



Annual Report

2021

Presented to ILF Board of Directors

vision

In 2021, the ILF Board set the following important goals:

- Goal 1.** Increase educational resources to student and teacher members
- Goal 2.** Engage with U.S. Italian corporations to become ILF Supporters and offer student internships.
- Goal 3.** Increase awareness of ILF's work nationwide.

mission

Promote and sustain Italian language education across the U.S.

Student Achievements

Commitment 2 Excellence (C2E)

Goal 1. Increase educational resources to student members.

In response to **Goal 1**, ILF launched the **Commitment 2 Excellence (C2E) Program** which aims to provide support to ILF's high school and college level Student Members to develop their future career skills. Through C2E, students received Awards for Excellence, Leadership Development, Mentorship and Internships.

Student Engagement - Webinars

In April 2021, the ILF presented two AP Italian Preparatory Exam presentations for ILF Student Members. ILF worked closely with high school teacher, Cristina Modica who developed the presentation. The webinar was promoted on ILF's social media and presented on the ILF website. See presentations: <https://www.italianlanguagefoundation.org/ap-italian-language-culture-exam-preparatory-webinar/>

1 In October, 2021, the ILF sponsored a series of ten (10) webinars presented by the Italian Consulate General of Italy San Francisco and Fondazione Italia in collaboration with the American Association of Teachers of Italian (AATI) entitled: **Study+Italian+Work**. The series was focused on helping Italian language students navigate their high school and college experiences and provide ideas for career paths where their Italian language skills would be most beneficial.

Awards for Excellence

In 2021, 75 ILF Student Members received the ILF Awards for Excellence (selected student scores: 5 score of 3, 28 score of 4, 42 score of 5). There was an increase in the number of students earning a score of 4 or 5 with 5 being the highest score. The Awards are the first step in providing support resources to ILF Student Members, who are then invited to enroll in the C2E Program. For the first-time ever, the ILF conducted a virtual Awards ceremony and sent Award for Excellence Certificates to the Awardees. See Awards Ceremony: <https://www.italianlanguagefoundation.org/awards-for-excellence/>

Leadership Development

In partnership with the Hispanic Association of Colleges & Universities (HACU), ILF sponsored three Latino college level ILF Student Members from Mercy College, Dobbs Ferry, NY to attend HACU's Adelante Leadership Institute in October 2021. Students participated in a three-day virtual career leadership & development networking symposium designed to build the career and leadership skills of undergraduate students. https://www.hacu.net/hacu/Conference_Student_Scholarship1.asp

Mentorship & Internships

Mentorship: The C2E program offered one-to-one Mentoring to ILF student members focused on college preparation tools. Hosted by (<https://www.collegemoneychica.com/>), Yaritza Gonzalez, a professional college admissions consultant, three ILF Student Members receive one-to-one mentoring sessions. The mentoring sessions focused working closely with students to create and submit college essays and college scholarships under her guidance. Thanks to this type of support, one student made a decision to submit his college application to Columbia University with support from Yaritza.

Internship: One ILF student member just completed a 6-month internship at Ferrero. The student, who was initially mentored by ILF is now submitting for three full-time job positions with a recommendation from the Ferrero, VP of Institutional Relations where he interned.

New ILF Team Member

5 In 4th Quarter 2021, ILF on-boarded a young talented college graduate Intern. Clara Vedovelli graduated from Ca' Foscari University of Venice with a Masters in Language Education. She is an Italian language tutor and brings experience in marketing, promoting and engaging with student audiences. In 2022, Clara will become a paid freelancer supporting all student program activities with supervision from ILF's Strategic Consultant and under the leadership of Dr. Cuomo.

Professional Development: Teacher Resources

Goal 1. Increase educational resources to teacher members.

Teacher Recognition Awards

1 In 2020, ILF launched the **Teacher Recognition Awards** to recognize teaching excellence in three areas: best pedagogy practices, technology integration and promotion of Italian program within their educational community. In 2021, four ILF Teacher Members received **Teacher Recognition Awards**. Lifetime Achievement was awarded to Professor Maria Enrico & High School Teacher Mario Costa; Professor Ryan Calabretta-Sajder and High School Teacher Cristina Modica were awarded for Innovation in Teaching. See web page announcement with Bios: <https://www.italianlanguagefoundation.org/2021-teacher-recognition-awards/>

Professional Development Webinars

2 In 2021, professional development webinars to ILF Teacher Members include: **Art in the Pre-AP & AP Classroom conducted by Professor Antonietta DiPietro**. Fifteen (15) ILF Teacher Members attended and for the first time ever, ILF sent Certificates of Completion to all Attendees. Teachers appreciated the webinar and receiving the certificates as it helps them to showcase their continuing professional development.

