



Dear Esteemed Educators,

As we embark on a new school year, I want to express my deepest gratitude and admiration for the extraordinary impact each of you has on the lives of our students. Teaching is not ju



As we l « for a successful future, equipping them with the skills,

confidence to reach their highest aspirations.

We see your efforts, value your contributions, and are here to support you every

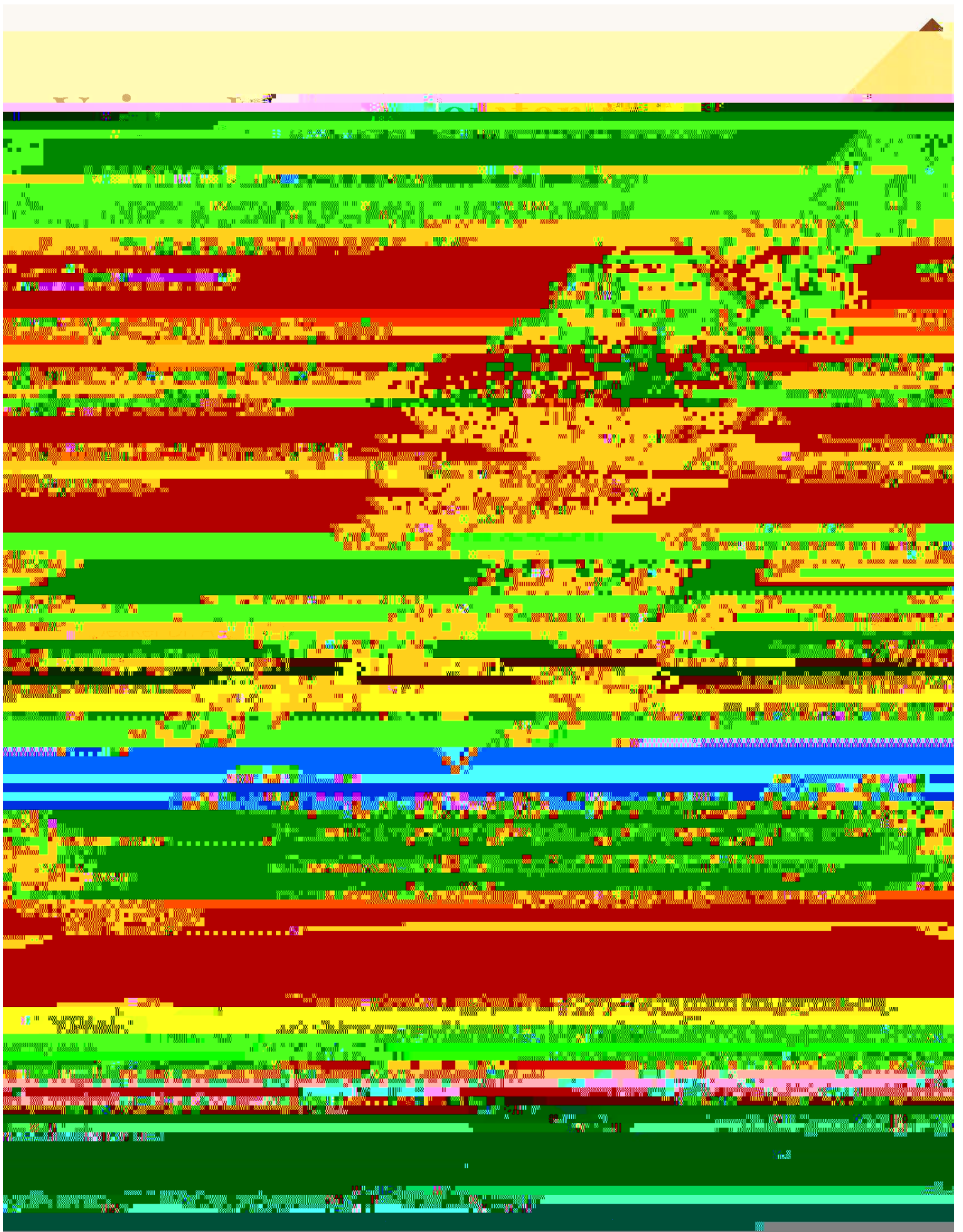
In Unity,

**Elisa Alvarez**

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With a new school year upon us, the Of ce





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*New York City Association of Foreign Language Teachers (NYCAFLT) Fall Conference, September 28, 2024*

NYCAFLT educators believe that education should be accessible to everyone. The New York City-based organization strives to provide affordable and high-quality educational services that empower students to achieve their academic and personal goals. Their approach to education is a holistic one, focusing not only on academic achievement but also on personal growth and development. NYCAFLT educators work closely with students to help them develop the skills and knowledge needed to succeed in school and in life.

The NYCAFLT conference planning is made up of experienced educators who are passionate about helping students succeed and are committed to providing personalized and engaging educational services that meet the unique needs of each student. The



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In 2019, the Board of Regents created a Blue-Ribbon Commission to rethink New York State's graduation requirements. The Commission's recommendations culminated from a robust stakeholder input process and an extensive review of relevant research, literature, and experience. Commission members ultimately advanced fifty-nine preliminary recommendations aligned with the four priority areas. Next, Commission members voted electronically on the preliminary recommendations. Thirty-seven preliminary recommendations were identified, which were then combined into the following twelve recommendations:

1. Replace the three diploma types with one diploma, with the option to add seals and endorsements.
2. Include civic responsibility (ethics); cultural competence; financial literacy; education; fine and performing arts; science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (ST/2).

