



Vol. VI, No. 10

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Our Mission is to Advance the Teaching of World Languages and Cultures in Minnesota

Congratulations to our 2015 Conference Award Recipients!

MCTLC Conference Award Descriptions & Awardees

Start thinking now about nominating someone you know for an award.

We are now accepting nominations for our 2016 Fall Conference!

(Criteria and submission information found at:

www.mctlc.org/Awards)

Thank you to **all students** who received the **Future Language Educator Award**: Awardees are college or university foreign language methodology and pre-service teachers who attend the MCTLC Fall Conference in October at a reduced rate. In return, they agree to volunteer and participate in the conference.

Outstanding Student Teacher Award: Claire Williams

In recognition of outstanding service and extraordinary potential in providing excellent instruction in the world language classroom by a student teacher of a world language in Minnesota.

Student Service Award: In recognition of a significant contribution to others by voluntarily using ESL or second-language skills in Minnesota.

First-Time Attendee Scholarship: MCTLC is pleased to offer five (5) first-time attendee fall conference scholarships to world language teachers.

Early Career Award: In recognition of outstanding promise in providing excellence in instruction in the world-language classroom by a first-year language teacher in Minnesota.

Minnesota Teacher of the Year Award: Grant Boulanger

This award represents the first step for the Teacher of the Year Award at the national level as awarded by ACTFL (American Council of Teachers of Languages and Cultures).

The Minnesota winner will be nominated to the Central States Teacher of the Year selection process. Portfolio requirements at the regional level online at www.actfl.org.

Emma Birkmaier Award for Outstanding Language Educator: Betty Lotterman

In recognition of outstanding service and support for world languages and cultures by someone within the language-teaching profession in Minnesota.

Pro Lingua Award: Representative Kim Norton

In recognition of outstanding service to and support of education in world languages and cultures by a person or Minnesota organization/business that is **not** a world-language educator.

Percy Fearing Award for Language Curriculum

Development: In recognition of excellence in the creative development of instructional materials for teaching world languages and cultures by a classroom teacher in Minnesota.

Professional Service Award: Sue Nordquist

In recognition of service to students and the profession through provision of a quality language program by language educator retired from a school in Minnesota.

Certificate of Recognition: In recognition of a significant contribution to students and/or the profession by a language educator in Minnesota.

Department of Excellence: Departments of Excellence have 100% membership participation in MCTLC. While membership alone does not assure commitment, affiliation can be the first step to a rich, professional experience. This program is open to schools at all levels (Pre-K through post secondary).

STAR Award: Jen Duronio

The four STAR areas, Study, Travel, Achievement and Recognition, of professionalism represent continued professional development in learning outside the classroom, striving to excel, and showing leadership in professional organizations.

ISE Language Matters Award: Intercultural Student Experiences (ISE) is pleased to make available to MCTLC a special recognition award for its membership. The *ISE Language Matters Award* is to be granted to a high school teacher through a nomination and selection process determined by MCTLC. No prior association or experience with ISE is required of the nominee. The ISE Language Matters Award shall consist of a framed award certificate and a \$250 grant.

LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT:



Dear fellow world language educators,

"Communities" is the 5th C in the ACTFL standards. As I begin the school year, I consider how I have worked to develop the classroom community my students will spend the rest of the year in. Although

bulletin boards and decorations are important, providing students with support while they are learning another language far outweighs the physical appearance of the classroom space. Do learners feel welcome and willing to take risks in our classrooms? Are there high expectations that leave room for the obligatory errors they must make in order to climb the ladder of proficiency? Is the target language the official language for communication in their community? These are the questions I ask myself about the community I create for my students.

But there is another community of which I am an important part. It is the community of world language teachers with whom I work and collaborate, my colleagues and friends from MCTLC. Being part of a community of teachers who are passionate about world languages and cultures has sustained me during difficult times, inspired me when I lacked inspiration and challenged me to take risks and try new strategies in the classroom in order to become the best teacher I can be. Just as students need a positive and supportive classroom community in which to learn, teachers require support from their administrators and colleagues in order to be successful.

I encourage you to continue to be part of the community of world language teachers that exists beyond your school walls, to build bridges and expand your connections with teachers around the state, and to support new teachers in the profession. One of the purposes of MCTLC and our Fall Conference is to help build a community of teachers who are supported, welcomed and prepared to be the best they can be. Just as our students need these things to be successful, so do we.

~ Kay Edberg

Question of the Month

What ideas did you take away from the MCTLC Fall Conference to use on Monday? Share your ideas today in a virtual conversation at the MCTLC Teacher's Café on Facebook!

Professional Development Corner

**MCTLC is working to bring local world language education opportunities to a location near you, check out your possibilities below!



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MCTLC Winter Workshops in Greater Minnesota

- Central States Extension Workshops - Preparing Our Students for Success: Designing and Implementing Standards-based Thematic Instruction
 - Duluth Area presented by Martin Pflug on **Tuesday, February 9, 2016** from 4:15pm - 7:15pm.
 - Rochester Area presented by Lisa Perez on **Saturday, February 20, 2016**.
- Professional Development Specific to Language Teaching
 - Willmar Area presented by Jen Duronio in **February 2016**.

