

President: Mara Cobe



Mara S. Cobe is the World Languages Specialist for Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, where she supervises World Language programs in seven languages for a school district with over 148,000 students and more than 250 World Language teachers. These programs include FLEX, dual language/immersion (in five languages), heritage, traditional, AP, Cambridge and IB courses.

During her 27 years in public education, she worked in rural Illinois, Fairfax County, VA and Loudoun County, VA, before coming to Charlotte, NC in November 2001. In addition to years of curriculum and supervision at the building and district level, she has taught French in grades 6-12, and Spanish in grades K-12. Her personal classroom experiences have extended beyond traditional secondary World Language instruction to include FLEX and immersion transition courses. She

worked closely with Queens University of Charlotte to support seven successful STARTALK student summer programs and has served as a STARTALK proposal reviewer for several years.

Ms. Cobe has served on the board of FLANC, and was named as a FLANC Honorary Life Member in 2014. She often presents at FLANC, SCOLT, ACTFL and many other regional, state and local workshops. In addition, she has served on teams to revise the North Carolina World Language standards and provide state-wide professional development to support their implementation. Ms. Cobe also served as a member of the ACTFL Task Force on Interculturality, and Chairperson of the Global Engagement Initiative Award committee. She has served on the NADSFL Executive Board since 2012, as Executive Secretary and Vice President, and was the recipient of the 2020 SCOLT Leadership Award.

Vice President: Brandon Locke



Brandon Locke is the Director of World Languages and Immersion Programs for the Anchorage School District in Anchorage, Alaska. In a district of approximately 50,000 students, he oversees the district's traditional world language programs in middle and high schools as well as K-12 dual language immersion programs in Chinese, French, German, Japanese, Russian, Spanish, and Yup'ik. Approximately 8,000 ASD students are enrolled in a world language course or immersion program. ASD is one of the nation's most diverse school districts, ethnically, socio-economically, and linguistically, with over 100 home languages spoken by its students. During his tenure in this position, he has launched the Chinese, French, and Yup'ik immersion programs. He wrote and was awarded a \$1.3 million federal grant to begin the Yup'ik program, one of the nation's first indigenous immersion programs in an urban public school district.

He brought STAMP testing to the ASD for all students grades 2-12 and designed and implemented the district's Seal of Biliteracy program. He's in the process of working with Alaska's Department of Education to make the Seal a state-wide program. He has been in his current position with ASD for nine years. Prior to this he served seven years as an elementary principal and was a middle and high school French teacher before that. This is his 23rd year with the Anchorage School District.

Brandon is not only a lifelong learner (currently a doctoral candidate at Indiana University) but believes in service leadership for the profession. He's been involved with Concordia Language Villages/Concordia College's teacher education programs and has taught the foundations course in their M.Ed. program for many years. He served two terms as president of AFLA, Alaska's statewide world language teachers' association, and also two terms as president of PNCFL, the Pacific Northwest Council for Languages. He's presented locally, nationally, and internationally; he's published several articles; and he serves or has served on numerous boards and committees including the ACTFL TOY selection committee. He's also been involved with STARTALK as a program director, site visitor, and consultant. He is an associate member of NCSSFL, serving as Alaska's state representative in absence of an official state supervisor.

As a NADSFL board member, he has served as PNCFL's regional representative, Nominations Chair, and currently as the Social Networking Chair. Brandon says "I have loved being involved with NADSFL and I'm ready to serve our membership as the Vice President. I have always been a 'people person' and I'm passionate about networking, advocacy, and outreach. I look forward to continuing to work hard for the NADSFL community!"

On a personal note, Brandon is married to his wife Jaime (a 1st grade teacher and former French immersion teacher) and has two children, Olivia (12) and Max (8). He loves traveling, is an amateur photographer, and also an amateur antique collector (rare glass bottles and cameras!).

Treasurer: Christi Gilliland



Christi Gilliland has served as Williamson County Schools' World Language Curriculum Specialist since 2012. She was honored to represent NADSFL as an ACTFL Leadership Initiative for Learning Languages (LILL) fellow in 2015. The monthly NADSFL Café webinar sessions materialized as a direct result of her work with LILL. These sessions bring together experts in the field of World Language education to help district supervisors across the country learn more about current best practices. Christi is committed to helping teachers grow professionally in order to create better language learning experiences for students. She strongly believes that any PD should reach the students' desks. Currently, she is working hard to help her district transition to proficiency-based instruction and curriculum. After serving two years as the NADSFL representative for the SCOLT region, she has been elected as Treasurer and looks forward to continuing to serve NADSFL in her new role.

Secretary: Tim Eagan



Tim Eagan is department head for Classical & Modern Languages for Wellesley Public Schools in Massachusetts and a member of MaFLA Board of Directors, (serving as president in 2017). He holds a B.A. in French and Spanish from Assumption College in Massachusetts and an M.A. in Critical and Creative Thinking with a concentration in Second Language Acquisition from the University of Massachusetts, Boston. He is a frequent presenter at MaFLA, NECTFL, and ACTFL.