SWCOLT AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS
PRESENTED AT THE DISNEYLAND HOTEL
APRIL 4, 2020
Hola! My name is Monica Mancillas and I am a Spanish teacher at Del Norte High School in Albuquerque, New Mexico. This is my third year teaching secondary-education and seventh year teaching overall. I was fortunate enough to teach as an undergraduate student at Arizona State University where I obtained my B.A. in Spanish and B.A. in English, go Sundevils! I also taught for two years at the University of New Mexico as a teaching assistant where I obtained my Master’s in Spanish with a concentration in Southwest Studies. I choose to make New Mexico my home and like most language teachers, I try my best to teach far beyond word walls and verb conjugations. In these three short years I have taught Spanish 1, 2, 3 and the AP Language and Literature courses. I love experiencing new places and cultures and have a profound respect for learning and teaching, thank you SWCOLT for this amazing opportunity!

Monica Mancillas
Del Norte High School
Albuquerque, New Mexico
The scholarship is for Spanish language classes and intensive study of the arts and history of Mexico in an atmosphere of total immersion in the language and culture in colonial Cuernavaca, México.

https://www.cemanahuacspanishschool.com/

Hello! My name is Paige Ebbers and I live in Arvada, CO. I teach Spanish and world languages and cultures at Arvada K-8 school, Jeffco Public Schools. My favorite part of my job is forming relationships with my students as they are navigating their adolescent (awkward) years. I love being able to play a part in their formative years. I am passionate about adventures and people, and this opportunity in Mexico allows me to engage with both!

Paige Ebbers
Jeffco Public Schools
Arvada K-8 Middle School
Arvada, Colorado
“Learn Spanish with Mexican Passion”: This scholarship is chosen on a competitive basis to an instructor who is dedicated to further their own study and teaching of cultures in the context of language and to connect culture within their classroom to benefit their students. The recipient will study in Cuernavaca, Mexico.

www.spanishschool.uninter.edu.mx

Rebecca Webb, a Baltimore native, has been teaching at the secondary and community college levels for 15 years. As a military spouse, she has had the good fortune of teaching in 13 different states and even Europe. She had 32 graduate credit hours in Education and Counseling when she and her husband had triplets! Over the subsequent 21 years, Rebecca maintained certification in New Mexico, Florida, South Carolina, Virginia, Texas, Arizona, and now Colorado where she and her family live. Rebecca teaches at a middle school south of Denver and is the department chair at her school. She achieved a life-long goal last summer when she graduated with honors from the Pontifical University of Salamanca with an International Master's Degree of Teaching Spanish and Culture. Her next goal will be to travel to and study in Mexico this summer. She looks forward to comparing and contrasting culture, language, and perspectives from Mexico and Spain with her students upon her return. She is very grateful to SWCOLT for this award and opportunity.

Rebecca Webb
Sagewood Middle School
Parker, Colorado
Dr. Alegría Ribadeneira is director of the World Languages Program and Associate Professor of Spanish at Colorado State University- Pueblo, a Hispanic Serving Institution. She actively researches and presents on issues of instruction, assessment and program development at local, national and international conferences where she highlights the benefits of project-based and content-based learning for the development of HL and L2 language skills. She is involved in heritage language teaching advocacy through ACTFL and participates as lead instructor and faculty mentor at the NHLRC (National Heritage Language Resource Center) Summer Teacher Workshop. In 2017 Dr. Ribadeneira was awarded the Olga E. Kagan award for advancing heritage language education in institutions of learning. Because of her enthusiastic presenting style, Dr. Ribadeneira was selected to represent the Colorado Congress of Foreign Language Teachers as “Best of Colorado” at the 2019 SWCOLT.
Jillian Lykens has been at Pine Creek High School in Colorado Springs, CO since 2016, teaching German at all levels, from beginning to Advanced Placement. She also has experience teaching at the middle school and undergraduate levels in Kentucky as well as working with preschoolers at a Kindergarten in Germany.

Beyond the classroom, Jillian organizes an active German Club and National German Honors Society and serves as the World Language Department Assessment Leader at her school. A member of the Colorado/Wyoming AATG chapter, Jillian also serves as the Executive Treasurer of the Colorado Congress of Foreign Language Teachers and shares her ideas regularly with colleagues at the local, state, regional, and national levels.

