

2021 SWCOLT
REGIONAL TEACHER OF THE YEAR CANDIDATE



Diana Cristina Williams
2021 Teacher of the Year
HAWAI'I

Diana Cristina Williams is the recipient of the 2020 Hawai'i Association of Language Teachers Excellence in Teaching Award. Diana Cristina has been teaching Spanish at Waipahu High School (WHS) since 2012. She was born and raised in México and she holds a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from the Instituto Tecnológico del Mar. She earned a Post-Baccalaureate in Secondary Education from the University of Hawaii at Manoa and she also holds a Master's degree in Spanish education from the University of Nebraska.

Diana is passionate about the power of reading in second language acquisition and her style of teaching is based on Comprehension Based Communicative Language Teaching. She has been implementing a wide range of comprehensible input strategies and activities continually striving to improve student learning. She has taught Spanish 1, 2, 2H, 3, Spanish AP and Independent studies. Besides her responsibilities as a teacher, she has been a Spanish Club advisor and is currently the advisor for the Spanish Honor Society at WHS. Her biggest passion is teaching and engaging with students in the classroom. She is committed to making a difference in students' lives and enjoys helping students to become successful with the Spanish language. She also encourages students to develop an appreciation for Spanish culture that they will carry with them throughout their lives.

Diana Cristina has a deep sense of service and she is very active professionally in her community. Diana currently serves as the President of the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese (AATSP) Hawaii Chapter. She is also the Spanish language representative of the Hawai'i Association of Language Teachers (HALT). She has presented at conferences on numerous occasions locally and been part of planning committees for local events.

She considers herself a lifelong learner and she is eager to collaborate with other teachers. For the past two years, Diana Cristina has been involved in projects for the Hawaii State Department of Education (HIDOE). She is an active member of the leadership project group for the HIDOE supporting World Language Teachers to implement communicative language and proficiency-based teaching approaches and strategies. She designed a leadership project using a Sustained Silent Reading (SSR) program with different levels of accountability. More recently she co-created and co-facilitated a professional development credit course on communicative language teaching for other HIDOE language teachers and she is currently working in collaboration with other teachers in the state to review and update the World Language standards.

As Diana Cristina continues her journey, she looks forward to continuing educating future generations fostering their appreciation for the Spanish culture while serving the teaching education community.