**AAL Network Friends on Minority Recruitment**

"I tell everyone that they need to know another language or two. We live in a diverse world and it is to our advantage to learn to communicate with as many people as possible and to understand various cultures." **Deborah Crimes, MD**

"In my Spanish classes, there are only 3 or 4 African-American students out of 16. I can only hope that a change will occur so that other nationalities will find an interest in language learning." **Andranique Ellis, AR**

"Throughout my college career, I have been the only Black American in all of my classes. I would like to see more people of all races learning a world language as well as a different culture. I believe this will better promote cross cultural understanding." **Aurelia McNeil, MI**

"I am passionate about promoting world languages in the African-American community. As a product of a low-income housing project, I have experienced firsthand the effects of the lack of motivation and exposure to the world and its many cultures. It is our duty to go into African-American communities and teach our people about the world in which we live. I am definitely an educator that will take this role seriously." **Tamara Hughes, NC**

"Since I have returned to California [after living in Spain for one year & working/volunteering in Bermuda & the Dominican Republic], I realize that I am a commodity. It is not expected for an African-American to speak Spanish. All of the black Spanish-speakers that I know, except Tamari the founder, have Latino backgrounds. I would love for it to be a norm for African-Americans to be bilingual through an acquired language." **Brenee McDole, CA**

"I am Caucasian, and the field is dominated by Caucasians, and I fervently believe that this must be changed. I am committed to helping to implement the change." **Dr. Lee Wilberschied, OH**

"Being an African-American woman who is also Native-American and Caucasian, I am so excited that there is an organization that is addressing the specific needs of African-Americans." **Faith Chiwawana, OH**

"I believe that when you have a passion for something and you share that information with others, it ignites a desire that they were unaware existed within them." **Lisa Frank, NJ**

[As an African-American in world languages] I feel that I am a breath of fresh air and one who will stand out because I am not what's traditional. **Brandon Street, D.C.**

African-Americans in world languages have an opportunity to stand out and perhaps be trailblazers who break down myths and stereotypes. **Tarra Selfullah**

I love empowering students who look like me! I believe that my presence as an African-American teacher of language sends a powerful message, both to the student population and to the professional community. **Erin Jones, WA**

As an African-American in world languages, I feel priviledged and set apart. I have accepted and met a challenge in an area where we are still a minority but where we excel because of the background that we have in languages due to our African heritage. **Sarah C. Hicks, NC**

I am a pioneer. I use Kiswahili to attack the idea that we have no identity beyond these shores. **Pete Mhunzi, CA**