

## 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 April 20. Candidates failing to meet the deadlines or requirements will be disqualified. Those reaching the second round of the application process will be interviewed by the Awards Committee in the evening hours of May 8. Formal times will be assigned the week prior. A maximum of three semi-finalists will be named and will formally be recognized at PSMLA's fall awards ceremony in October. The semi-finalists are encouraged to attend the awards ceremony where the Pennsylvania Language Teacher of the Year will be honored. The winner will be notified by May 30. He/She 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 by November to NECTFL ([www.nectfl.org](http://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.

<b>Description</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>Score</b>
<b>Knowledge of subject matter</b>	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	
<b>Awareness of students' learning</b>	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	
<b>Student rapport</b>	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	
<b>Intellectual growth of students</b>	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	
<b>Professional growth and contributions</b>	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	

Scoring rubric for candidate # \_\_\_\_\_