



SWCOLT Awards 2017



Excellence in Teaching: Elementary

Dr. Sharon Hsu

Born and raised in Taipei Taiwan, Sharon Hsu received her MA from Michigan Saginaw Valley State University where she worked as a webmaster. She has also taught Mandarin and Chinese culture for Chinese schools since 2002. She has taught students of all ages and from diverse backgrounds. She also has broad experience working as MIS in several companies; it makes her an interesting candidate for students looking to learn language for business reasons. Dr. Hsu currently teaches the Mandarin Enrichment Program at Mesita Elementary School located in El Paso, Texas.

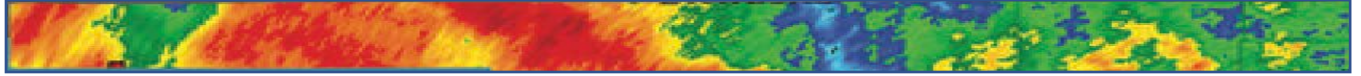


Excellence in Teaching: Secondary

Darcy Pippins

The 2015 Oklahoma World Language Teacher of the Year, the 2016 SWCOLT Regional Teacher of the Year, and candidate for the 2017 ACTFL Teacher of the Year, Darcy Pippins, is a National Board Certified Teacher with a Masters degree in Education from the University of Oklahoma. In 19 years, she has taught all levels of Spanish, currently teaching Spanish III, IV and AP Spanish Language and Culture at Norman High School. She presents at the state, regional and national levels. She teaches using comprehensible input methods and strongly believes that accomplished teachers should not work in isolation. She could not imagine teaching without the support of her professional learning community.





**Excellence in Teaching: Post-Secondary
Dr. Mara Sukholutskaya**



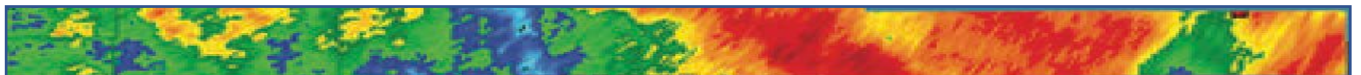
Dr. Sukholutskaya has her PhD in Methods of Teaching Foreign Languages. She is a native Russian and Ukrainian speaker and has been teaching Russian, French, and Spanish for the last 25 years at ECU and for a variety of federal programs. In addition, she has directed a Startalk Russian language program “In Search of the Firebird” at ECU on three occasions. Dr. Sukholutskaya is a certified OPI tester for Russian and Ukrainian languages. She developed a series of educational games named “Quartet: Faces of the World”.

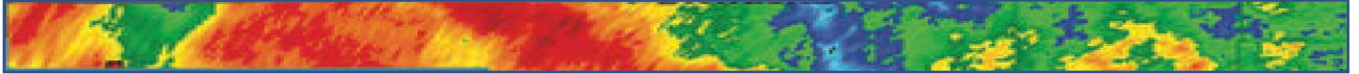
Dr. Sukholutskaya is a frequent presenter at state, regional, national, and international professional conferences. She is President of Oklahoma Council of the Teachers of Russian (OCTR), Founder and President of Central Association of Russian Teachers of America (CARTA), OFLTA and ACTR (American Association of Teachers of Russian) Board member. For eleven years (1998-2009) she served on the SWCOLT Board and also represented SWCOLT on the ACTFL Board. Dr. Sukholutskaya was twice awarded the Teaching Excellence Award at ECU; a George Platt Award for the Outstanding Teacher of Russian in Oklahoma, and a CARTA Award for Excellence in Teaching of the Russian Language, among other professional and community honors. She initiated, organized and coordinated a visit of Mikhail Gorbachev to Ada, Oklahoma and ECU in 2005.

**Honorary Member
Brian E. Barabé**



Brian Barabé, who retired in 2000, taught Spanish, English, Latin, and ESL over a career of 33 years. From 1983 through 1999 he was responsible for a school exchange between Westwood H. S. in Mesa, Arizona, and Escuela Secundaria Número 30 in Guaymas, Sonora. Mr. Barabé served as secretary, president-elect, president, and newsletter editor of the Arizona Language Association from 1992 through 1996. He is an enthusiastic proponent of the use of comprehensible input methods, especially the methodology known as Teaching Proficiency through Reading and Storytelling, TPRS. He travels to central Mexico as often as possible, and he is currently teaching his grandson Spanish via FaceTime, using TPRS.

