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In today's world of instant information, now more than ever, success depends on clear communication in more than one language. We must acquire the tools to understand one another's viewpoints and perspectives. To this end, it is critical that all students have access to world language learning from a young age. In order to do this, we must work together to advocate for strong language learning programs, work to keep teachers in our profession, and ensure that teacher preparation programs are recognized as being key to this effort.

*En el mundo actual de información instantánea, ahora más que nunca, el éxito depende de una clara comunicación en más de una lengua. Debemos adquirir las herramientas para entendernos unos a otros en nuestros puntos de vista y perspectivas. Con este fin, es esencial que todos los estudiantes tengan acceso al aprendizaje de una lengua desde una temprana edad. Por lo tanto debemos trabajar juntos para abogar por vigorosos programas de aprendizaje, trabajar para mantener los profesores en nuestra profesión y asegurar que los programas de preparación de los profesores sean reconocidos como claves para este esfuerzo.*

### Biography

Mary Jo Adams is a lower school French and Spanish teacher and World Language Department Chair at Providence Day School in Charlotte NC. In 2016, Providence Day School was awarded ACTFL's Melba D. Woodruff Award for Exemplary Elementary Foreign Language Program. Adams has presented at state, national, and international conferences and has contributed to the *Foreign Language Annals* and *Hispania*. She is currently President of the Foreign Language Association of North Carolina and serves on the NC Department of Public Instruction World Language Collaborative Team. Prior to her teaching career, Adams worked in Madrid, Paris and New York in international marketing. She holds a BA in Spanish teaching degree from Marquette University.