Jillian has earned previous accolades, such as the Educator of the Year for her school in 2019 and the German Embassy Teacher of Excellence Award in 2018. She has also been awarded travel grants allowing her to participate in courses in Leipzig and Berlin on the topics of integrating STEM topics and the arts into German instruction.
SWCOLT Awards 2020

Excellence in Teaching
Elementary

Jason Fritze
Laguna Beach Unified School District
California

Jason Fritze is a National Board Certified Teacher in World Languages with a wealth of K-16 teaching experience, teaching Spanish and French using comprehension–based communicative methods (i.e. TPR, Natural Approach, TPRS and Content-based instruction) at all grade levels from kindergarten to adult.

Jason believes that when teachers understand principles of second language acquisition they create more effective and efficient programs that better support students to reach proficiency goals. He has presented workshops and trained language teachers in Turkey, China, the Czech Republic, Mexico and France as well as throughout the United States. He regularly presents at the National TPRS conference and was one of the founders of the International Forum on Language Teaching where he continues to present and teaches master classes. Currently he teaches elementary Spanish in the Laguna Beach Unified School District in California and collaborates with the California World Language Project and COACH Foreign Language Project and Cal State Long Beach to support WL teacher education.
Amy Anderton has been the Director of World Languages in the Dallas Independent School District for the last 5 years and currently holds the office of President of the North Texas Chapter of the American Association of Teachers of German. Amy has taught German, Spanish, ESL, Social Studies, Language Arts, International Folk Dance, and Exploratory Languages, and has been a Department Chair, Assistant Principal, Coordinator and Director during her 31 years in public education in Texas and Virginia. As co-founder and Director of Operations for the Happy World Foundation (HWF), she and Akash Patel are busy connecting students and schools across the country and around the world in an effort to fight bigotry and racism, facilitate intercultural exchange and promote global citizenship. Her volunteer work with HWF earned Amy a Presidential Volunteer Service Award in December 2019. Amy was also recognized in 2018 by the International Korean Educators Network for her support and expansion of Korean programs in Dallas, and recently Keynoted the International Korean Textbook Research Conference in 2019. Amy is the proud mother of two children: Mark, 25, fluent in German because of German Partial Immersion, and Alina, 17, due to currently being on a Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange in Germany, and has been married to Johnny for 12 years.
Paul Michael Chandler (PhD, Indiana University) is professor of Spanish Applied Linguistics at the University of Hawaii where he chairs the Department of Languages & Literatures of Europe & the Americas (2012-2020). In 2018 he received an honorary PhD from the University of Athens. He is recipient of the Excellence in Teaching Award from Hawaii Association of Language Teachers (HALT) and the President’s Meritorious Teaching Award from the University of Hawaii, as well as two Fulbright Scholarships (Argentina, Paraguay). He previously served as president of SWCOLT, on the board of directors for AATSP, and twice as president of the Hawaii Association of Language Teachers. Dr. Chandler has coauthored several language textbooks, book chapters and articles. He has given more than 150 presentations, lectures and workshops for language teachers. Currently he is developing vocabulary frequency-levels tests for learners of Spanish and Portuguese.
Jocelyn D. Raught, a National Board Certified Teacher, is the World Language Department Chairperson at Cactus Shadows High School in Cave Creek, Arizona, where she teaches various levels of Spanish, including Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate. As the only World Language teacher in the school when she started 33 years ago, Raught pursued connections with like-minded teachers to improve her own teaching and ensure success for her students. Raught has served ACTFL on various committees and as a regional representative on the Board of Directors. Additionally, she was President of the Southwest Conference on Language Teaching (SWCOLT) and President of the Arizona Language Association (AZLA). Currently, she represents her state organization as Executive Treasurer and as a delegate to the Joint National Committee for Languages-National Council on Languages and International Studies (JNCL-NCLIS). Raught was instrumental in the creation of the Arizona State World and Native Languages and Arizona State Seal of Biliteracy, which recognizes students for their proficiency rather than seat time. She is also a frequent presenter at local, state and regional conferences. However, one of her proudest moments was being recognized as AZLA's Teacher of the Year for the work she does with students focusing on acquisition and culture.
Krista Steiner
Oklahoma

