of VUMC dealing with government affairs, external hospital organizations, and community affairs. He is also heavily involved with leadership roles in many local, state, national, and international organizations dealing with issues of healthcare and other concerns.

Through his steadfast support of educational opportunities and workforce readiness, Dr. Pinson played an instrumental role in helping preserve access to world language study for Tennessee students. His advocacy reflects a deep understanding of the value of multilingualism, cultural competence, and global engagement in preparing students for success in an increasingly interconnected world. TWLTA gratefully recognizes Dr. Pinson's enduring commitment to ensuring that future generations of Tennessee students continue to benefit from high-quality world language education.

Please join us in celebrating Dr. C. Wright Pinson as the 2026 TWLTA Friend of World Languages recipient.

**About the Award:** *TWLTA recognizes members of the community and/or organizations that have contributed significantly to the advancement of World Languages in Tennessee as Friends of World Language*

# With Gratitude and Congratulations

*Honoring Exceptional Service to TWLTA and the Profession*

# TWLTA Hall of Fame Honoree

## Dr. Will Thompson

*The University of Memphis*

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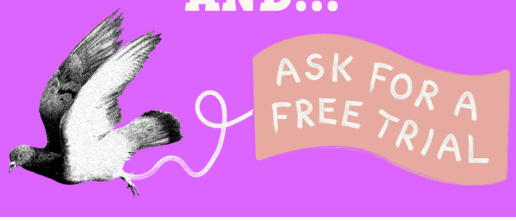



# Congratulations

**Cécile Lainé**
**Harpeth Hall**
**2026 SCOLT**
**Teacher of the Year**

SCOLT
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# TWLTA 2026 Exhibitors

**Avant Language**
Contact: Jed Dudley
Email: jed.dudley@avantlanguage.com
Website:
https://www.avantassessment.com/en/

**Centro MundoLengua**
Contact: David Hirsch
Email: info@centromundolengua.com
Website: https://centromundolengua.com

**Edinumen USA**
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Website: https://edinumenusa.com

**Lingco**
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Website: https://www.lingco.io

**Speakology**
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Website: https://speakology.ai

**Tennessee Language Center**
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Email: missy.pankake@tennessee.edu
Website: https://tlc.tennessee.edu

**Tennessee Technical University- Foreign Languages**
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Email: ckiger@gmail.com
Website: https://www.tntech.edu/cas/fl

**This is School**
Contact: Sam Dharwar
Email: samantha@thisisschool.com
Website: https://www.thisisschool.com

**The University of Tennessee Department of World Languages and Cultures**
Representative: Mia Romano
Email: mromano2@utk.edu
Website: www.wlc.utk.edu

**Vista Higher Learning**
Contact: Maria Arango
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**Wayside Publishing**
Contact: Jennifer Germanaud
Email: jgermanaud@gmail.com
Website:
https://www.waysidepublishing.com

**Yabla**
Contact: Hanser Pimentel
Email: schools@yabla.com
Website: https://www.yabla.com

# TWLTA Board of Directors

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| **First Vice President:** | *vacant* |
| **Second Vice President:** | Erika Stevens, Walters State Community College |
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# Appointed Positions

| | |
|---|---|
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| **Tennessee AATSP:** | Elizabeth Castleman, Harpeth Hall High School |
| **TCA:** | Scott Cochran, Siegel High School |
| **TACT:** | Yan Sue Zhao, Merrol Hyde Magnet School |

# Board Members

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Teresa Floch
Camille C. Hackney
Marilynn Newman
Kathy Obrusanszki
Yan (Sue) Zhao

### 2025-2027

Roxanna McCommon
Errol O'Neill
Susan Rodriguez

### 2026-2028

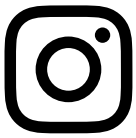
Kaitlyn Gaskins
Salvador Bartera

**For a detailed account of news and information pertaining to world language teaching in Tennessee and minutes from the quarterly TWLTA board meetings, please visit our website**
**WWW. TWLTA. ORG**

# Tennessee World Language Teaching Association

## Find Us Online:

TWLTA.ORG

 @twlta_tn

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**Tennessee Education Association**

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