



# PROGRAM

## PARTNERS FOR LANGUAGE

CELEBRATING THE EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES

10:00am-2:00pm

Information fair  
and networking

GROUND  
FLOOR

10:00am-10:10am **Arrival**

GROUND  
FLOOR

10:10am-10:30am **Welcoming Remarks**

10:30am-11:00am **Panel Discussion I: Implementing the Seal of Biliteracy on all levels**

11:15am-11:45am **Workshops I**

FOURTH  
FLOOR

Room 1

How does RBERN support English language learners and world language learners?

Room 2

Swiss multilingualism and language innovation with Duolingo

Room 3

**Roundtable:** The Common European Frame of Reference for Languages (CEFR) and Assessment/Testing

Room 4

What is EUNIC and how can it promote the Seal?

11:50am-12:20pm **Workshops II**

Room 1

Promoting pathways to biliteracy in Polish American institutions

Room 2

Teaching Spanish to children through diversity, equity and inclusion  
**IN SPANISH**

Room 3

**Best practice:** How is the Seal implemented at Shaker High School, NY?

Room 4

Teaching Dutch from the Low Lands

12:30pm-1:00pm **LUNCH BREAK**

GROUND  
FLOOR

1:00pm-1:30pm **Panel Discussion II: Access, equity and the Seal of Biliteracy**

1:30pm-2:00pm **Workshops III**

FOURTH  
FLOOR

Room 1

Advancing plurilingualism – leveraging linguistic and cultural assets of study tours

Room 2

NYSABE's policy and advocacy – language access & equity

Room 3

*How 'bout them apples?* ACTFL assessments & the value of testing for proficiency

Room 4

Improvisational theatre in Italian at La Scuola d'Italia

2:00pm **Language course raffle**

GROUND  
FLOOR

# WELCOMING REMARKS

10:10-10:30am



## Speaker bios



Ambassador  
**Silvio Gonzato**  
Deputy Head of the  
European Union  
Delegation to the  
United Nations

Silvio Gonzato is currently Ambassador, Deputy Head of Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations. A European Union permanent official since 1988, Mr. Gonzato previously served as Head of the Secretariat of the European Parliament's Committee on Foreign Affairs.

He has spent most of his career working in different Committee Secretariats, covering both internal and external policies. His responsibilities involved advising the Chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs regarding the organization of the activities of the Committee, contacts with other EU institutions, relations with the European External Action Service, and contacts with diplomatic missions in Brussels.



**Mirza Sánchez-Medina**  
Chief of the Office of  
Multilingual Learners  
New York City  
Department of Education

In 2019, Mirza Sánchez-Medina was appointed to lead the Office of Multilingual Learners at NYC Public Schools. As Chief, Mirza leads the development and implementation of a strategic plan to address the needs of over 150,000 culturally and linguistically diverse Multilingual Learners/English Language Learners. In 2003, Mirza founded Manhattan Bridges High School (MBHS), a school designed to address ELLs' linguistic and cultural needs.

Mirza is a graduate from the University of Puerto Rico (Chemistry and Education), CUNY (graduate degrees in science and administration in supervision), New York Theological Seminary (Master of Divinity) and is a Doctoral candidate in Educational Leadership, Administration, and Policy at Fordham University.



**Dr. Daiana Theodora Cuibus**  
Director  
Romanian Language Institute

Dr. Daiana Theodora Cuibus is the Director of the Romanian Language Institute, an institution that manages and coordinates the activity of 54 academic programs in Romanian Language and Culture worldwide, as well as the teaching of Romanian Language and Culture for heritage K-12 students across Europe.

In this capacity, Dr. Cuibus has expanded the existing programs and initiated an important number of pedagogical and research activities meant to liaise among universities, schools, diplomatic and governmental partners, and to promote the best pedagogical practices, as well as authentic intercultural communication.



**Kristen Edgreen Kaufman**  
Deputy Commissioner  
NYC Mayor's Office  
for International Affairs

Kristen Edgreen Kaufman is the Deputy Commissioner of Public and Private Partnerships & Economic Development in the Mayor's Office for International Affairs.