The 2020 Oklahoma World Language Teacher of the Year, Krista Steiner is a Spanish Language educator at Clinton High School in Clinton Oklahoma. Profe Steiner currently teaches all levels of Spanish including students earning college credit through Clinton’s AP Spanish Program. Steiner is passionate about promoting language learning beyond the classroom and engaging the community as much as possible in the process. She designed and implemented a Family English class in the evenings for parents and Clinton community members to learn English as a Second Language. She has formed several exchange programs for her students to work with the various elementary schools on language acquisition lessons. Profe Steiner, having spent the first 20 years of her career in Cozumel, Q.Roo MEXICO working in the private sector as a business manager, brings a vast business and technology background to her classroom. These experiences allowed Ms. Steiner to work in conjunction with subject area specialists, other technical advisors, and Oklahoma policy makers to design and implement open source digital content for a multitude of subjects including World Languages. She was selected as a U.S. Department of State Youth Ambassador mentor for the Chile and Argentina exchange in 2019. Steiner served as the 2019 Oklahoma-AATSP President and has presented at numerous workshops and conferences across the U.S. as well as internationally.
The 2019 Hawaii Association of Language Teachers Teacher of the Year is Will Smith. After earning a Bachelor’s Degree in Music Education in Ohio, he made the next logical step and moved to Japan to teach English for 3 years. That amazing experience altered his life and before he knew it, he had became an instructor of Japanese language at Waipahu High School on the Island of Oahu. For the last 16 years there he has been striving to help students understand more about themselves by examining the differences between their lives and the lives of people in Japan. He works very hard to help students find their voices in real situations with Japanese people both here and in Japan. Smith Sensei is Department Head of the best WL department in the state of Hawaii (and maybe beyond) and enjoys taking students to Japan multiple times a year.
Ryan is honored to represent Utah at SWCOLT and is excited to be alive. He’s been teaching for just under a decade and can’t get enough of the classroom. Working with Utah’s Latinx demographic is his true passion in life, but when he’s not trying to close the achievement gap, he’s traveling through Latin America, snowboarding the fresh Utah powder, or spending time with family and friends.
Craig Thomas Garcia
New Mexico

Craig Thomas Garcia is a Spanish teacher at Cibola High School in Albuquerque, NM. He received his B.A. from the University of New Mexico and is currently pursuing his Master’s Degree in Educational Leadership at New Mexico Highlands University. He is in his sixth year of his teaching career, all of them spent at Cibola High School. Prior to beginning his educational career, Craig was a behavior management skills specialist for an intensive outpatient program at Streetwise, Inc. in Albuquerque. In addition to teaching, he is the sponsor of the Native American Club at school. His goal is to give Native students the opportunity to feel a sense of belonging, a way to network with others and to provide them a chance to stand out at Cibola High School. Along with the assistance of his members and other clubs, he is in charge of coordinating their annual pow wow event in the Spring and the Best Buddies Holiday Arts and Crafts Show in the Fall. An avid sports fan, Craig enjoys attending home and away games in support of student-athletes. After school, he is a door monitor and ticket taker for home events. Occasionally, he is the gym master and assists in making sure the gymnasium and/or soccer field is set up in preparation for game time. He currently resides in Rio Rancho, New Mexico. His hobby is collecting sneakers and basketball cards. Craig can be contacted at craig.garcia@aps.edu or you can reach him on Twitter at @pueblosole.
Amy Murray
Nevada

Amy Murray has been teaching Spanish at the elementary and high school levels for the past 34 years. Originally from a small town in Minnesota, she moved to Las Vegas in 2006 where she has been teaching at Spring Valley High School for the past 14 years. Amy is proud to have been a teacher-leader instrumental in her high school being named the only AVID Demonstration School while also boasting the largest International Baccalaureate Program in the state of Nevada. Amy has been honored for her dedication and creativity in the teaching profession numerous times in her career including the Ashland Oil Excellence in Teaching Award, a Fulbright Teacher Exchange to Madrid, the prestigious Heart of Education Award, and most recently as the Professional Language Association of Nevada's Teacher of the Year. Despite a very rewarding and successful career, Amy is most proud of her never-ending pursuit of excellence along with a natural ability for building and maintaining relationships with her students; when coupled together, make for a tried and proven recipe for student success.
Anita Gandhi is an award-winning French teacher currently residing in Colorado Springs. She has presented at local, state and regional conferences and holds workshops regularly on Innovative teaching methods to engage students. Anita works actively to advocate for diversity and inclusion, to build a future generation for whom empathy is fundamental. She is Google Level 2 certified and is a certified EdPuzzle and Flipgrid coach. Through the use of a wide variety of teaching tools, she breaks down the 4 walls of her classroom to engage all students in learning to love French!

