



# COLT

Capital Organization of Language Teachers

A not-for-profit educational organization for the benefit of language teachers in New York's Capital Region serving the counties of Warren, Washington, Saratoga, Fulton, Montgomery, Schenectady, Albany, Rensselaer and Schoharie.

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## COLT Members Beat the Winter Blues

On Wednesday, February 27, LOTE teachers from the capital region gathered at Draper Middle School to network, learn about COLT and NYSAFLT and swap some fantastic teaching techniques. COLT President, **Mike Mitchell** gave an overview of COLT's new structure as an independent organization, provided an overview of the COLT website as well as membership and registration procedures for the coming year. This was followed by excellent presentations by **Julie Witkowski, Colleen Sheehan, Nancy Ladd-Butz, Tina Hayden and Maureen Geagan** on TPRS questioning techniques, classroom games and how to obtain grant money. COLT Vice President, **Colleen Sheehan, Joanne Veglia, Jennifer King and Lisa Bourassa** did a stellar job planning this event. A special thanks goes to **Maureen Geagan** and Mohonasen School District for hosting us.



### Editor:

[Cynthia Cramsie](#)

### Regional Directors:

[Jill Dugan](#) (2009)

[Mike Mitchell](#) (2011)

### COLT Officers 08-09:

[Mike Mitchell](#)

*President*

[Colleen Sheehan](#)

*Vice President*

[Kathy Fagan](#)

*Treasurer*

[Joanne Veglia](#)

*Secretary*

[Cynthia Cramsie](#)

*Communications*

*Specialist*

### Communications Committee:

Mike Mitchell

Bennita Givens

## 2009 Regional Conference

The Capital Region Conference Co-Sponsored by NYSAFLT and COLT will be on Saturday, March 21, 2009 at Farnsworth Middle School, Guilderland.

The Theme is Language Education: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow.

This star studded event will be kicked off with our keynote speaker, [Vickie Mike](#), NYS Teacher of the Year. We'll have workshops by DJ Webmaster Ken Hughes and Former SED Associate/Current NYSAFLT 2nd VP, Mary Holmes. There will be workshops on TPRS, Differentiated Instruction, Checkpoints A & B, FLES, Chinese and Technology.

For more information and to register for this conference, please visit: <http://www.capitallanguageteachers.org/conferencesevents>



**Member - 2009**

## COLT Becomes The First Member Organization of NYSAFLT

As COLT, along with other regional language organizations, are no longer affiliated with NYSAFLT, COLT recently joined NYSAFLT as member organization. In this new role, COLT and subsequently it's membership, can still take advantage of the many benefits that NYSAFLT provides to its members. COLT plans to work closely with the Capital Region Directors of NYSAFLT as we plan events and advocate for our profession. COLT is very excited and proud to maintain the strong relationship it has with NYSAFLT.

More information about the benefits of being a member organization of NYSAFLT is available in NYSAFLT's constitution. To read about what NYSAFLT is doing in the capital region, please visit: <http://regions.nysaflt.org>

## Got News?

Are you doing something special for Foreign Language Week? Do you have a neat teaching tip? Did you do something great to advocate for the LOTE teaching profession? Get your news into the Spring Newsletter. Send submissions to Cynthia Cramsie, COLT Communications Specialist at [weixinya@mac.com](mailto:weixinya@mac.com)

### Save The Date:

**COLT Regional Conference:** *Saturday, March 21, 2009  
Farnsworth Middle School*

***Not yet a member?***

[\*Click here!!\*](#)

***Do you have a student teacher?***

*Consider giving your student teacher a [COLT](#) or [NYS AFLT](#) membership as a gift.*

**Capital Organization of Language Teachers**

c/o Mike Mitchell

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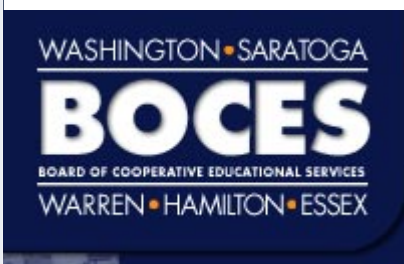
## News From NYSAFLT

The [NYSAFLT Colloquium](#) is a forum in which LOTE colleagues share perspectives, exchange ideas, and develop responses to issues of importance to the LOTE education community. At the 2009 Colloquium, participants will focus on the importance of our second standard, Culture, and how to successfully integrate and assess it in our LOTE curriculum.

Bill Heller, a frequent presenter at the state and national level, will deliver our keynote address. Our panelists and workshop presenters will discuss how we define culture, strategies and activities to integrate culture in our classrooms, ways of assessing culture activities, and how we are preparing teachers to deal with our second standard.

Because continued professional growth is important for the success of all teachers, please join us on April 24th and 25th at the Best Western Hotel in Albany for the 2009 NYSAFLT Colloquium. We value your input!

<http://www.nysaflt.org/conferences/colloquium/>



## You Are Invited

Immersion Weekend for LOTE Teachers at Skidmore. Learn more about this grant-funded opportunity by visiting

[http://www.wswheboces.org/lcrc/immersion\\_weekend\\_09.pdf](http://www.wswheboces.org/lcrc/immersion_weekend_09.pdf) for contacting Peggy Sharkey at the WSWHE BOCES Language and Culture Resource Center ([psarkey@wswheboces.org](mailto:psarkey@wswheboces.org) or 518-581-3581).

## COLT Needs Your Help!!!



### Awards Committee:

The Awards Committee is responsible for the coordination of the awards sponsored by COLT. These include: the **Teacher Incentive Grant** and the **Student Achievement Award**.

### **COLT also offers:**

**Appreciation certificate:** Any member of the general membership may be awarded for his/her outstanding contributions to COLT and its goals with an appreciation certificate. **Service award:** Any Executive Board member or committee chairperson may be awarded for his/her outstanding service to COLT with a service award. **Retiree recognition:** Any retiree who is a member in good standing and who regularly attends and supports COLT events shall be recognized with a gift and a lifetime honorary membership in COLT. This committee will develop criteria for evaluating the awards, communicate with the membership to promote the awards and choose the winners of the awards. If you would like to help with COLT awards, please contact **Colleen Sheehan, COLT Vice President** at [sheehanc@cracs.k12.ny.us](mailto:sheehanc@cracs.k12.ny.us)

### Nominations Committee:

A Nominating Committee of three (at least one of whom shall have served as an officer) shall prepare the slate of candidates and submit it to the Newsletter Editor in time for the Spring newsletter. The committee shall also be responsible for counting the ballots. If you would like to help with the Nominations Committee, please contact **Mike Mitchell, COLT President** at [mitcm1hs@bcasd.neric.org](mailto:mitcm1hs@bcasd.neric.org)



[www.capitallanguageteachers.org](http://www.capitallanguageteachers.org)