As a Deputy Commissioner, Kristen helps to share the successes of the Adams administration and city agencies on a global platform and facilitates the global exchange of best practices, enabling NYC to replicate the successes of leading global cities in thematic areas ranging from education to mental health initiatives to public safety. Kristen also leads all trade and investment initiatives with Europe, South America, North America and Latin America. Furthermore, she serves as the key relationship manager for all European consulates and all Asian United Nations missions.



**Louis O. Reyes, Ph.D.**  
NYS Board  
of Regents

Dr. Luis O. Reyes has been an educator for 53 years, beginning as a Spanish teacher at Paramus Catholic H.S. in N.J. (1967-2022). Dr. Reyes was first elected in 2016 as an at-large member of N.Y. State's Board of Regents; and re-elected to a 2nd, 5-year term in April 2021.

The Board of Regents presides over both the N.Y. State Education Department and the University of the State of New York, the nation's most comprehensive and unified educational system.



# PANEL I Implementing the Seal of Biliteracy on all levels

10:30-11:00am

Speaker bios  
in alphabetical order

*The New York State established the Seal of Biliteracy in 2012 and the first set of graduates earned the Seal in the academic year 2015-2016.*

***In this panel, practitioners engaged in all levels of implementing the Seal, from school to state level, will take a look back at what has been achieved since; they will discuss the advantages of offering the Seal and where the Seal is headed in the future.***



**Candace Black**  
New York State  
Department of Education

Candace Black is the World Languages Associate in the Office of Bilingual Education and World Languages at the New York State Education Department. A National Board-Certified Teacher, Candace taught French for 21 years. She served as an officer of NYSAFLT (President-2016) and was the recipient of the President's Award from both NYSAFLT and NYSAWLA in 2021 and was elected as a Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Palmes académiques by the French government.



**Fabrice Jaumont, PhD**  
French Embassy  
to the United States  
of America

Fabrice Jaumont is a French-born author and educator best known for his advocacy for bilingual education around the world. He is the author of several books translated in multiple languages, including *The Bilingual Revolution* and *Conversations on Bilingualism*. He serves as Education Attaché for the Embassy of France to the United States and is based in New York since 2001.



**Brenna Muldoon**  
Shaker High School, NY

Brenna Muldoon is the K-12 Supervisor for World Languages and Bilingual Education in the North Colonie School District in Latham, NY. She started her career as a middle and high school German teacher. After 15 years in the classroom, she transitioned into her current role as an administrator. This is now her 5th year leading the World Languages and English as a New Language Departments.



**Stela Radovanović**  
New York City  
Department of Education

Stela Radovanović is the Executive Director for Research, Instruction and Professional Learning in the Office of Multilingual Learners (OML). In her work, Stela leads a team in charge of resource development and professional learning for MLs/ELLs. Acutely aware of the importance of research, Stela pays close attention to the field of language and content learning, constantly thinking how to best translate research into actionable pedagogical practices. Through her former work as a teacher and administrator, Stela developed a deep understanding of the increasing, and ever changing demands of the global economy and its impact on teaching and learning.



**Eva Baker**  
Goethe-Institut, NY

Eva Baker has been working for the Goethe-Institut for more than 17 years starting as teacher at the Goethe-Institut in Ho Chi minh City, Vietnam. After various positions at Goethe-Instituts in London and Hamburg, Eva has entered the world wide rotation with the Goethe-Institut with her first stop as Head of Language Department at Goethe-Institut Australia. Eva is currently the Director of Language Department and Deputy Director of the Goethe-Institut New York.



**Francesca McAuliffe**  
Stuyvesant High School, NY

Francesca McAuliffe is the assistant principal of World Languages and Music at Stuyvesant High School in NYC. She recently completed the Executive Leadership Institute's Advanced Leadership Program for Aspiring Principals (ALPAP) and is currently in her nineteenth year with the NYCDOE.