Check out more information at: www.mctlc.org



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More Future Events for Language Educators

- **November 14, 2015: MN AATF - Cercle de lecture Limonov, Emmanuel Carrère, 10 AM**, at 170 Rice Hall, Macalester College, FYI: See **building #39** on the Macalester College Map at: <http://www.macalester.edu/about/maps/campusmap-large.html> For information email Laurent Déchery at dechery@gustavus.edu ou Françoise Denis at denis@macalester.edu
- **November 14, 2015: MN AATF - Board Meeting at Macalester College, Neill Hall 4th Fl. Faculty Lounge**, FYI: See **building #20 (formerly Humanities Building)** on the Macalester College Map (see the link above in the previous AATF event description).



American Academy of Arts and Sciences Announces Commission on Languages

The American Academy of Arts and Sciences (AAAS) has officially announced the much anticipated Commission on Language Learning. The Commission, which was requested by bipartisan groups from the House and Senate last November, will report back to Congress in the summer of 2016 with a report on the current state of language education in the U.S., what language competency needs in the U.S. will be in the future, and recommendations on how best to meet those needs. The Commission will compile research from leading scholarly and professional organizations to examine the benefits of language learning for all age groups, including pre-school and k-20 education as well as lifelong learning. The Commission will initiate a nationwide discussion on language learning and international education in the United States. AAAS President Jonathan Fanton has noted that language learning "...should be among our highest educational priorities in the 21st century," and that "by reviewing existing practices and proposing new ideas, the Academy's Commission will advance the conversation about language education, focusing on a body of knowledge and a set of skills that will become more critical as communication between and among cultures increases."

Serving as Chair of the Commission will be Paul LeClerc, former Past-President and CEO of the New York Public Library. Dr. LeClerc holds a doctoral degree in French Literature from Columbia University, and currently serves as the Director of Columbia University's Paris Global Center. Among other notable Commissioners that have been identified by AAAS include: Martha Abbott, Executive Director, American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages; Dan Davidson, President, American Councils for International Education; Nicholas Dirks, Chancellor, University of California, Berkeley; Karl Eikenberry, former U.S. Ambassador to Afghanistan and Director of the U.S.-Asia Security Initiative, Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Research Center, Stanford University; Rosemary Feal, Executive Director, Modern Language Association; Carol Gluck, George Sansom Professor of History, Columbia University; Philip Rubin, Senior Advisor to the President and former Principal Assistant Director for Science, White House Office of Science and Technology Policy; Diane Wood, Chief Judge, U.S.

Court of Appeals, Seventh Circuit; and Pauline Yu, President, American Council of Learned Societies.

"The 106 member organizations of the Joint National Committee for Languages commend the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the members of the Commission on Language Learning, which will examine why languages matter to America in the 21st century," said Bill Rivers, Executive Director of JNCL-NCLIS. "This is an exciting opportunity for the Language Enterprise, as we make our vital role in the public and business sectors more visible." ~ Mary Thron

Immersion programs are blooming in Southeastern Minnesota

As language educators we understand the benefits of early language learning and how important this is for students' development.

"Such language proficiency is critical for business, trade, diplomacy, and can help to promote mutual understanding and respect. For students, learning more than one language can enrich their academic and life experiences and open doors to opportunities." (CAL)

Currently there are two immersion programs flourishing in Southeastern Minnesota, one in Winona at Madison Elementary School and another in Gage Elementary in Rochester. While Winona Public Schools started their immersion program in one Kindergarten classroom at Madison Elementary School in the Fall of 2013, each year since then they have expanded their program one grade level at a time offering students in the first pilot class to continue their rigorous studies in Spanish while in their regular classroom. Now consisting of three immersion classrooms; one kindergarten, one first grade, and one second grade; students learn the curriculum daily in Spanish.

Meanwhile, a year ago at Gage Elementary the Rochester Public Schools began their immersion pilot with two kindergarten classrooms. Now there are currently four immersion teachers; two kindergarten and two first grade. This program which started out as a pilot is truly proving to be successful and their current teachers are looking forward to adding on two more classrooms in third grade in the Fall of 2016.

History shows us world language education is often the first to be cut when school districts are stricken by budget cuts due to the insufficient funding of public schools. It is refreshing to see this enthusiasm for world language education in greater Minnesota. I hope this is the beginning of a strong future in educating students to become responsible global citizens at an early age. Start promoting early language learning in your school district today. ~ Lisa Perez

Center for Applied Linguistics (CAL). *Areas of impact: World Languages* (2015). Retrieved from <http://www.cal.org/areas-of-impact/world-languages>

MCTLC Newsletter Editor

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Central States 2016 : Fostering Connections Empowering Communities Celebrating the World

March 10 - 12, 2016 - Columbus, Ohio at the Hilton Downtown

Find more details and register online at: <http://www.csctfl.org/conferences/2016conference.html>



Join the discussion! www.facebook.com/groups/MCTLCTeachersCafe/

For ads, comments, and corrections to the newsletter, contact Lisa Perez at editor@mctlc.org.