



Kansas
World Language
Association

June Newsletter

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Letter from the President

Dear KSWLA Community,

I hope that you had a successful conclusion to the school year and are enjoying a nice and restful start to the summer. Thank you for the dedication, passion, and commitment. Your efforts make a lasting impact on learners and strengthen our professional community across Kansas.

As we look ahead, KSWLA remains committed to providing valuable opportunities for collaboration, professional learning, and connection among educators of all language disciplines and instructional levels. We are excited to continue planning for the KSWLA Annual Conference 2026 and look forward to welcoming educators from across the state.

This year's conference theme, "Enhancing Language Learning Through Language Proficiency and Cultural Competence," reflects our shared commitment to supporting meaningful communication, intercultural understanding, and student success in today's multilingual world. The conference will offer engaging sessions, practical strategies, and opportunities to exchange ideas and best practices with colleagues across multiple programs, including ESOL, Bilingual education, World Language education, and Heritage Language education.

We encourage you to become involved by attending conference sessions, presenting your expertise, and connecting with fellow educators who share your passion for language learning. Whether you are a new teacher or an experienced educator, we look forward to providing a conference experience that supports continued professional growth and achievement for both you and your students.

Please visit our website, www.kswla.org, for conference updates and additional information.

Thank you for your continued support, participation, and dedication to KSWLA. Your contributions help make our organization such a great professional community. Have a relaxing and enjoyable summer. We look forward to reconnecting with you soon.

Kimberly Hoglund KSWLA President

Meet our Keynote Speaker for the KSWLA Annual Conference 2026!



Dr. Socorro Herrera

Professor, Curriculum and Instruction, College of Education at Kansas State University Executive Director,
Center for Intercultural and Multilingual Advocacy (CIMA)

Dr. Socorro Herrera is certified in elementary education, bilingual education, and school counseling. As an international keynote speaker, district consultant, and trainer of trainers, she has collaborated with teachers across the country and world to chart new paths to academic success for culturally and linguistically diverse learners. Her research centers the role of personal histories of learner, family, and teacher in literacy development and biography-driven pedagogy; reading strategies; and teacher preparation for diverse classrooms. Dr. Herrera has authored numerous textbooks, book chapters and articles in journals such as Bilingual Research Journal, Journal of Hispanic Higher Education, Journal of Curriculum and Instruction, Journal of Education for Multilingualism, International Journal of Multicultural Education, Teacher Education Quarterly, and Urban Education. Dr. Socorro Herrera has been awarded multiple distinguished awards. To highlight a few, she was awarded the 2018 [Kathryn A. Holen Excellence in Service](#) by Kansas State University College of Education, the 2019 [International Teacher of the Year](#) by Kansas State University Office of International Programs, the 2022 [Division K Legacy Award in Teaching and Teacher Education](#) by the American Educational Research Association, and she is a 2026 inductee of the [MultiLingual Education Hall of Fame](#).

Some favorite books by Dr. Socorro Herrera include the following: *Crossing the Vocabulary Bridge: Differentiated Strategies for Diverse Secondary Classrooms* and *Mastering ESL and Bilingual Methods: Differentiated Instruction for Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CLD) Students* as well as *Accelerating Literacy for Diverse Learners: Classroom Strategies That Integrate Social/Emotional Engagement and Academic Achievement, K-8*.

Dr. Socorro Herrera's work is valuable across all language disciplines. Thus, educators in ESOL, Bilingual, World Languages, and Heritage Language programs at every level will have the opportunity to explore and develop instructional practices to enhance the learning of their students.



Kansas World Language Association

Enhancing Language Learning Through
Language Proficiency and Cultural Competence
2026



We encourage all members to participate in this year's conference! Join us on November 7th in Topeka, KS, for the KSWLA Annual Conference!

This year's theme is "Enhancing Language Learning Through Language Proficiency and Cultural Competence." Register now for early bird pricing. Graduate credit opportunities will be available. We look forward to connecting and engaging in excellent professional development!

Learn more about this year's conference!

Share your knowledge, insights and experience with your colleagues by submitting a session proposal! We encourage teachers of World Language, ESOL, and Heritage Language to submit a conference session proposal.

