

2012 SCOLT World Languages Teacher of the Year Guidelines

ABOUT 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 foreign languages

PROCESS OF APPLICATION:

The National Language Teacher of the Year process begins at the state level with the state language organizations selecting a top candidate each year whose application is then submitted to the regional level. The finalist for each of the five regions then competes at the national level. The process outlined below at each level is designed to facilitate the development of the portfolio used in the evaluation process by requiring certain items at each level of competition leading toward the complete portfolio required at the national level. This process is intended to incrementally add the required elements of the portfolio at each level to encourage broad participation while having sufficient evidence from candidates of their teaching accomplishments and ability to represent the language profession. ACTFL will supply the forms and samples needed so that candidates understand what is required at each level. In addition, there is a detailed explanation of the portfolio items on the ACTFL website at www.actfl.org.

SPECIFICS FOR SCOLT:

Each state may submit ONE candidate with endorsement from the state organization. State organizations may submit a candidate to only one regional organization. SCOLT has waived the registration fee for the state nominee participating in the selection process at the 2012 conference and will pay \$100 toward transportation/accommodation costs.

____ All state nominees are requested to send a “head” photo for inclusion in the conference program to Lynne McClendon at lynnemcc@mindspring.com no later than December 13, 2011. (This is not considered part of the portfolio.)

SUBMISSION OF MATERIALS TO SCOLT:

State nominees must submit a portfolio to be received no later than January 15, 2012. Candidates are requested to submit their portfolios via email to Juan Carlos Morales: jcmorales@gmail.com

Contact Juan Carlos Morales if you need help with sending a large file. If you need to send your portfolio in many separate parts, this is fine as well.

Juan Carlos Morales, SCOLT WLTOY Director
3700 Crestwood Parkway Suite 700
Duluth, GA 30096
ph: 770-225-4029
cell: 305-926-8851
fax: 770-225-4062

For all submissions, you will receive confirmation via e-mail immediately upon receipt.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:

The following checklist contains all requirements for the application:

_____ The first page must be the Nomination Cover Page, available at www.actfl.org, completed by an officer of the state language association (normally the president or executive director of the state association). It is the candidate's responsibility to secure this form from his/her state leadership.

_____ One letter of recommendation from a professional colleague

_____ One letter of recommendation from a supervisor

_____ One letter of recommendation from a current or former parent or student

_____ A curriculum vitae of no more than five (5) pages

_____ A five-hundred-word (500) first-person statement on the value of learning language and culture

_____ Up to five individual examples (one page and one sided only if written or a web-based link per sample) of student work that reflect the goals of the National Standards of Foreign Language Learning

_____ Elective commentary (not to exceed 5 pages) that describes how the selected student work samples are representative of the following:

(a) The connection between the student work and how you address the national standards in your classroom;

(b) The connection between student work samples and how you use and promote target language communication in the classroom;

(c) How the student work samples demonstrate differentiation of instruction and/or assessment to meet the needs of all learners;

(d) How the chosen samples demonstrate how you integrate culture into instruction and/or assessment;

(e) The type of feedback provided to students on this work.

* Please have appropriate releases for student work.

_____ A completed commitment form which is a statement of willingness to participate in all required activities associated with the award including (this form is available at the actfl.org website or by contacting Juan Carlos directly):

- (a) A commitment to attend the SCOLT conference for a personal interview (the state association may provide reimbursement of some expenses)
- (b) If selected as SCOLT World Languages Teacher of the Year, consent and commitment statement to be nominated by SCOLT as the ACTFL National Foreign Language Teacher of the Year.
- (c) If selected as SCOLT World Languages Teacher of the Year, prepare a statement of commitment to attend the ACTFL Annual Conference. Hotel, registration, and transportation are paid for by ACTFL and,
- (d) Willingness to serve as a spokesperson for the profession, based on availability.

_____ A one-page Contact Information Sheet containing names and addresses to notify the appropriate parties of the candidate's selection as SCOLT World Languages Teacher of the Year (available on the ACTFL website at www.actfl.org.)

NOTE: Candidates will NOT be required to submit a video or DVD to SCOLT, but upon selection by SCOLT, the candidate will need to submit a video teaching segment to ACTFL. For ACTFL this includes a detailed lesson plan and a 20-30 minute continuous, unedited video segment of that lesson plan being used in an actual classroom setting that demonstrates target language communication and a variety of instructional strategies. The video should not be professionally produced or edited and should be filmed during the current academic year.

Finally, the entire portfolio (when submitted to ACTFL) must not exceed 50 pages. We assume that for the regional submissions, it should be between 25-30 pages. You may complete the rest of the pages if you are chosen as the SCOLT World Languages Teacher of the Year.

PREPARING FOR THE INTERVIEW:

All portfolios will be made available electronically to the full selection committee, which is typically composed of past SCOLT Teacher of the Year winners, as well as higher education faculty. Portfolios will be carefully reviewed by the committee, who will conduct interviews on-site at the SCOLT Conference. This year, state nominees will be interviewed at the 2012 SCOLT conference in Atlanta on Thursday, March 22, 2012. Because the ACTFL TOY is not only a great teacher but also a spokesperson for our profession, the interview is an essential part of the selection process.

As part of the interview, the candidates will

- answer 4-5 questions from the selection committee with a 2-3 minute response. The questions may cover such topics as: culture/standards in the classroom, professional involvement, leadership experience, and/or challenges and successes in world language teaching

- give the first 2 minutes of a ten minute mock speech or mock press conference to a civic group on an issue of your choice regarding current interest in national foreign language policy. Because candidates **may not rely on notes** during this speech presentation, it is a good idea to have rehearsed (though not necessarily memorized) your speech before your interview.

AFTER THE INTERVIEW:

The 2012 SCOLT World Languages Teacher of the Year selection will be named during the conference in Atlanta, March 22-24, 2012. SCOLT's World Languages Teacher of the Year will go on to represent our region at the ACTFL Conference in Philadelphia, PA (November 16-18, 2012). ACTFL covers all conference related costs for the regional nominees.

For additional guidelines and coversheet, see the Teacher of the Year link on www.actfl.org

Note to all State World Languages Organizations in the SCOLT Region...

Although ideally all state language teachers of the year will go through the selection process at the SCOLT Conference to contend for the ACTFL National Teacher of the Year award, we realize that this may not be the case in some circumstances. SCOLT is happy to recognize each state's nominee by including his/her picture in the conference program even if the candidate is not participating in the selection process at the SCOLT conference. Please alert Juan Carlos if your candidate will not participate in the conference selection process.

If you need further help or clarification, please do not hesitate to contact Juan Carlos (JC) Morales at jcmorales@gmail.com or at 770-225-4029.