Dear Colleagues,

It is an honor and pleasure to accept the 2016 National Network for Early Language Learning Award for Outstanding Support of Early Language Learning. I am so grateful for the efforts of our school system’s staff to make early world language learning a priority in Howard County, Maryland.

The Howard County Public School System believes that every student should have at least intermediate proficiency in a world language by the time they graduate high school. Immersive world language instruction, beginning in the early stages of the educational experience, enables students to become culturally competent, and college-, career- and world-ready with critical in-demand skills for today’s increasingly globalized world.

As early language professionals, you already know about the cognitive and communicative benefits that develop as a result of language learning. As language proficiency increases, so does a perspective of people and practices in different communities. This cultural understanding is a vital asset in a diverse community such as Howard County.

I want to thank the National Network for Early Language Learning for this honor and for its dedication to promoting early world language education.

Sincerely,

Renee A. Foose
Superintendent
Howard County Public School System