

Almost 30 Years of NNELL:

A Brief Retrospective



NNELL

Nancy Rhodes, Center for Applied Linguistics

NNELL Breakfast, Boston ACTFL Conference

November 19, 2016

8:45–9:15am



Founding Members of NNELL, 1987

NNELL Objectives

NNELL is a forum for people interested in early language teaching.

OBJECTIVES

- ▶ Facilitate communication
- ▶ Provide information that will improve public awareness and support for early language learning

MAIN ACTIVITIES

- ▶ Publish newsletter FLESNEWS
- ▶ Promote FLES at conferences

Helena Curtain
(Wisconsin) and
Kathleen
Riordan
(Massachusetts)
propose a
NNELL uniform
to promote
unity and
collaboration
among
members



NNELL Beliefs

- ▶ Language instruction should start in the early grades
- ▶ Languages should be available for all students

Pick a name!

NESFLE (Network of Elementary School Foreign
Language Educators)
FLIC (Foreign Language Instruction for Children)
NELL (Network for Early Language Learning)
EFL (Early Foreign Language Learning)
EAL (Early Additional Languages)
NNELE (National Network for Early Language Educators)
NNELL (National Network for Early Language Learning)

NNELL it is!



NNELL networking meeting at Northeast Conference in NYC, 1987, focuses on topics to include in first issue of FLESNEWS.



Carol Ann Pesola Dahlberg, NNELL's first President, is awarded Florence Steiner Award for Leadership in Foreign Language Education, ACTFL 1988, Monterrey.



NNELL well-wishers congratulate Carol Ann Pesola Dahlberg at ACTFL award ceremony (Helena Curtain, Betsy Grob, Nancy Rhodes, Mari Haas, Myriam Chapman, Carol Ann Dahlberg, Mimi Met, Eileen Lorenz, Marcia Rosenbusch, and Jack Darcy).

Next Steps: Become an Organization

- ▶ Members meet in January 1991 at CAL to decide the fate of NNELL: Should it become a part of another organization or a stand-alone organization?
- ▶ DECISION: NNELL should become a separate organization, “with close ties to all language organizations that promote early language learning.”





NNELL members meet in 1991 at CAL to decide NNELL's fate.

First NNELL Mission (1991)



- ▶ The mission of NNELL is to promote opportunities for all children to develop a high level of competence in at least one language and culture in addition to their own, and to coordinate the efforts of all those involved in early language education.



Future NNELL Presidents Susan Walker, Carolyn Andrade, and Audrey Heining-Boynton at NNELL organizational meeting 1991



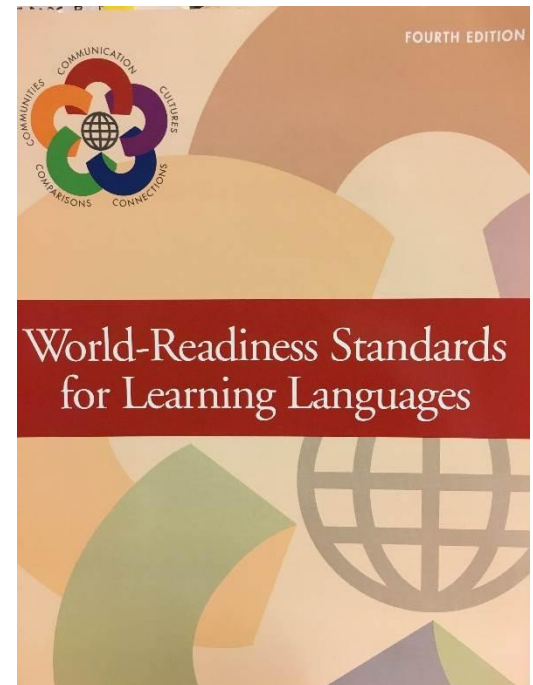
Pat Barr-Harrison, Ellen Boudreaux, and Helena Curtain draft mission statement.

Greatest Accomplishments

- ▶ Impact on national standards
- ▶ Critical role in national legislation
- ▶ Leadership in professional development and in preparing strong leaders for the profession

Role of NNELL in National Standards

Did you know that the national standards for learning languages include levels K–8 because of NNELL's influence?





