ACTFL is a member-driven organization and meeting the needs of our members is our priority. This is why ACTFL has introduced a new, updated brand, one that better positions us to engage members and other stakeholders, globally. As an organization representing language educators and learners, we understand the importance of embracing the richness of diversity within our profession. This branding change represents ACTFL’s desire to demonstrate that we are serious about leading in this area while still honoring our more than 50 year history.

That being said, times have changed. In 2020, using the term “foreign” represents an obstacle to progress, sending a message that language learning should be viewed as “strange” or “unfamiliar.” And how do we reconcile Native American languages? ASL? These are certainly not “foreign.”

The ACTFL brand is strong, respected, and admired. We will keep the acronym, ACTFL, and add a tagline that reflects our values and projects a sense of community among those with whom we work. After much deliberation and reflection, we decided upon “Language Connects”—two words that demonstrate how language acts as a bridge to cultural competence, career readiness, and empathy. It is a more accurate representation of how our organization has already evolved and represents our aspirations to be inclusive and inviting: a global leader in the profession.

WWW.ACTFL.ORG

ACTFL Official Election Results

Congratulations to our new ACTFL leaders. Their unique backgrounds, experience, and skill sets will be important assets for ACTFL and the language education profession. Each began their term on January 1, 2020.

President-Elect

Jessica Haxhi
New Haven Public Schools, New Haven, CT
Supervisor of World Languages for New Haven Public Schools in New Haven, Connecticut, Jessica Haxhi has 20 years of teaching experience and now focuses on standards-based curriculum development, teacher collaboration within and across languages, and professional learning around engaging, proficiency-based instruction. She is currently on ACTFL’s Professional Learning Committee and will serve as ACTFL President in 2021.

Board Members

Higher Education

L. J. Randolph Jr.
University of North Carolina Wilmington, Wilmington, NC
An associate professor of Spanish and Education at the University of North Carolina Wilmington, L. J. Randolph Jr. is also the associate chair of the Department of World Languages and Cultures and coordinator of the Foreign Language Teacher Education Program. He has a decade of experience teaching Spanish and ESOL at the secondary level. At the university level, he teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in Spanish language, contemporary Latina/o/x cultures, and second language teaching methods.

K–12

Ying Jin
Fremont Union High School District, Cupertino, CA
With more than 20 years of Chinese language and culture teaching experience, Ying Jin currently teaches Mandarin Chinese in the Fremont Union High School District in Cupertino, California. A nationally recognized language educator, Jin was named the 2018 ACTFL Teacher of the Year, the SWCOLT 2017 Teacher of the Year, CLTA 2016 Teacher of the Year, and received both the CLTA 2015 Outstanding Teacher Award and the 50th Annual Murphy Educator of the Year Award in 2014.

Appointed Members

Lucas Hoffman, French and Spanish teacher
Sylvania Southview High School, Sylvania, OH
Central States Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages

Brenda Gaver, Spanish teacher
East Valley High School, Spokane, WA
Pacific Northwest Council for Languages

As we welcome these new Board members, we also extend our sincere thanks to outgoing Board members Michael Bacon, Susan Hildebrandt, Jill Woerner, and Sandra Garcia, as well as to outgoing Past President Aleidine Moeller.