



Message from the Director

December 2014

Bonjour,

Effective December 31, I'll be stepping down from the Executive Director role at the Alliance Française. It's been a wonderful experience to lead this group for 8 years, and now it's time for me to seek some new directions, which will include rest, travel and volunteerism.

As we head into 2015, the Alliance Française de Portland is in a very good place with strong reserves, record-setting enrollment, a highly experienced 8-person board, and an energetic leadership team.

Succession plans for changes in leadership are very important to nonprofits' ongoing success. The board members and I began the search for a new Director more than a year ago. I'm pleased to announce that the new director will be Rhonda Lynn, who has been in training for the new position, for the past 7 months. Rhonda is fluent in French and has many years of experience in operating private schools. She'll be working with the rest of the Alliance's growing staff of nearly 20 employees, and board, to carry on and improve upon, the tradition of excellence at our nation's 8th largest Alliance Française.

For my part, I will be honored to continue as an active volunteer and advocate for the Alliance Française and its language education mission, and hope to rejoin the Alliance's volunteer board (which was where I began in 2006). I will also be continuing my work with the French American Chamber of Commerce of the Pacific Northwest. (And for those of you who enjoy the Alliance's *Quoi de Neuf* e-bulletin, I will continue to serve as its volunteer Editor.)

In closing, I hope you will join me and the board in anticipating an exciting new chapter for the Alliance Française of Portland – a future that will continue to help enrich our community through the magic of *"la langue de Molière."*

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