

Alaskans for Language Acquisition 2022 Conference

Blazing New Trails!

September 16-18, 2022

at Talkeetna Alaskan Lodge

23601 Talkeetna Spur Rd, Talkeetna, AK 99676

and

Talkeetna Elementary

13930 E. Timberwolf Loop, Talkeetna, AK 99676

Friday, September 16

Location: Caribou Room, Talkeetna Alaskan Lodge

5:00pm - 6:00pm Registration

Talkeetna Alaskan Lodge, Caribou Room

6:00pm - 7:00pm

Opening Reception and Dinner with Door Prizes

Talkeetna Alaskan Lodge, Caribou Room

(included in conference fees)

7:15 -7:20 Welcome and greeting

7:20 - Keynote Address

Leslie Grahn

Independent Consultant,
National Association of District Supervisors of Foreign Languages (NADSFL)
Advisory Board Member
(Delivered virtually)

“Blazing New Trails to 21st Century Language Teaching and Learning”

During the AFLA Fall Conference keynote, we will be considering multiple ways we are **blazing new trails** in language teaching and learning:

- Blazing new trails **to celebrate the diversity** of our students- celebrating both commonalities and differences
- Blazing new trails **to student engagement**- understanding our Generations Z and Alpha learners, who they are, and what motivates them
- Blazing new trails **to proficiency**- maintaining our focus on communication, what students can do with the language they are learning
- Blazing new trails **to authenticity**- making it real for our students with real world language and real-world situations and finally,
- Blazing new trails **to interculturality**- guiding our students to become global citizens.

9:00 pm Closing and Door Prize

Saturday, September 17

Location: Talkeetna Elementary

(Building opens at 8:00)

9:00 - 9:15 Welcome, Opening Address and Door Prize
in Room 122 (Library)

Session #1: 9:30 - 10:30

Leslie Grahn

Independent Consultant,
National Association of District Supervisors of Foreign Languages (NADSFL)
Advisory Board Member
(Delivered virtually)

**"Mixing it up:
Varying our Approaches to Engage all Learners."**

Engaging all learners in our language classrooms can be challenging.
How can we vary our approaches to teaching and learning to flip the engagement switch?
During this interactive webinar, we will explore ways to mix up our lesson tasks to increase student engagement through using visuals, flexible grouping, and student choice.

Session #2: 10:45 - 11:45

Room #150

Rick Beck

Guest Presenter

Classroom Writing with Differentiation Possibilities

Because students develop their writing skills at different rates of expertise, it is necessary to provide each student in the classroom with the opportunity to write at their level of ability and encourage them to improve those abilities.

The methodology presented here attempts to meet the unique needs of students with diverse abilities in writing. Rick will detail the steps involved in this writing process that has proven successful when applied to second, third and advanced World Language classrooms.

Room #154

Betsy Paskvan

Anchorage School District

Representation, Equity, and Human Rights in the World Language Classroom

The session will demonstrate how to weave human rights education and BIPOC representation into the curriculum through music, poetry, story, and video. All language levels and all languages are included. Techniques practiced are building inclusivity for marginalized voices through teachers' selections of materials that connect target language to human rights topics (UDHR). This session builds on anti-racism practices and Comprehensible Input methods. The session addresses ways to center students' voices that have been historically marginalized, ways to connect the World Language classroom to human rights discourse, and ways to support identity formation in all students.

Room #144

Tara Devlin

Anchorage School District, South HS, Goldenview MS

Discussion circles for community building & speaking skills.

As an English Language Learner (ELL) teacher, I focus on speaking and listening skills that help us negotiate our identities as newcomer immigrants at entering levels of English to fluent multilingual or multicultural students navigating our American mainstream culture and schooling system. Many times, as a Foreign Language or ELL teachers, we expand on the mainstream culture of the colonized languages and countries we highlight. We can leave out the indigenous traditions and language influences, marginalized religions, subcultures and social identities of many of our native speakers of the foreign language/ ELLs. Community building through restorative circles and identity vocabulary is one of the keys to bridging the gaps in content, context, background knowledge and cultural understanding between native and foreign language learners in the classroom. It is deeply helpful in bridging critical thinking with anti-bias education, and engaging restless, distracted or timid learners.

