



WLI Updates

Leadership Transition Update

from Board President, Marilyn Guggenheim

At the end of 2022, WLI announced a major transition as our Founder and long-term Executive Director, Elizabeth Williamson, stepped down from her role to make way for the next era of passionate, community-focused leadership within our organization. Growth and change are inevitable, and while it can be challenging, we can also grow our relationships and connections for good. From 2021 to 2022 for example, the number of WLI students grew 37% at summer camps; our grant-funded, pay-what-you-can Arabic and German classes also attracted more students than ever, and Bozeman High School students celebrated their 2nd year hosting their own Arabic club.

Demand for classes, for adults and children alike, continues to climb and WLI continues to rise to the occasion and meet the expanding needs of our community. We already have 15 expert coaches teaching a diversifying array of classes, and we're happy to report we've hired more staff to support them, **including our new Executive Director, Ann Swann.**



Ann comes to us with a long-standing career in non-profit programming and fundraising, and extensive experience in human resources and operations management. She has most recently worked at WLI partner, Thrive, where she supported the connection between families, educators and the community to make sure children felt successful. Now she can apply her leadership and skills to our wider world language community through WLI!

Whether you're a traveler going abroad who wants to communicate in the local language; a Montana business owner with international customers, affiliates, or employees; a worker who wants to improve their communication skills; or a student, whether adult or child, who wants their imagination and understanding boosted by learning new words and cultures, WLI wants to grow with you as our ally. Thank you for your financial and personal support!

Support Our Work

P.S. Check your inbox for a personal message from Ann later this month!

Big Sky BELLA Expansion

WLI is thrilled to announce the expansion of our programming to Big Sky thanks to generous funding from the Yellowstone Club Community Foundation. We will be offering no-cost English classes for adults in the community starting the week of April 24th. For more information about classes and registration, check the [BELLA Initiative webpage](#) for updates in the coming weeks.

Future programming will include in-person Spanish classes (youth or adult, TBD) hosted at [BASE](#).

Questions? Please contact WLI's Big Sky Program Coordinator Zeta Zuniga at zeta.zuniga@wlimt.org. Look for more program updates to come!

Staff Spotlight



Nikki Sandive

BELLA Tutor

Nikki Sandive grew up in the Midwest and has lived in Montana most of her adult life. She has worked in education for most of her career - working in outdoor education, conservation education, and for the State of Montana.

Nikki started volunteering with the English to Speakers of other Languages (ESOL) program a few years ago and now with BELLA for two sessions. She likes tutoring because she gets to know interesting people - all WLI students! She finds that it also improves her English in the process. As a third and fourth generation Norwegian, Nikki knows someone taught her grandparents English so they could be successful in the U.S. and she wants to pay it forward.

Besides English, Nikki is most fluent in American Sign Language. She knows a bit of Spanish and is working on French. When not working and tutoring, she enjoys hiking the area trails and knitting.



Program Reminders

Summer Language & Culture Camp registration is OPEN!

WLI is offering three, week-long sessions of dynamic and engaging camps for kids in grades K-8

Session 1: July 10-13

Session 2: July 17-20

Session 3: July 24-27

Camps are held Monday-Thursday at Headwaters Academy

Sibling Discount: Sign up two or more children for any WLI summer camp and each additional sibling receives a 10% discount by using coupon code: SIBLING10

Multi-Camp Discount: Sign a child up for more than one camp and receive a 10% discount on the 2nd or 3rd camp by using coupon code: MULTI10

[Get More Information Here](#)



**MARK YOUR
CALENDAR!**

MAY 4th - 5th, 2023



WLI will be participating in GIVE BIG Gallatin Valley for our 4th year. To learn more about how to donate to our cause during GIVE BIG, [click here](#).

Upcoming Events



The Center for Bilingual & Multicultural Education:
Spring 2023 Language and Story Exchange

MSU community members sharing personal stories tied to multi-lingual and multi-cultural journeys.

Do you have a curiosity and desire to become more multilingual and explore other countries?

JOIN US!
Thursdays beginning April 13 through May 4th, 12-1pm at the CBME in Reid 418.

Available to ALL MSU undergrads, graduate students, faculty and staff.
Lunch included!

South American Exchange
 (Spanish & Portuguese) - April 13

Asian Exchange
 (S, SE, and West) - April 20

European Exchange
 (German, French, Portuguese, Polish) April 27

American Indian & African Exchange
 (Languages TBA) - May 4

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY
 College of EDUCATION, HEALTH & HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Please **RSVP Here** or scan the code.



Center Hours: Mon-Thurs 12-3pm • Reid Hall 418 • montana.edu/education/cbme

[Click for more information or to RSVP](#)

Partner Platform

Thank you On Site Management (OSM) Construction for being a 2023 WLI Corporate & Community Partner!



OSM Construction is a full-service professional general contractor in Montana and Wyoming specializing in the construction and project management of high-end residential and commercial properties of the highest quality in the Northern Rockies. Their dedicated, passionate team follows the philosophy of renowned architect Jonathan Foote who founded the company in 1987. He believed that architecture and building should be seamlessly and exquisitely united. That belief still drives them today.

Learn More About OSM Construction

Thank you for your continued support of WLI-MT's mission to make language and culture education available for all Montanans!



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kristina Allison".

Kristina Allison
Director of Programs



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kristen Wolf".

Kristen Wolf
Program Manager
Coaches Up!



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paola Torres".

Paola Torres
Program Manager
BELLA



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tanya Hauwiler".

Tanya Hauwiler
Program Coordinator
Language Programs



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cassidy Crawford".

Cassidy Crawford
Program Coordinator
BELLA

Corporate & Community Partners



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The World Language Initiative-MT

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Please consider [an online donation](#) to help us with our capacity building and grow our ability to serve more Bozeman youth!

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