

**2016 ACTFL Teacher of the Year
Selection Procedures for
The Central States Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages
(CSCTFL)**

Procedures

PURPOSE OF THE AWARD:

The award for the National Language Teacher of the Year 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 our profession. First and foremost, this process is designed to involve all of our 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. All regional finalists are featured in the ACTFL Language Teacher Hall of Fame, located on the ACTFL website at www.actfl.org.

CSCTFL Teacher of the Year

We hope that each state in the CSCTFL region (*AR, IL, IN, IA, KS, KY, MI, MN, MO, NE, ND, OH, OK, SD, TN, WI*) will participate in the selection of a CSCTFL Teacher of the Year by nominating a teacher. Our regional winner will compete at the national level with one teacher being named by ACTFL as the National Foreign Language Teacher of the Year.

ACTFL has recently revised the process of submission criteria. All regional winners will be required to submit electronically a portfolio of no more than 30 pages that shows evidence of quality instruction. CSCTFL has chosen to use ACTFL's recommended regional portfolio in order to select our Teacher of the Year. A list of materials needed in this portfolio is included as a checklist below. Evidence of quality teaching will be determined from letters of recommendation, samples of student work, written reflection on classroom competency, etc. Applicants must be a current member of ACTFL.

All candidates are advised to view the [revised guidelines](#) for the application, documentation and the evaluation rubrics that will be used to score the documents. All are posted on [The ACTFL Teacher of the Year](#) web site.

The deadline for submission of the state nominee with the nomination letter to CSCTFL is December 15, 2015. The complete portfolio is due January 1, 2016. Candidates will email Mary Goodwin, mgoodwin@bex.net, to notify her that the portfolio is complete and she will grant access to the CSCTFL Awards Google Drive where the portfolio will be uploaded. For more information contact Mary Goodwin, CSCTFL Awards Committee Chair at mgoodwin@bex.net

All materials should be compiled into one single document with numbered pages and the candidate's name on each page.

Timeline

September 2015

Dissemination of selection materials to CSCTFL member states

Fall 2015

State selection of Teacher of Year

December 15, 2015

Deadline for entries of State T.O.Y. via email from State organizations to CSCTFL Awards Committee

January 1, 2016

State Teacher of the Year candidates' portfolios due to CSCTFL Awards Committee

March 10, 2016

Interview of TOY candidates

March 11, 2016

Awards Ceremony

Introduction of State Teacher of the Year recipients

Announcement of CSCTFL Regional Teacher of the Year

Submission Checklist

The candidate will submit *electronically* no more than (30) pages single-sided in size twelve (12) font that includes the following documents. This material, in turn, will be submitted to ACTFL, if the candidate is selected as the Regional Teacher of the Year.

Once the state association has selected its candidate who will move forward to the regional level, the state association ensures that its candidate submits the portfolio with all the required items listed in the state level procedure:

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. Attendance at past Central States Conferences and/or participation on the Central States Board or committees should be noted here.
5. Five-hundred-word (500) first-person statement on the value of learning languages and developing cultural competence for all learners.
6. A [Commitment Form](#) which is statement of your willingness to participate in all

required activities associated with the award including:

- a. A commitment to attend the ACTFL Annual Convention (hotel, registration, and transportation are paid by ACTFL); and if selected as the regional winner,
- b. Willingness to serve as a spokesperson for the profession, based on availability.

AND, IN ADDITION, INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING FOR REGIONAL COMPETITION:

7. [Nomination Cover Page](#) available on ACTFL website completed by an officer of the state language association.
8. Examples of Student Work (two individual examples, one page and one-sided only) that reflect the goals of the World Readiness Standards for Learning Languages (5C's). These can be written examples or in a digital format.
9. Reflection on the student work not to exceed 4 pages (Size 12 font, double-spaced) total for both examples that provides a written reflection about these student examples and how they
 - a. demonstrate current best practices of language teaching and learning, including the integration of the World Readiness Standards for Learning Languages (5 C's);
 - b. Encourage the proficient use of the target language by the teacher and students;
 - c. Provide effective use of feedback, including but not limited to rubrics.
10. Professional involvement documentation examples, (including but not limited to certificates, newspaper articles, letters, links to videos,) (not to exceed 4 pages)
 - a. demonstrates professional growth and involvement in professional organizations;
 - b. provides evidence of a variety of leadership experiences, including advocacy.
11. Reflection on Professional involvement documentation (not to exceed 3 pages) that
 - a. describes and analyzes the significance and impact on you as a teacher;
 - b. describes and analyzes the significance and impact on student learning and on language learning in your school and/or district or state.
12. A face to face interview scheduled Thursday afternoon, March 10, 2016, will include a series of questions with possible topics such as: learning and teaching strategies, student achievement and student growth and professional involvement and growth.
13. A one-page [Contact Information Sheet](#) (names and addresses of administrators, local press, professional affiliations, etc.) to be used by the committee to notify those you have selected of your accomplishments.

Duties of Regional Teacher of the Year

1. The CSCTFL Regional Teacher of the year may present a session at the following

year's Central States Conference providing guidance on how to submit a Teacher of the Year portfolio. (The Regional Teacher of the Year will receive a \$500 stipend to help defray costs of preparing and presenting the session.)

2. The CSCTFL Regional Teacher of the Year will be recognized at the conference's Awards Ceremony.

3. The CSCTFL Regional Teacher of the Year will attend the November ACTFL conference, representing CSCTFL in the National Teacher of the Year competition.

4. The CSCTFL Regional Teacher of the Year may make himself/herself available to attend, address or present at state and/or local conferences throughout our sixteen-state region. Arrangements and funding for the Teacher of the Year's attendance at state and local events will be conducted directly between the Teacher of the Year and the sponsoring organization.

5. The CSCTFL Regional Teacher of the Year may participate in any number of publicity/advocacy events 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 duties of the CSCTFL Regional Teacher of the Year as delineated above may be superseded by the duties of the National Teacher of the Year should the CSCTFL candidate be named to that position.)