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Ms. Carissa Zuniga is committed to advancing Bilingual Education and supporting English



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July 3-11, 2024 brought an unforgettable adventure to a group of 16 students from West Seneca West Senior High School. The school's students have had opportunities to travel to Latin America and Europe for years, but this tour was different. Organized and led by Spanish teacher Jaclyn Pawelczak and chaperoned by colleagues Laura Low and Melissa Szykowny, this was West's first tour. This type of trip allows for touring major cities and landmarks, but also builds in time for the students to give back to a local community. In this case, the group spent two days volunteering at a local elementary school, The Kuska School. Kuska is located in the town of Ollantaytambo, in the Sacred Valley. "Kuska" is the Quechua word for "together." That is exactly how West's students worked to achieve the following improvements for the school: they set posts, built and painted a new fence, cleared a space for the children to plan a pollinator garden that, sanded posts of eucalyptus wood on the new pergola, dug and marked the new lines on the soccer field, and hung a new sign for the school.

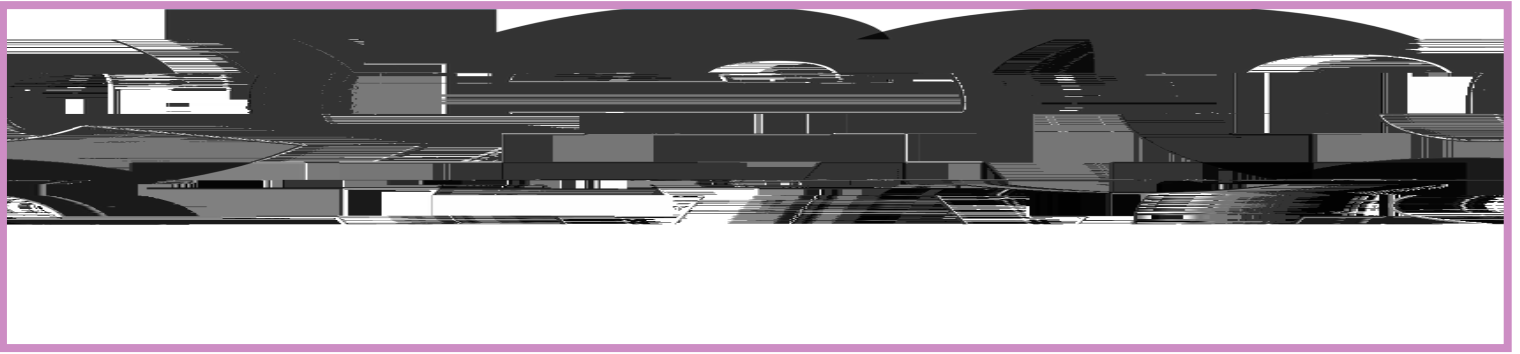
In addition to their service project, the students also went sightseeing in the capital city of Lima before flying to Cusco. On their way to the Sacred Valley, they stopped to learn about and create their own Peruvian pottery at the Pablo Seminario ceramics workshop in Urubamba. The group met the artist himself, who shared where he gets inspiration to create his famous works of art. From there, the students and teachers traveled to Ollantaytambo, which was not only the location for their service project, but also the site of Incan ruins by the same name. The group was able to tour the archaeological site with their guide.

Of course, no trip to Peru would be complete without a visit to the breathtaking wonder that is Machu Picchu! The group took a train to Aguas Calientes. From there, they traveled by bus to spend an afternoon touring and learning the history of the most famous ruins of the Incan civilization. On the return trip to Cusco, the group paid a visit to the Sacsayhuaman Fortress, yet another archeological wonder built by the Incas.









In these [Back to School Greetings](#), Commissioner Betty A. Rosa, Executive Deputy Commissioner Sharon Cates-Williams, Senior Deputy Commissioner Jeff Matas, Deputy Commissioner Angelique Johnson-Dingle, Deputy Commissioner Jason Harmon, and other NYSED leaders share the exciting work being done by NYSED this year and welcome everyone back to school!

Looking for something to read? Have you checked [NOVELny](#)? Magazines, newspapers, research and reference sources, and more are available to New York State residents at no cost, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

NYSED staff members are presenting a proposed regulatory amendment relating to regionalization plans. View the presentation [here](#). Additional information is available in the [Board of Regents item](#).

The New York State Museum is heading [#BacktoSchool!](#) For over 100 years, students have explored the wonders of the museum—from the “Great State Map”



The mission of the New York State Education Department's Office of Bilingual Education and World Languages is to ensure that all New York State English Language Learners (ELLs) attain the highest level of academic success and that all Multilingual Learners (MLs) – which include ELLs, Former/Ever ELLs, World Languages students, and heritage speakers of World Languages – achieve the highest level of language proficiency in English and in one or more other languages.

