



Laura Sanchez
President's Message, Winter 2010

I began my term as President of the AATSP by thanking you all for your vote of confidence and the opportunity to serve you. As my term comes to an end, I would like to thank you all again, this time for your resilience and patience in these difficult times when Foreign Language programs are being cut and teachers face an uncertain future. Fortunately, it is in our nature to be resilient, as we witnessed in the 33 Chilean miners trapped at 2300 feet under the earth, for over three months, in the dark, not knowing their future, or if they would come out alive from their entrapment. One saving grace for the miners was that they put into practice the saying: "En la unión está la fuerza." That is what I would like us to do.

We, members of the AATSP need to work closer together and voice our concerns to Congress, Districts and Colleges and Universities at large. If we do not act right now, in the long run we could all be affected. We need to work as one united front to convince those who make decisions to re-think before cutting Foreign Languages Programs. We need to work together to find solutions to this crisis before it becomes more pronounced, dramatic and difficult to handle.

We all know that for every conflict there are two sides of the story. We have already heard the other side: lack of funds, bad teachers, etc. Now is time for our story to be heard: We, the teachers of Foreign Languages promote harmony and peace by knowing, understanding, appreciating and teaching other languages and cultures. We all want to live in a peaceful world. Therefore, it is vital to keep Foreign Languages programs alive and well to help our citizens become citizens of the world by becoming fluent in two or three languages. Why not allow them to become Polyglots?

I wish you all a Merry Christmas, and a Blessed and healthy New Year, and invite you to our 2011 annual conference in Washington D.C. where a great program awaits us. Dios mediante nos veremos allí.