Goal 3. Increase awareness of ILF's work nationwide.

Increase Awareness among Spanish Teachers

3 According to College Board statistics, over 30 percent of students of Italian are Latino high school students and according to recent Census data this number will continue to increase. Inspired by this data, ILF fostered a relationship with the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) (www.hacu.net).

Dr. Cuomo and Magaly Rivera attended HACU's 2021 virtual Annual Conference (https://www.hacu.net/hacu/Annual_Conference1.asp) in October 2021, to engage with Teachers of Spanish to encourage them to support Italian language learning in high schools and colleges. The Conference also provided networking opportunities within the community of Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) attendees at the HACU Conference.

4 The ILF is grateful to Board Member Tony Scaglione for donating and having his ad agency create the ILF Corporate Brochure, an essential Promotional Collateral for engaging with corporations, foundations and potential donors. See Corporate Brochure: <https://online.fliphtml5.com/idcim/gxgh/#p=1>

Fostering Connections Corporations and Foundations

Goal 2. Engage with U.S. Italian corporations to become ILF Supporters and offer student internships.

Corporate Alliance Supporters

Corporate Internship Program

1 ILF developed a Corporate Alliance Membership (CAM) strategy to engage with US-based Italian companies working closely with them to offer internships exclusively to college-level ILF student members. **Ferrero is one of the first companies to offer an ILF college-level Student Member a full-time paid internship.** ILF continues to expand its list of companies willing to offer internships to excellent college-level students of Italian. ILF is proud of this important work. Financial support from successful US-based companies is a key goal. See CAM Page: <https://www.italianlanguagefoundation.org/about/cam-partners/>

Francesco & Mary Giambelli Foundation

2 ILF is grateful to have received another round of funding from the Francesco & Mary Giambelli to be issued over a 2-year period - 2022 & 2023. ILF also received a donations from the Henry Luce Foundation and we are grateful to Board Member Claire Gaudiani her efforts in securing this donation.

Annual Fundraiser

3 As many already know, COVID changed the fundraising landscape for non-profits who had been accustomed to event fundraising as a major source of funding. Most non-profit organizations have had to move to on-line fundraising events. ILF successfully executed its first virtual fundraiser. In light of the impact COVID has had on small businesses nationwide, the Fundraiser was focused on honoring and recognizing the achievements of Italian American Inter-generational Businesses. ILF is proud to have recognized these businesses and have among the honorees two (2) ILF Board members' family businesses. See Annual Fundraiser Record event here: https://www.italianlanguagefoundation.org/annual-fundraiser/?doing_wp_cron=1642536531.5637600421905517578125.

Fostering Connections Corporations, Partners & via Social Media

Goal 3. Increase awareness of ILF's work nationwide.

Partnerships

1 ILF continues to foster and connect with prestigious organizations nationally who support its mission. The following is a list of our **current collaborators**:

- The College Board
- Hispanic Association of Colleges & Universities (HACU)
- American Association of Teachers of Italian (AATI)
- Rutgers Collaborators: Georgetown University, Mercy College, Rutgers Universities, University of Arkansas-Walton School of Business
- Fondazione Italia of Los Angeles

Contributory Writers

2 In its efforts to increase its web and social media content, ILF has recruited reputable authors to develop blog content to continue to increase awareness of the Italian language and its culture. Margo Sorenson and Joanne Fisher are two current published authors who generously contribute blog posts focused on Italian experiences in the area of travel, fashion, language learning and culture. ILF continues to encourage its teachers and student members to submit their blogs sharing projects, personal stories and Italian language experiences.

Social Media

3 Working closely with ILF's creative agency ILF continues to present content to its social media audiences in an effort maintain awareness. Instagram has had the strongest engagement and most followers.

Thank You

Moving Forward...

With continued financial support, the ILF would be able to increase:

1. Its Awards for Excellence for students of Italian nationally up to \$50,000.
2. The Commitment 2 Excellence Student Program components to include Leadership Conferences & Career Development, Mentorship and Internships.
3. Professional development resources for ILF Teacher Members nationally.