



NEWS RELEASE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Local Schools' Partnership Honored at National Conference

FOREST LAKE, MINN. – A partnership program between Lakes International Language Academy (LILA) and Forest Lake Area Schools (FLAS) was among 26 cooperative programs selected to make a presentation at the Best Cooperative Practices Between Charter and Traditional Public Schools Conference in Columbus, Ohio.

The conference, which was held on Sept. 27 and 28, was hosted by the Ohio Alliance for Public Charter Schools. Fifty "best practices" among traditional public and charter schools were selected by the Ohio Alliance and will be published by the group, and of those 50, 26 were selected to give a presentation at the conference.

The Spanish Continuation Program developed jointly by Lakes International and Forest Lake Area Schools began three years ago at Southwest Junior High School, and it has now expanded to include Forest Lake Area High School.

A panel of U.S. leaders in education innovation conducted a nationwide search to find the most promising and effective collaborative practices between charter and traditional public schools. Selected practices had to show strong collaboration, originality, inventiveness and the ability to replicate. The best submissions were selected for presentation at the conference. Two representatives from Lakes International participated in the conference.

Melissa Martyr-Wagner, a Lakes International founding board member and current LILA Foundation director, and Julie Lundgren, Lakes International's Budgets Manager and also a founding board member, gave a presentation sharing the schools' collaborative effort.