

Congratulations to Dr. Steven M. Garcia, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction & Personnel for Pelham Public Schools, New York, for winning the **2018 National Network for Early Language Learning Award for Outstanding Support of Early Language Learning.**



It is imperative now, more than ever, for our nation's public schools to invest in World Language experiences for elementary-aged children. Our school district recently expanded five World Languages options into 6th grade to complement our International Baccalaureate - Middle Years Program initiative. This past year, we implemented a *Foreign Language Elementary School* (FLES) program in Spanish for all 2nd and 3rd graders, adding a 4th grade component in 2018-19. The children are immersed in the Spanish language and culture for 30 minutes, every-other-day. It is our hope to establish a FLES continuum through 5th grade next year. Our vision is to prepare all students to meet current and future challenges and become productive members of a diverse global community.

I am humbled to be the recipient of 2018 *NNELL Award for Outstanding Support of Early Second Language Learning*. However, I firmly believe this recognition is more a reflection of the Pelham community, parents, teachers, administrators, and Board of Education rather than any individual effort. The success of our FLES experience rests on the shoulders of our teachers and elementary principals.