Room #122

Michele Whaley
Pacific Northern Academy

Good, better, best: Embedded Reading

You've tried Embedded Reading, but it didn't rock the way you'd hoped. Learn the secrets that make Embedded Readings great for students at every level. This session will include Embedded Reading creation, either from a class-written story, or from an authentic resource.

Lunch Language Meetings: 12:00 - 1:00

Rooms 150, 154, 144 and 122, Talkeetna Elementary

Meet and Eat with Your Language Cohort

Boxed Lunches provided by Talkeetna Alaskan Lodge
((included in conference fees))

Other possibilities nearby:

Flying Squirrel Bakery and Cafe

The Roadhouse

Mountain High Pizza Pie

Session #3 1:15 - 2:15

Room # 150

Rick Beck

Guest Presenter

Comprehensible Input from the Beginning

Total Physical Response is a methodology that immediately creates comprehensible input in the beginning world language classroom. After being introduced to TPR in 1991 Rick overhauled his strategies for teaching beginners and, over the years, also developed original approaches. Rick will demonstrate how these methodologies create an effective and engaging atmosphere in the beginning world language classroom. Participants will experience first hand the initial steps of new language acquisition and the efficiency of this methodology.

Room # 154

Kristi Senden

Chugiak High School

Low-Tech Letter Exchange within your District/State/School

Do you need a motivating unit for level 3+ students that differentiates itself and gets students to write in the TL with enthusiasm? This unit is perfect for multi-level classrooms and is a great way to give your students a real audience without having to wait for an exchange to happen. Teachers will walk away with all the steps on how to implement this 'live-action' unit and all they need is to coordinate a time to do it with another teacher nearby. The unit simulates the students becoming 'roommates' at a university in the target country of choice. The teachers act as the president of the university and/or the resident advisor in the dorms and they infuse new issues for the students to write about for each exchange. Join us to find out the details.

Room #144

Svetlana Nuss
University of Fairbanks

Impactful Teaching: Neuromyths and Facts

This presentation discusses neuromyths and facts in education and traces their impact on modern language teaching. We turn to numbers and review some empirical evidence that qualifies an instructional strategy and other influencers of student learning as impactful. The participants will gain a better understanding of how to analyze the language acquisition strategies they encounter on social media, as they learn to swim in the deep of professional development waters. Participants will also get a glimpse of simple teacher-action research strategies and resources which put them in a better position to evaluate the impact of their own instruction.

Session #4: 2:30 - 3:30

Room # 150

Rick Beck
Guest Presenter

Why Not Be Yourself?

World Language teachers have a unique opportunity to create an atmosphere in their classrooms unlike any other subject area. This is especially true of those teaching without other colleagues in their subject area. Creating a distinct classroom culture provides the learner with an atmosphere of belonging and makes the learning more meaningful and thus more readily retained. This presentation encourages teachers to infuse their own personalities into their teaching and provides suggestions of authentic methods of doing so.

Room #154

Evelyn Galindo
Carnegie Learning

Digital environments: Designing Interactive Cultural Experiences

This session focuses on how teachers can harness technology to generate interactive environments and digital experiences and incorporate these into their practice. While many educators use technology to teach about culture, digital environments go beyond showcasing authentic culture by creating environments that harness technology to immerse students in digital experiences that prompt cultural exploration. The session provides the opportunity for teachers to reflect on their use of technology to teach culture and explore creating their own immersive digital environments. The presenter will provide a working definition of a digital environment and show how to move from using technology to showcase flat and static culture to a mindset of using technology to immerse and explore dynamic authentic culture. This session will provide teachers with concrete examples of how to use basic tools to create digital environments that stimulate students' imaginations and provide them with opportunities to interact with cultural environments.

Room #144

Svetlana Nuss
University of Fairbanks, Russian

Diversifying Instruction: Simple Tools in Service of Extended Reading

This session showcases simple digital tools language teachers can use to develop student language proficiency via the use of a text, providing opportunities for students to organically recycle familiar and recall new vocabulary. The presentation serves participants as a mental checklist as they reflect on their own teaching practices. As a result, the participants re-evaluate and balance out their instructional portfolios in relation to the tools they employ when organizing student learning based on texts. Participants will leave empowered to re-classify the tools they use as either overlooked or overused and will plan instruction more effectively, diversifying their strategies.