## MODERATOR

# WORKSHOPS I

11:15am-11:45am

## Room 1

**How does R-BERN support English language learners and world language learners?**

Presenter

**Ron Woo**

Executive Director,  
NYS Statewide Language  
RBERN

This session will provide the language educators with an overview of New York State's Regional Bilingual Education Resource Network (RBERN) structure with a focus on its unique Statewide Language RBERN.

Further, they will learn about how the Statewide Language RBERN supports and advocates for language learning. Language educators will also learn about the resources and professional development opportunities available from the Statewide Language RBERN.

## Room 2

**Swiss multilingualism and language innovation with Duolingo**

Presenters

**Aita Pult**

Head of Culture and Education  
Consulate General of Switzerland

**Jessie Becker, PhD**

Director of Learning and Curriculum  
Duolingo

On the European Day of Languages, Switzerland serves as an outstanding example, as multilingualism is deeply rooted in Swiss history and society. This multilingual coexistence is fostered by the country's laws, education system, and media, which passionately protects its linguistic diversity.

Co-founded by Swiss computer scientist Severin Hacker, Duolingo has quickly become the world's most popular language learning app, motivating millions of language learners through gamification. Multilingualism has never been more accessible!



## Room 3

**Roundtable:  
The Common European Frame of Reference for Languages (CEFR) and Assessment/Testing**

Panel

**Hermes de la Torre**

Head of Academic Department, Instituto Cervantes, NY

**Eva Baker**

Director Language Program, Goethe Institute, NY

**José Carlos Adao**

Deputy Coordinator for the Portuguese Language Programs and Education Affairs, Consulate General of Portugal, Newark, NJ

**Dr. Daiana Theodora Cuiub**

Director of the Romanian Language Institute

**MODERATOR**

**Edith Boncompain**

Vice-President of Education  
French Institute Alliance Française, NY

The Common European Frame of Reference for Languages (CEFR) is a guideline used to describe achievements of learners of foreign languages across Europe and, increasingly, in other countries. The CEFR is also intended to make it easier for educational institutions and employers to evaluate the language qualifications of candidates for education admission or employment. In this panel, we will discuss the expectations for each CEFR -level; how they translate into language proficiency assessments; how the CEFR impacts the production of pedagogical material; what the implications of the CEFR for students are; as well as CEFR's challenges and limitations.



## Room 4

**What is EUNIC and how can it promote the Seal?**

Presenter

**Jaanika Peerna**

Vice-President EUNIC, NY

EUNIC is a global network of EU cultural organizations. To date there are 125 clusters represented in 90 countries. In NYC, the EUNIC cluster consists of 22 regular members and 18 associated members.

This presentation is focused on the work of the EUNIC NY cluster. It will give an overview of EUNIC NY projects, past and present, as well as show what resources are available to decision makers in the education community who are interested in establishing the Seal.

# WORKSHOPS II

11:50am-12:20pm



## Room 1

### Promoting pathways to biliteracy in Polish American institutions

Presenters

**Maja Steczkowska**

Polish Cultural Institute, NY

**Iwona Korga**

Pilsudski Institute of America

**Iwona Koszelak**

Polish Supplementary School Council of America

**Anna Mojsiewicz**

Polish Sunday School

The Polish Cultural Institute New York together with major Polish American Institutions will present various methods of promoting biliteracy among the Polish community. These different practices are based on traditional learning as well as culture, art and history education. Hopefully, presented pathways to biliteracy will inspire other communities and may start a broader conversation about the ways in which biliteracy can be supported.

## Room 2

### Teaching Spanish to children through diversity, equity and inclusion IN SPANISH

Presenter

**Mar Rodríguez**

Teacher  
United Nations  
International School (UNIS)

The objective of this workshop is to share strategies for teaching Spanish to children in a way that promotes diversity, equity and inclusion.

El objetivo de este taller es compartir estrategias para enseñar español a niños y niñas de manera que se fomente la diversidad, la equidad y la inclusión.

## Room 3

### Best practice: How is the Seal implemented at Shaker High School, NY?

Presenters

**Brenna Muldoon**

K-12 Supervisor for World Languages and Bilingual Education in the North Colonie School District, Latham, NY

**Christine Connor**

German Teacher Shaker High School, NY

This presentation gives an overview of the development and spread of the Seal of Biliteracy in the United States and specifically in New York State. The presenters will share the successes and challenges of implementing the Seal at a public High School in NY. Practical tips will be provided for schools looking to start the Seal program.