Session proposals are due June 15th. Presenters will receive a discount on registration. Help strengthen our community by contributing your skills and experience and engage in sharing your valuable perspectives!

Submit a proposal

If you have a colleague who goes above and beyond in the classroom and/or in the language-teaching community, please take a few minutes to [nominate](#) them for one of our awards. Nominations are due June 15th.

Are you passionate about supporting world language education in Kansas? Interested in collaborating with educators across the state and helping shape the future of KSWLA?

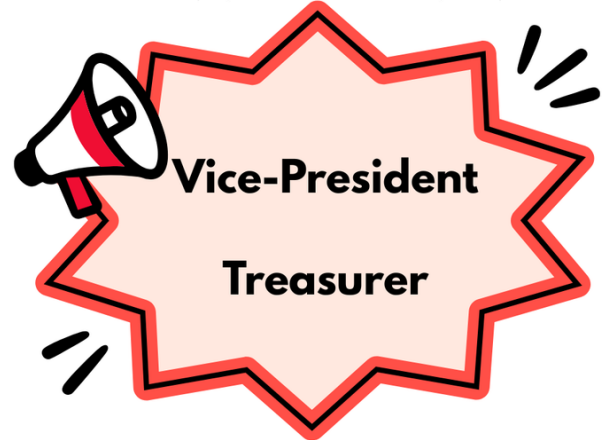
Board service is a great opportunity to:

- ✦ Grow professionally
- ✦ Connect with educators statewide
- ✦ Support advocacy and professional learning
- ✦ Help advance language education in Kansas

[Submit a nomination](#)

Board Nominations are open!

KSWLA is now accepting nominations for the following board positions:



Meet Mme. Britta Mueller

Britta originally went to college to be a French teacher! She graduated from the University of Iowa in 2003 with a BA in French, Classics, and Linguistics, and attended grad school at Indiana University for Classics where she loved teaching Latin...



[Learn more about Britta](#)

Seal of Biliteracy Spotlight

Goodland High School

Jesus Saucedo

Michelle Flores Silva

Lauren Linton

Kenia Castillo

Azul Barron-Ruiz

Omar Hernandez





Read more about these AMAZING Seal of
Biliteracy Awardees from Goodland HS

Stand for Languages

Beyond the classroom, we're stronger together!

Amanda Mendoza, KSWLAAdvocacyChair@gmail.com

Learn more about the reintroduction of the Senator Paul Simon Study Abroad Act, a bill designed to increase the number and diversity of American students studying abroad.

Also, the US Department of Education has closed the Office of English Language Acquisition. Read more about how it affects districts, teachers, and students.

Read the full June Advocacy Report



Save The Date for the 40. KATG

Deutsches Wochenende!

We wanted to give you all a heads-up about the important logistical details before summer break. We'll share content details once everything is confirmed and before we report back to work in early August.

[Learn more here](#)

Upcoming PD

KANSAS
STATE DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

Summer
Professional Development

Structured Literacy

Standards Alignment

Balanced Assessment

High Quality Instruction

The Four Fundamentals
in
World Language Instruction

Cost:
\$15
lunch provided

July 9th & 10th
9:00 am - 4:00 pm
Emporia High School
Facilitated by Amanda Mendoza & Amanda Williams

- [The Four Fundamentals in World Languages \(KSDE\), July 9th and 10th](#)
- [Central States Summer Virtual Conference, July 29th](#)
- [2026 KSWLA Conference, November 7th](#)



**KSWLA wishes you all
a safe and enjoyable
summer!**

**We'll be back in
August!**



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About Speakology AI
Speakology AI lets students practice speaking in 1-on-1 AI video calls. Trusted by 300+ schools, it builds fluency and confidence—while saving teachers time.

KSWLA Presentation: Improving Speaking with AI

- Solving the challenge of giving personalized speaking feedback
- How AI enables daily, natural speaking practice

Platform Highlights

- Seamlessly integrates speaking practice into your curriculum
- Assign AI-powered speaking homework
- AI-administered oral exams with instant grading
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