NNELL President Eileen Lorenz with JNCL–NCLIS Executive Director, J. David Edwards, a great supporter of NNELL initiatives.



NNELL members thank Senator Paul Simon for his tireless support of foreign language teaching, and congratulate him upon his retirement in 1996. Mimi Met, Kay Hewitt, Eileen Lorenz, Nancy Rhodes, Senator Simon, Donna Christian, Marcia Spielberger, Richard Donato, and Eileen Glisan.

NNELL Presidents

1987-91 Nancy Rhodes (Chair)

1991-92 Carol Ann Pesola Dahlberg

1992-93 Carolyn Andrade

1993-94 Audrey Heining-Boynton

1994-95 Mari Haas

1995-96 Eileen B. Lorenz

1996-97 Mary Lynn Redmond

1997-98 Susan Walker

1998-99 Christine Brown

1999-00 Myriam Met

2000-01 Kathleen M. Riordan

2001-02 Carine Feyten

2002-03 Martie Semmer

2003-04 Lori Langer de Ramirez

2004-06 Janis Jensen

2006-08 Terry Caccavale

2008-10 Paula Patrick

2010-12 Jacque Bott Van Houten

2012-14 Rita Oleksak

2014-16 Nadine Jacobsen-McLean

2016-18 Nathan Lutz

NNELL Presidents 1987-2007



L to R: Lori Langer de Ramirez, Nancy Rhodes, Susan Walker, Janis Jensen, Mimi Met, Martie Semmer, Marcia Rosenbusch, Carol Ann Dahlberg, Eileen Lorenz, Kathleen Riordan, Mary Lynn Redmond, Christy Brown, Mari Haas, and Terry Caccavale



NNELL members meet in 1993 to draft proposal for first ever federally-funded National K-12 Foreign Language Resource Center (at Iowa State University).



NNELL Board Meeting, ACTFL Atlanta, 1994



NNEL President Eileen Lorenz offers "TPR toast" to the new NNEL refereed journal, *Learning Languages*, at ALL Conference, 1995.

Congratulations!

Announcing the NNELL 10th Anniversary Volume

Critical Issues in Early Language Learning: Building for Our Children's Future

Edited by Mimi Met

Foreword by Madeleine Albright
Secretary of State

Available from



Scott Foresman - Addison Wesley

Spring 1998



NNELL Editor Marcia Rosenbusch (center) receives the Florence Steiner Award for Leadership in Foreign Language Education, Postsecondary Level, 1996.



NNELL President Rita Oleksak (right) receives NADSFL's highest honor – Foreign Language Supervisor of the Year Award in 2014 (with NNELL Past President Kathleen Riordan).

Favorite NNELL Memories

- ▶ Acronym FLES – what does it mean? How do you pronounce it? Why is it so confusing?
- ▶ F-L-E-A?
- ▶ FLESH?

What is NNELL's role today and in the future?

NNELL Mission and Core Beliefs, 2016

- ▶ The mission of NNELL is to provide leadership in support of successful early language learning and teaching. Since its founding in 1987, NNELL continues to be an invaluable resource for educators, parents and policymakers advocating for K-8 programs of excellence in second language education.
- ▶ Core Beliefs: NNELL believes that all elementary school students should have access to high quality, ongoing and systematic world language instruction.

Thank you, NNELL's Founding Members!



Carolyn Andrade

Jack Darcy

Mari Haas

Melanie Klutts

Kurt Muller

Nancy Rhodes

Rosemarie Benya

Diane Ging

Nancy Hess

Sara Lindsley

Bettye Myer

Kathleen Riordan

G. Richard Tucker

Christine Brown

Betsy Grob

Sheri Houpt

Gladys Lipton

Carol Ann Pesola

Marcia Rosenbusch

Susan Walker

Helena Curtain

Donna Grundstadt

Laureen Hurt

Myriam Met

Joy Renjilian-Burgy

Elsa Statzner

NNELL today! Executive Board



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Past President

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