



# ACTFL Names 2018 National Language Teacher of the Year

NASHVILLE—The American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) is pleased to announce the 2018 National Language Teacher of the Year has been awarded to Ying Jin, a Chinese teacher at Cupertino High School in the Fremont Union High School District in Cupertino, CA, and a representative of the Southwest Conference on Language Teaching (SWCOLT). The award presentation was held during the Opening General Session of the 2017 ACTFL Convention & World Languages Expo in Nashville on Friday, Nov. 17.

Ying Jin teaches Chinese language and culture in the Fremont Union High School District at three high schools: Cupertino, Homestead, and Fremont. She was named the California Language Teachers' Association (CLTA) Teacher of the Year in 2016 and Outstanding Teacher of the Year in 2015. With 20 years of experience in Chinese instruction, Ying is involved in Stanford's STARTALK program and a member of CLASS, CLTA, and CLTAC.

The award for the ACTFL National Language Teacher of the Year is intended to elevate the status of the language teaching profession at the state, regional, and national levels by creating opportunities for recognizing the most accomplished members of the profession. The Teacher of the Year becomes a spokesperson for the language profession to increase the visibility of the importance of learning languages and cultures to the general public.

“ACTFL congratulates Ying Jin and the Fremont Union High School District on this prestigious accomplishment. I know that Ying will represent the language field well in 2018 as she advocates for language programs throughout the country,” said ACTFL President Desa Dawson.

[Learn more about the ACTFL Teacher of the Year Program.](#)

The other four finalists for the annual ACTFL National Language Teacher of the Year Award were:

- **Brenna Byrd**, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY; Southern Conference on Language Teaching (SCOLT)
- **Melissa Dalton**, Scripps Middle School, Lake Orion, MI; Central States Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (CSCTFL)
- **Caleb Howard**, Dr. William Mennies Elementary School, Vineland, NJ; Northeast Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (NECTFL)
- **Catherine Ousselin**, Mount Vernon High School, Mount Vernon, WA; Pacific Northwest Council for Languages (PNCFL)

## About ACTFL:

The American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) is the national association for language education professionals from all levels of instruction and representing

all languages. With more than 12,000 active members, ACTFL provides innovative professional development opportunities, acclaimed training and certification programs, and widely cited books, publications, scholarly journals, research studies and language education resources, including *Foreign Language Annals* and *The Language Educator* magazine. As part of its mission and vision, the organization provides guidance to the profession and to the general public regarding issues, policies, and best practices related to the teaching and learning of languages and cultures. ACTFL is a leading national voice among language educators and administrators and is guided by a responsibility to set standards and expectations that will result in high quality language programs.

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