## Room 4

### Teaching Dutch from the Low Lands

Presenters

**Laura Zijdel- Eelkema**

Director 't Klokhuis

**Veerle Vandecasteele**

Assistant Director 't Klokhuis

Dutch is an official language in the Netherlands, Belgium, Suriname and also in Aruba, Curaçao and Sint Maarten. About 24 million people speak Dutch as a mother tongue. But how do you teach Dutch to young adults who might be interested in taking the Seal?

This presentation will focus on the curriculum and the assessment infrastructure at 't Klokhuis, a Dutch Language and Culture school that offers Dutch classes ranging from toddlers to adult learners. Founded in 1998, 't Klokhuis has locations in New York City and State, New Jersey, Florida and Pennsylvania and offers online classes as well.



# PANEL II

10:30-11:00am

## Access, equity and the Seal of Biliteracy

Speaker bios  
in alphabetical order



**Cristina Santiago-Campbell**  
Brooklyn Tech High School

Cristina Santiago-Campbell is currently the Assistant Principal of World Languages and ENL at Brooklyn Technical High School. Cristina has been teaching Spanish for over 18 years and has taught AP Spanish Language and AP Spanish Literature for over 12 years. As of 2022 Ms. Santiago Campbell serves on the AP Spanish Literature and Culture Development Committee where she serves as one of three secondary school members selected nationally to help develop the AP Spanish Literature & Culture Course and Exam. She is also the current regional director representing NYC at NYSAFLT and a long-term member of the NYSSB Taskforce.



**Jill Schimmel**  
New York City  
Department of Education  
Office of Multilingual Learners (OML)

As the Senior Director of World Languages, Jill works closely with central offices, school administrators, and World Language educators citywide to create professional learning opportunities and resources to support them in shifting their classroom practice and curriculum to a more culturally-responsive and proficiency-centered approach, aligned to the 2021 Standards for World Languages. In addition, Jill coordinates the New York State Seal of Biliteracy (NYSSB) across NYCDOE high schools.



**Barbara Spinelli**  
Columbia University

Barbara Spinelli is Senior Lecturer in Italian at Columbia University. She worked as a Researcher in Educational Linguistics at the University for Foreigners in Perugia, Italy. She collaborated with the Center for Language Assessment and Certifications as a teacher trainer and language tester. She was involved in research projects promoted by the European Commission and the Council of Europe as a language expert. Her main research areas are: Network-based Language Learning, Curriculum Design, Plurilingual and Intercultural Education.



**Priscilla Zárate**  
The New York State Association  
for Bilingual Education

Priscilla Zárate served as Executive Director at the New York City Department of Education (NYCDOE), where she serviced over 150,000 English Language Learners in 1,800 schools throughout the NYC five boroughs. As the Executive Director, Ms. Zárate led citywide initiatives including the creation, development, deployment, implementation, and monitoring of supports, resources, and services for English Language Learners (ELLs) across districts, field support offices, and schools. Ms. Zárate currently serves as the incoming President of the New York State Association for Bilingual Education (NYSABE).

## MODERATOR



**Agnès Tounkara**  
FACE-Foundation

Agnès Tounkara is the coordinator of the French Heritage Language Program (FHLP) a program of the FACE Foundation, an American nonprofit organization promoting artistic, literary and educational exchange and collaboration between France and the US in partnership with the Cultural Services of the French Embassy. By providing free language programs in public schools and community centers across the US, the FHLP is helping francophone immigrants and young Americans with francophone background maintain their linguistic and cultural heritage and leverage their linguistic skills, through the Seal of Biliteracy for example.