Room #122

Jen Riksen
Eagle River High School

Music Mondays

I teach high school German, levels 1-5. On Monday of each week I incorporate a new song from pop culture into my lessons and call it "Music Monday"/ "Musik Montag". Ten lines are highlighted at the start of the week. Important or interesting phrases from those 10 lines are practiced mid-week. Then the knowledge of the 10 lines is tested on Monday. This is a practice that benefits my students in a variety of ways. It provides knowledge of popular German artists as well as new terminology and slang. It is a practical and fun way for kids to practice listening skills with a variety of voices throughout the year. Finally, it provides a smattering of vocabulary and skills outside the curriculum that keeps things fresh in the classroom. Teachers will walk away from this lesson with real ideas for how to make their teaching more interesting and fun for teens.

4:00pm in Cafeteria:
Gathering, Door Prize, Comments
and Reminders for Sunday's Schedule

4:30 pm- 5:00pm

**Thematic Roundtables, Language Chats
Putting it all together, and Tech Talk**

5pm

Departure of Attendees from Talkeetna Elementary

Sunday, September 18

Talkeetna Alaskan Lodge, Caribou Room

Roundtable Discussions: 9:00 - 10:00

Table 1: Community Building through Activities

Led by Michele Whaley
Pacific Northern Academy

Today's students feel ever more disconnected. By focusing on activities that will bring students together and emphasizing a playful approach to lessons, teachers will find that using the target language gets easier and easier in a strong community. Teachers will leave with a variety of activities that they can start using right away.

Table 2: Applications for Rick Beck's CI ideas:
How will they work for you?

Led by Sasha Ringgenberg
Rilke Schule German School

Let's brainstorm how the ideas Rick shared with us today can be applied in our own classes here in Alaska. What are the different ways Comprehensible Input techniques work with

students of different ages and language backgrounds? Elementary, secondary and university students can all learn with CI– let's chat about what we gleaned from Rick's sessions.

10:30am - 11:30am

Brunch (*included in conference fees*)
AFLA Annual Meeting and Awards

11:45 am

Final Door Prize and Farewell

Thank you

for attending the 2022 Conference
of Alaskans for Language Acquisition!

Introducing our Keynote Speaker: Leslie
Grahm



Leslie Grahn has twenty-seven years of language teaching experience at the middle and high school levels and twelve years of experience at the central office level, most recently as Coordinator of World Languages for the Howard County Public School System in Maryland. Leslie has been a course instructor on foreign language teaching methods and differentiated instruction and is a frequent presenter at state, regional, and national conferences, specializing in best practices. She curates and creates resources to support language teaching and learning and shares them through her website (www.grahnforlang.com) and on Pinterest ([grahnforlang](https://www.pinterest.com/grahnforlang/)). She has experience in teacher and leadership development and leads training on instructional coaching, mentoring, leadership, and communication skills. Leslie is the co-author of *The Keys to Strategies for Language Instruction* and has served on the boards of NECTFL, NADSFL and ACTFL.

Introducing our Guest Presenter: Rick Beck



Rick is the long-time, newly retired German teacher at West Valley High School in Yakima, Washington. In 1991 he helped institute the German program there and taught German fulltime the next twenty-nine years. He was a Fulbright Exchange Teacher in Güstrow, Germany in 1997-98 and initiated a GAPP (German-American Partnership Program) with his school there, which is still active today. He organized and led fourteen trips to Germany with students. West Valley has hosted eleven short-term exchanges and over thirty individual, yearlong exchanges over the years. He is the recipient of the 2003 Goethe-Institut Certificate of Merit, the 2016 Washington State World Language Teacher of the Year Award, the 2020 AATG/Goethe Institut Outstanding GAPP Coordinator Award and West Valley High School was recognized as a German Center of Excellence in 2019.

Rick has presented at numerous conferences in Washington and Oregon and also at the national level. One participant once said, “You did CI before there was CI!”

For him, the greatest accomplishment is that over the past five years 97% of his advanced students qualified for the Washington State Seal of Biliteracy.