

Dear Principal/Administrator:

8/15/2018

I'm writing this letter on behalf of the world language teachers you supervise in order to encourage you to allow them to attend the annual conference of the WV Foreign Language Teachers Association (WVFLTA). Our conference will be held October 19 and 20 at the Advanced Technology Center of Bridge Valley CTC in South Charleston. This year's theme is *Building Language Proficiency: Integrating Language into 21st Century Skills*. We chose this theme because becoming proficient in a world language helps students communicate better, be more creative, and become better critical thinkers. Students that are proficient in a world language are more college and career ready.

This conference is the premier event for world language educators in West Virginia. We are offering attendees professional development sessions that directly impact their classrooms. Through these sessions, teachers are empowered to increase student engagement and language proficiency. Your teachers will hear from WV Department of Education leaders about new initiatives and standards for world language instruction.

This year's conference keynote speaker is Grant Boulanger, 2017 National Language Teacher of the Year Finalist and co-founder of the Comprehensible Midwest Conference. Mr. Boulanger is a classroom teacher who is an expert in helping students gain language proficiency. He is also renowned for his high retention rates from novice to advanced level classes. Beyond Mr. Boulanger, the presentation sessions are carried out by WV World Language Teachers who understand our students and have developed practices for helping them gain language proficiency. I will send out a schedule in the near future. It may be helpful to sit down with your world language teacher(s) and develop a list of presentations you all think will have the greatest impact on your school.

Please consider funding this training opportunity. We have worked very hard to create an amazing experience at a low cost. You can find the cost of registration and hotel by going to <https://tinyurl.com/WVFLTA18Reg>. We include breakfast and lunch both days as well as heavy hors d'oeuvres for our Friday evening social.

Thank you for supporting professional development for world language educators.

Sincerely,

William Denham
Spanish Teacher, Riverside High School
President-WVFLTA

