

A Note from the President of the Italian Language Foundation

Dear Supporters,

2020 has been a year of unprecedented worldwide crisis. Even in the midst of the life-threatening health and economic challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Italian Language Foundation (ILF) continues to thrive.

Since March 2020, the ILF student *Awards for Excellence* and increased student engagement that followed, from the launching of our exciting new website and social media engagement, resulted in 460 student members, an increase of over 400 students.

ILF teacher membership increased as well, and now there are 106 teacher members, an increase of 90 new teachers.

In July 2020, ILF launched its new student internship program, in which companies and organizations that produce or distribute Italian goods and/or services offer internships to students of high school and college-level Italian. While this program was limited by the pandemic, several organizations offered online work experience to ILF student members.

For teachers of high school Italian, including AP Italian, the ILF hosted three professional development webinars in collaboration with the College Board. Two college professors of Italian, and one high school teacher of Italian, presented topics of interest that can be incorporated into this year's high school Italian curriculum. These webinars were offered at no cost to teachers who are members of the ILF. Fifty teachers participated in each of the three free webinars.

ILF's new social media engagement appeals not only to students and teachers of Italian, but also, to all those who appreciate Italian language and culture. A robust social media following has developed over the past few months.

While the ILF progressed in many ways, the pandemic has limited our ability to fully engage with Italian businesses and corporations that would have been willing to offer an in-person student internship. Our efforts to offer professional development opportunities to teachers of Italian at no cost have been limited, as

well. ILF was scheduled to offer a Summer Institute in Advanced Placement Italian at a major American university campus during the summertime. We hope to restart this effort in order to host a Summer Institute in the summer of 2021.

We look forward to the future with hope and great expectations! We are judiciously engaging with corporations, donors and philanthropic entities in our effort to reach our goal of matching our \$125,000 grant. We are confident, we can still launch our Corporate Internship Program for students of Italian. In addition, we can begin to appeal to teachers of Spanish, to become certified to teach Italian, as well as Spanish. With the hiring of a Program Manager, our progress in reaching these goals will be more rapid and effective. In addition, with adequate funding, the Italian Language Foundation could offer *every eligible applicant who earns a score of 3, 4, or 5 on the AP Italian exam, an Award for Excellence* (cash reward).

The mission of the Italian Language Foundation is as compelling today as it was in 2008, when our organization was first established. We promote and support Italian language education and provide students and teachers with the resources they need to be successful.

With your continued support, we will reach this worthy goal.

Thank you all very much!

Vi ringraziamo molto!

With sincere appreciation,



Margaret I. Cuomo, MD
President