



FOREIGN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION OF NORTH CAROLINA

6 Sun Oak Court
Greensboro, NC 27410
October 17, 1997

Governor James B. Hunt
State of North Carolina
Office of the Governor
Raleigh, North Carolina 27603-8001

Dear Governor Hunt:

The members of the Foreign Language Association of North Carolina (FLANC) would like to thank you for your efforts to improve the quality of education for all students in the public schools of North Carolina. As you know, FLANC promoted the Excellent Schools Act and as teachers in North Carolina, we look forward to the benefits this legislation will have for both educators and students.

We have assembled this weekend for our annual conference, and we would like to encourage you to support foreign language study in North Carolina. Our K-12 foreign language program has achieved national acclaim over the past ten years due to the vision of many leaders who recognize the benefits of language study throughout a student's academic career. Research has proven that students who have studied a foreign language for an extended period of time excel as learners. Through the study of a language, the student develops skills that become life-long learning tools, including increased ability in critical thinking, listening, memory, creativity, and communication. Research also points to significant gains in subject area achievement as well as higher SAT scores compared to students who have had limited or no language experience.

We hope that you will support our mission to provide opportunities for all students in North Carolina to study at least one foreign language in the elementary grades through high school. This is an area of academics in which we lead the nation, and we feel very strongly about continuing to set an example for other states to follow. As North Carolina's place in the global economy becomes increasingly important in our future, we want our students to be well-prepared to meet the challenges they will encounter. Also, North Carolina will host the 1999 Special Olympics World Games, and our citizens will be welcoming people from around the world. This is an exciting time to focus attention on foreign language education.

Thank you for helping North Carolina to be a national leader in foreign language study in grades K-12 and for your role in improving the quality of education in our schools.

Sincerely,

Mary Lynn Redmond
FLANC President

and the Members of the Foreign Language Association of North Carolina