Here is the introduction given by Amy Romanowski, the CCFLT Awards Committee Chair: Our 2020 Teacher of the Year has been a game-changer just as long as she has been in the game. Her students testify personally to the love for French that has been nurtured and nourished in her classroom, explaining to us that, “her kindness and patience toward students truly sets her apart, fostering an environment that demands students to be better versions of themselves,” and that “she carries herself with dignitas and is the ideal role model for students and teachers.” I happen to agree, and have learned much about best teaching practices through attending several of her CCFLT and SWCOLT sessions about bringing technology into my instruction. Her ingenuity in her classrooms has extended all the way to mine, and my students also benefit from her dedication. Parents, students, teachers, and administrators alike all wrote to us to describe the considerable impact that this teacher has had on her school community, but it is her own words about world language education that have left me most inspired. She wrote to us that, “Empathy towards people of all backgrounds builds literacy and respect of diversity that extends beyond the logistics of simply learning a language. When we make connections with others, we open ourselves up to be curious about the unknown.” Language learning truly is about human connection, communication, and understanding, and I could not be more proud that a teacher who understands how critical these notions are to our success as a species teaches Colorado’s children. Let me say that once again—these ideas are essential for our success as a species, and while she could have written to us about how she teaches French, she wrote instead about how she teaches her children to love each other. She’s teaching love. Please join me in congratulating Anita Gandhi, French teacher at Mountain Ridge Middle School of Academy School District 20, as the 2020 CCFLT Teacher of the Year.
Makiko Fukuda
Texas

Dr. Makiko Fukuda, the Texas Foreign Language Association Teacher of the Year, is Senior Lecturer of Japanese and Coordinator of the Japanese Program at the University of Texas at San Antonio. In addition to her roles as leading faculty member of UTSA's East Asian Language Program and co-leading faculty/coordinator of Trinity University's study abroad program in Japan, she currently serves as the Immediate Past President and Vice President of the Japanese Teachers Association of Texas. Her collaboration across disciplines and languages provides her students with unique opportunities to improve their global competence and to expand their knowledge about East Asian languages and cultures.
Teacher of the Year for California Language Teachers Association, Maggie Chen, is a member of the Leadership Team of the Los Angeles area site of the California World Language Project. For nine years, Maggie has collaborated with UCLA’s Confucius Institute to deliver a yearly Mandarin Teacher Leadership Institute, a program designed to develop leaders of Chinese language to deliver technology-enhanced, standards-based instruction and enable professional growth among teachers less familiar with this approach. She is a founding faculty member and lecture of the UCLA Graduate School of Education and Information Studies’ Bilingual Authorization program, and the Geffen Academy at UCLA. She also serves as Guest Teacher Advisor for The College Board's Chinese Guest Teacher Program, bringing opportunities for Mandarin learning to rural and urban communities across the United States. She worked on a project with the University of California, Office of the President, to develop courses that merge the teaching of Chinese with career and technical competencies and a technology program for teachers of a variety of commonly taught and less-commonly-taught languages. She also modeled lessons for a Chinese multimedia project that featured standards-based lessons, materials and assessments. In 2018, Maggie was appointed by The California State Board of Education to serve on the Standards Advisory Committee for the 2019 World Language Standards and the 2020 California World Languages Curriculum Framework and Evaluation Criteria Committee (CFCC). Maggie has presented the results of her work at local, state and national conferences. Her materials, including 180 days of resources, unit and lesson plans for 6th through 12th grade dual immersion programs at the Los Angeles Unified School District, are being shared in various venues throughout the nation and in the Chinese-speaking world.