

# PSMLA Teacher of the Year

## **Purpose of the Award:**

This award honors a PSMLA member who has demonstrated excellence in world language education and is willing and able to represent the profession regionally or nationally. The awardee will participate in the NECTFL Teacher of the Year selection process and, if chosen, advance to the ACTFL level. Additional details on the regional and national selection process can be found on [ACTFL's website](#).

ACTFL states: "The award for The ACTFL National Language Teacher of the Year is intended to elevate the status of our profession at the state, regional, and national levels by creating opportunities for recognizing the most accomplished members of our profession. First and foremost, this process is designed to involve all of our state, regional, and national organizations in promoting our profession. Second, it is intended to create as many media opportunities as possible to increase the visibility of the importance of learning languages and cultures to the general public. The award also recognizes best practices and excellence in the teaching and learning of languages."

## **Criteria for Applying:**

- Be a current PSMLA member and have maintained membership for the past three years.
- Be a full-time world language Pre-K-12 teacher or post-secondary instructor/professor who spends at least 50% of their teaching duty in direct teaching of languages (with no more than half of the language teaching percentage being the teaching of English Language Learners).
- Have at least five years of experience in the profession.
- Intend to continue teaching for at least two additional years.
- Demonstrate excellence in world language education, as defined below.
- Not be a voting member of the PSMLA Executive Council.

## **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

**Application Process:**

A candidate may be nominated by a fellow PSMLA member or self-nominate.

Each candidate must submit these items to the PSMLA Awards Committee. They are in line with what will need to be submitted during the NECTFL Teacher of the Year process.

1. Nomination form (attached)
2. Resume or CV of no more than five pages
3. One-page letter of recommendation from a supervisor
4. One-page letter of recommendation from a colleague, a current or former student, or the guardian of a current or former student
5. 500-word personal statement on the value of learning languages and developing cultural competence for all learners

All materials must be submitted by email in a single PDF document by the advertised date; please do not submit additional materials. Candidates failing to meet the deadline or requirements will be disqualified.

Each candidate's application will be reviewed using the attached rubric. Those reaching the second round of the application process will be contacted by the Awards Committee to participate in a virtual interview.

**Selected Candidate Expectations:**

- Attend the awards luncheon at the annual PSMLA conference, where they will be presented with a plaque. Candidates may register for the conference at a reduced rate.
- Meet virtually in the winter or spring with new educators through our Peer Mentoring Program as mutually scheduled with the program coordinator.
- Participate in the NECTFL Teacher of the Year selection process and attend the NECTFL Conference.
  - Support in preparing the application for NECTFL will be provided by the PSMLA Awards Committee.
  - NECTFL provides conference registration and one night at the conference hotel to state Teacher of the Year candidates. PSMLA provides up to \$400 in documented travel reimbursement.
- If selected as the NECTFL candidate, participate in the ACTFL National Language Teacher of the Year selection process and attend the ACTFL Convention.
  - Support in preparing the application for ACTFL will be provided by the NECTFL Teacher of the Year Committee.
  - ACTFL provides support for attending the ACTFL Convention.

**PSMLA Teacher of the Year NOMINATION FORM**

**Nominee's Information**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Academic Institution Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Academic Institution Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Nominator's or Supporter's Information**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Academic Institution Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Academic Institution Address: \_\_\_\_\_

## PSMLA Teacher of the Year SCORING RUBRIC

### Requirements Checklist:

- ☐ Submitted by the deadline
- ☐ Current PSMLA member and has maintained membership for the past three years
- ☐ Full-time world language Pre-K-12 teacher or post-secondary instructor/professor who spends at least 50% of their teaching duty in direct teaching of languages (with no more than half of the language teaching percentage being the teaching of English Language Learners)
- ☐ Five years of experience in the profession
- ☐ Completed nomination form
- ☐ Nominator or supporter is a current PSMLA member
- ☐ Resume or CV of no more than 5 pages
- ☐ One-page letter of recommendation from a supervisor
- ☐ One-page letter of recommendation from a colleague, a current or former student, or the guardian of a current or former student
- ☐ 500-word personal statement on the value of learning languages and developing cultural competence for all learners is included.

Description	0	1	2	3	4	Score
<b>Knowledge of subject matter</b>	No evidence	Evidence of 1 example	Evidence of 2 examples	Evidence of 3 examples	Evidence of more than 3 examples	
<b>Awareness of students' learning</b>	No evidence	Evidence of 1 example	Evidence of 2 examples	Evidence of 3 examples	Evidence of more than 3 examples	
<b>Student rapport</b>	No evidence	Evidence of 1 example	Evidence of 2 examples	Evidence of 3 examples	Evidence of more than 3 examples	
<b>Intellectual growth of students</b>	No evidence	Evidence of 1 example	Evidence of 2 examples	Evidence of 3 examples	Evidence of more than 3 examples	
<b>Professional growth and contributions</b>	No evidence	Evidence of 1 example	Evidence of 2 examples	Evidence of 3 examples	Evidence of more than 3 examples	
<b>TOTAL SCORE</b>						