

You are invited to attend a

## Virtual Alumni Conference on Sustainability!



Hear from the experts! Join TCLP staff and alumni school leaders for a two-session virtual conference on building sustainable Chinese and Arabic language programs. Learn from current and alumni TCLP schools who have guided their language programs through TCLP and beyond through working with their communities, securing funds, and other creative ideas. Each session will have a Q&A for specific questions on program sustainability.

**Thursday, December 10:**

**Featuring: Claudine Clark and Karen Wirkkala**

**Join us at:** <http://www.wiziq.com/online-class/3249721-us-alumni-virtual-conference>

**Friday, December 11:**

**Featuring: Leah Christman and Jim Holifield**

**Join us at:** <http://www.wiziq.com/online-class/3249726-us-alumni-virtual-conference-part-ii>

### **Claudine Clark**



**World Languages Department Chair  
Madison East High School**

Claudine Clark is originally from Neenah, Wisconsin. She received her bachelor's degree in secondary education and French and English as a second language from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and earned a D.A.L.F. (Diplôme Approfondi de Langue Française) from the French Ministry of Education. She has been a French teacher at Madison East High School since 2001 and the World Languages Department Chair since 2011. She was a TCLP mentor teacher for two Egyptian exchange teachers from 2009 to 2011 and is currently a mentor to a Chinese exchange teacher for the 2015-2016 school year.

### **Karen Wirkkala**



**Principal, Naselle-Grays  
River Valley Schools**

Karen Wirkkala grew up in Japan and the United States. She graduated from Gonzaga University with a degree in speech pathology/education. Karen received her MA in curriculum and instruction and administrative credentials from City University. Karen has been a principal in the K-12 School in the Naselle-Grays River Valley School District since July 2003. She taught there for 21 years, including kindergarten through 5th grade, then as athletic director and Title I coordinator. Naselle currently hosts a Chinese teacher through TCLP that is financially supported by the school district for the 2016-17 academic year.

### **Leah Christman**



**Superintendent  
Southern Lehigh School District**

Dr. Leah Christman has hosted 2 TCLP teachers in her home and is very invested in developing Arabic in her district. She became superintendent in December 2011. Before that she was Assistant Superintendent in the same district for September 2008 to November 2011 and Director of Technology from February 2007 to September 2008. She has also been a teacher for 26 years in Northwestern Lehigh SD, Catasauqua SD, and Berks Career and Technical Center from January 1978 to January 2004. She earned her Ed.D. in Education Leadership from Drexel University in 2014. Her school district participated in TCLP 2011-12 and 2012-13.

### **Jim Holifield**



**Business Manager  
South Central Community Schools**

Jim Holifield served as a teacher and administrator at New Prairie United School Corporation in New Carlisle, Indiana for nearly 25 years. During his 12-year tenure as principal at New Prairie Middle School, he started a successful K-12 Mandarin program, which (as of 2015) has hosted 5 guest teachers, conducted a student exchange program with sister schools in China, and was named an official Confucius Classroom by the Chinese government. Jim received his teaching degree and M.S.-Ed from Indiana University and his M.B.A. from Purdue University. His school district participated in TCLP 2011-2012 and 2012-2013.

**December 10 and 11, 2015 at 4:00pm Eastern Standard Time (EST)**

Each day, the event will last for one hour and will include speaker presentations and group discussion. Sessions will be recorded for those unable to attend in person.