*During the 2020-2021 school year, there were approximately 42% (~369,000) of students enrolled in NYC public schools with a primary home language other than English; 16% identified as ELL (now multilingual learners/English Language Learners (MLs/ELLs). In NYC, 11.1 % of public schools offered the Seal.*

***In this panel, we will discuss major milestones as well as hurdles to the equity effort. What can administrators and teachers do toward the goal of equity? How do we bring students' voices into the conversation? How is the Seal considered in admissions and what does it mean for a student to start college with the Seal?***



# WORKSHOPS III

1:30pm-2:00pm



**Room 1**  
**Advancing plurilingualism – leveraging linguistic and cultural assets of study tours**

Presenters  
**Alicja Winnicki**  
Research Specialist at NY Statewide Language RBERN  
CSD 14 Superintendent, 2012-2021  
**Elsa Nunez**  
Research Specialist at NY Statewide Language RBERN.  
CSD 14 Field Support Liaison  
2017-2020

Educators and participants will hear from the presenters how impactful and beneficial study tours are for leaders and teachers of bilingual students. Visiting countries where their multilingual learners come from provide a unique lens to getting their students well: their culture, language and history.

Through this lens, educators and school communities appreciate the assets multilingual learners and their families add to school communities. This presentation encourages furthering partnerships between schools with dual and bilingual programs with international cultural institutions, governmental entities, and community based organizations.



**Room 2**  
**NYSABE's policy and advocacy – language access & equity**

Presenters  
**Priscilla Zárate**  
The New York State Association for Bilingual Education  
President  
**Cynthia Jeffers**  
The New York State Association for Bilingual Education  
Delegate at Large  
**Luis Quan**  
The New York State Association for Bilingual Education  
Delegate Region II

In this session we will explore NYSABE's policy and advocacy initiatives in support of language access and equity for Multilingual Learners (MLLs)/bilingual learners.

Additionally, we will examine and discuss the role of language policies in mediating access and equity in education. We will review linguistically appropriate services, and best practices on equity and inclusion for students and parents.

**Room 3**  
**How 'bout them apples? ACTFL assessments & the value of testing for proficiency**

Presenter  
**Gosia Jaros-White**  
Director Sales and Marketing,  
Language Testing International

In this session, we will explore the many ways in which the ACTFL Assessment of Performance Toward Proficiency in Languages (AAPPL) is helping language programs set and attain tangible goals for students. This online assessment is available in 11 languages and provides measurements across all four communication skills and all three modes of communication (interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational).

It is easily administered and results in proficiency-based data that include comparison reports (to other students in the program and across schools, districts, and states) as well as longitudinal reports. We will present the advanced features, easy administration, and powerful data reporting of the AAPPL. We will also explore how the AAPPL and other ACTFL assessments can be used for the attainment of the Seal of Biliteracy as well as the benefits of testing with ACTFL assessments.

**Room 4**  
**Improvistional theatre in Italian at La Scuola d'Italia**

Presenters  
**Daniel Bellissimo**  
Italian Language Teacher  
La Scuola d'Italia, NY  
**Massimo Zordan**  
Theater & Drama Teacher  
La Scuola d'Italia, NY

In this workshop developed at La Scuola d'Italia Guglielmo Marconi in NYC, the only preK-12 Italian/English School in North America, we will focus on improvistional exercises borrowed from acting techniques.

Starting from the vantage point of the importance of theater and drama for language acquisition, this workshop delves deeper into the communication tools available to actors and is structured around these key principles and objectives: the centrality of the learner; increased participation and motivation; use of emotions as a trigger to train prosody and enhance memorization; creation of a safe environment; development of confidence and self-esteem; repetition as a recurring tool for language acquisition and promotion of creativity.



Consulate General  
of the Federal Republic of Germany  
New York



CONSULATE GENERAL OF  
ESTONIA IN NEW YORK



New York State  
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT  
Knowledge > Skill > Opportunity



The Metropolitan Center for Research on Equity  
and the Transformation of Schools  
NYS Statewide Language RBERN



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra



Consulate General of Switzerland in New York



AMBASSADE  
DE FRANCE  
AUX ÉTATS-UNIS

Liberté  
Égalité  
Fraternité



Flanders  
State of the Art

FLANDERS DELEGATION  
TO THE USA



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LA SCUOLA D'ITALIA  
NEW YORK



french institute  
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