



Massachusetts Foreign Language Teacher of the Year

The award for the **Massachusetts Foreign Language Teacher of the Year (TOY)** is intended to elevate the status of our profession and to create opportunities to recognize our most accomplished world language teachers and language advocates. The Teacher of the Year Program has created and sustained opportunities for world language advocacy in Massachusetts and beyond. Moreover, it is intended to create as many opportunities as possible to increase the visibility of the importance of learning languages and cultures to the general public.

Successful candidates must be full-time language educators who spend at least fifty percent (50%) of their time in direct teaching during the year of application with an expectation of teaching during the next two (2) years. All candidates must be a MaFLA member to be eligible for the award.

The following items (submitted electronically in one email) must be included in the portfolio to be considered by the TOY committee:

- Letter of recommendation from a professional colleague
- Letter of recommendation from a supervisor / principal
- Letter of recommendation from a current or former parent or student
- Curriculum Vitae of no more than five (5) pages.
- First-person statement on the value of learning language and culture (not to exceed 500 words).
- A personal statement related to your teaching. Topics for consideration: What are you most proud of about your teaching? What's an experience that made you think differently about your approach to teaching? What would your ideal classroom look like? (not to exceed 500 words)
- One sample of student work (from within the past year) that you are proud of. This sample should be accompanied with a brief 250-word reflection describing how the sample reflects the ACTFL World Readiness Standards.

The winning candidate must:

- Make a commitment to attend the NECTFL regional conference for a personal interview if selected as a regional finalist. MaFLA will provide up to \$750 in reimbursement for registration, transportation, and hotel expenses to the selected candidate.
- Commit to making one or more presentations at MaFLA PD events during their "year of service."
- Be willing to serve as a spokesperson for the profession, based on availability and to mentor future candidates.

Evaluation of Candidates:

- The MA Foreign Language Teacher of the Year will be selected based on his/her ability to communicate ideas clearly, commitment to the profession, and professional growth as evidenced by the portfolio.
- Finalists will attend a brief interview at the MaFLA conference in Springfield, MA.

The selected candidate will receive the \$500 Gonnerman-Torchin Prize awarded in recognition of a Massachusetts world language teacher for outstanding performance in the classroom, enthusiasm and passion for the teaching and learning of languages, and enthusiasm and love of children.

Submissions should be made electronically in one email to Jeanne O'Hearn, Awards Chair at jeannemafla@gmail.com by **September 15, 2019**.