

PSMLA Teacher of the Year

Purpose of the Program:

ACTFL states: "The ACTFL National Language Teacher of the Year program is intended to elevate the status and the public profile of the language profession at the state, regional and national levels by creating opportunities to recognize accomplished members of the language profession. First, and foremost, this process is designed to involve all of the state, regional, and national organizations in promoting the language teaching profession. Second, it is intended to create as many media opportunities as possible to increase the visibility and importance of language learning with the media, policymakers, and the general public. The award also recognizes best practices and excellence in the teaching and learning of languages." The Pennsylvania State Modern Language Association supports this national program by recognizing an outstanding world language educator to represent Pennsylvania at the Northeast Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Language.

Criteria for Applying:

Candidates must be full-time world language Pre-K-12 teachers or postsecondary instructors or professors who spend at least 50% of their time in direct teaching during the year of application with an expectation of teaching for at least two additional years. Candidates must be in the profession a minimum of five years and demonstrate excellence in world language education; be an active member of PSMLA for a minimum of 3 complete consecutive years (for example January 1, 2013 – December 31, 2015); demonstrate leadership in world language education; impact the local, state, and/or national arenas; and demonstrate continued growth as a world language educator.

What is excellence in world language education?

Knowledge of the subject matter:

- Has a high degree of proficiency in the target language
- Understands the culture of the target language countries
- Involves students in meaningful learning activities
- Uses methods which foster language acquisition

Awareness of students' learning:

- Develops student proficiencies
- Creates a caring and challenging learning environment
- Fosters critical thinking sets goals for student learning
- Differentiates instruction

Student rapport:

- Values each student
- Encourages open communication
- Promotes fairness

Intellectual growth of students:

- Helps students understand how their learning can be applied
- Helps students develop a different point of view

Professional growth and contributions:

- Continues development and growth in subject area and teaching strategies
- Collaborates in curriculum development and assessment
- Shares knowledge and experience through professional writings or presentations
- Demonstrates leadership in professional organizations
- Demonstrates leadership in the community

Process of Application:

A candidate may be nominated by a colleague or may be self-nominated.

Each candidate must submit these items to the Awards Committee of PSMLA for review:

1. One-page letter of recommendation from a supervisor
2. One-page letter of recommendation from a current student
3. One-page letter of recommendation from a current or former parent or student
4. Curriculum Vitae of no more than five (5) pages
5. Five-hundred-word personal statement on the value of learning languages and developing cultural competence for all learners
6. Nomination form below submitted by a member of PSMLA (if self-nominating, complete the form yourself)
7. Completed Commitment form (available on the ACTFL website) which is a statement of willingness to participate in all required activities associated with the award including:
 - a. A commitment to attend the NECTFL Annual Convention (one night at hotel and registration are paid by NECTFL and transportation is reimbursed by PSMLA not to exceed \$400)
 - b. If selected as the regional winner, a commitment to attend the ACTFL Annual Convention
 - c. A willingness to serve as a spokesperson for the profession, based on availability.

Each candidate will be reviewed using the attached rubric.

All materials must be submitted as a PDF in one document not to exceed 12 pages by March 31. Candidates failing to meet the deadlines or requirements will be disqualified. Those reaching the second round of the application process will be interviewed virtually by the Awards Committee in May. A link will be sent with information to join the meeting. The winner will be notified by May 30 and is encouraged to attend the awards ceremony during the fall PSMLA conference where the Pennsylvania Language Teacher of the Year will be honored. In addition, the winner will receive a packet containing portfolio requirements and timelines for phase II of the National Language Teacher of the Year competition. The recipient must submit all required materials according to the NECTFL guidelines. Information is at www.nectfl.org.

PSMLA Teacher of the Year Award NOMINATION FORM

If self-nominating, you must contact a member of PSMLA to support your nomination.

I am nominating:

My Name _____

E-mail _____

Home Address _____

Home Phone _____ School Phone _____

School Name _____

School Address _____

(Nominated Educator Information)

Name _____

E-mail _____

Home Address _____

Home Phone _____ School Phone _____

School Name _____

School Address _____

Pennsylvania World Language Teacher of the Year

Scoring rubric for candidate # _____

Requirements

- Y N** Evidence exists that the instructor is a PSMLA member for a minimum of 3 complete consecutive years. (for example January 1, 2013 – December 31, 2015)
- Y N** Evidence exists that the instructor has been in the profession a minimum of 5 years.
- Y N** A nominating cover letter has been submitted.
- Y N** A curriculum vitae is included (not to exceed 5 pages).
- Y N** A one-page of recommendation from a supervisor is included.
- Y N** A one-page letter of recommendation from a current student is included.
- Y N** A one-page letter of recommendation from a current or former parent or student is included.
- Y N** A 500 word personal statement on the value of learning languages and developing cultural competence for all learners is included.
- Y N** A completed Commitment form from the ACTFL website with the statement of willingness to participate in all required activities associated with the award is included.
- Y N** The material submitted does not exceed 12 pages.
- Y N** The nomination form is complete.

Scoring rubric for candidate # _____

Description	0	1	2	3	4	Score
Knowledge of subject matter	No evidence	1 example in curriculum vitae or support materials	2 examples in curriculum vitae or support materials	3 examples in curriculum vitae or support materials	More than 3 examples in curriculum vitae or support materials	
Awareness of students' learning	No evidence	1 example in curriculum vitae or support materials	2 examples in curriculum vitae or support materials	3 examples in curriculum vitae or support materials	More than 3 examples in curriculum vitae or support materials	
Student rapport	No evidence	1 example in curriculum vitae or support materials	2 examples in curriculum vitae or support materials	3 examples in curriculum vitae or support materials	More than 3 examples in curriculum vitae or support materials	
Intellectual growth of students	No evidence	1 example in curriculum vitae or support materials	2 examples in curriculum vitae or support materials	3 examples in curriculum vitae or support materials	More than 3 examples in curriculum vitae or support materials	
Professional growth and contributions	No evidence	1 example in curriculum vitae or support materials	2 examples in curriculum vitae or support materials	3 examples in curriculum vitae or support materials	More than 3 examples in curriculum vitae or support materials	