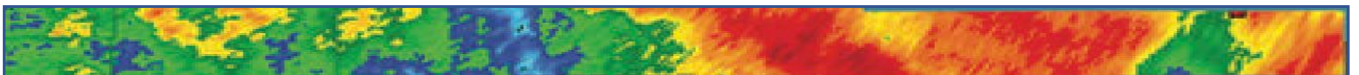


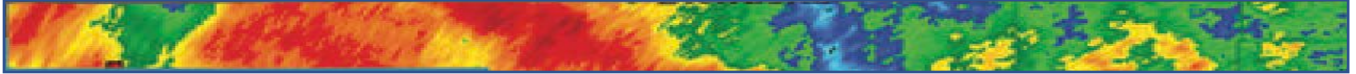


**Friend of the Profession
Dr. Joseph Siano**

Norman Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Joseph Siano has been in education more than 40 years. His career began in the classroom, where he served students as a fourth-grade teacher. He then was selected for various leadership roles such as Elementary Principal, Director of Elementary Education, and Assistant Superintendent in the Putnam City School District. Dr. Siano also served as an Assistant Superintendent in the Oklahoma City School District prior to assuming his current position in Norman nearly 17 years ago. He received a Bachelor of Science degree in 1976 from Oklahoma City University, a Master of Science degree in 1979 from the University of Central Oklahoma, and a Doctor of Philosophy distinction in 1985 from the University of Oklahoma.

As a passionate advocate for public education, Dr. Siano's work has been recognized across the state and nation. He currently serves on the Governing Board of the American Association of School Administrators and has also held leadership positions in the Cooperative Council for Oklahoma School Administration, Oklahoma Academy for State Goals, Oklahoma Association of School Administrators, Oklahoma Policy Institute and more.



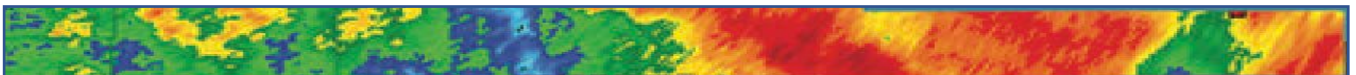


SWCOLT
SCHOLARSHIPS 2017
Jenette Cross
Universidad Centro MundoLengua
UTAH

Jenette Cross is a Dual Immersion Spanish teacher in Canyons School District in Utah. Jenette's love of language started when a childhood friend introduced her to foreign films that had to be watched with subtitles. She was fascinated with the idea that a people could use all of these unknown words and sounds and understand each other. In pursuing her second language journey, Jenette has received recognition in multiple ways including Language Sterling Scholar, La Fundación de la Universidad de la Rioja Scholarship, and Spanish Teaching Major Student of the Year at Utah State University. She graduated Summa Cum Laude in 2015 from Utah State University with a Secondary teaching degree in Spanish, ESL, and Dual Immersion.

Jenette is currently in her second year of teaching, and has had the opportunity to collaborate with many hardworking, passionate educators on the forefront of the Utah Dual Immersion Program. Jenette has the unique opportunity to teach 6th and 8th grade Dual Immersion Spanish at the middle school level, where she engages her students in a pre-AP year in 8th grade in preparation for taking the AP test in 9th grade.

Jenette feels honored at being selected for the Universidad Centro MundoLengua Scholarship. In participating in this AP Teacher Seminar in Spain, Jenette will gain a greater knowledge and understanding of the AP Spanish Language and Culture Exam which will allow her to shape and influence the course of the Dual Immersion program in meaningful ways for her district, state, and students.





**SWCOLT
SCHOLARSHIPS 2017**

Suzanne Contreras

**Cemanáhuac Educational
Community Scholarship**

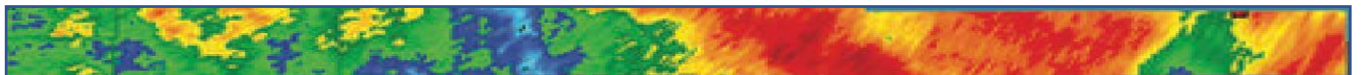
CALIFORNIA

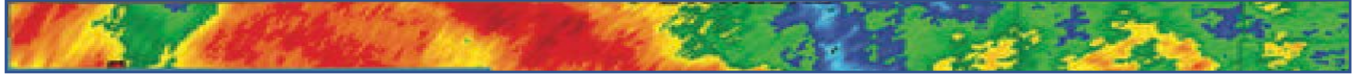
I have been teaching for 24 years. I currently teach Spanish II, III and IV at a small rural high school in Durham, California. I am a member of the California Language Teachers' Association, and I am currently the Co-President of its local affiliate FLASH (Foreign Language Association of the Sierra Highlands). I love designing proficiency-based lessons, enhancing target language usage and sharing my passion for language and culture. Teaching is a joy!

Spending 3 weeks in Mexico this summer will fill up my tank. Studying Spanish for 2 weeks in a formal setting will allow me to polish my language skills. I hope to broaden my vocabulary and brush up on the subjunctive. I am so excited to live with a family during this time. I love all the language that is learned by living in someone's home and sharing meals. I look forward to learning more about Mexican culture, too. I love Mexican history and I can't wait to visit the Palacio de Cortés where the conquistador, Hernán Cortés, resided, where the French Emperor Maximiliano vacationed, and where Diego Rivera painted his mural "La conquista y la revolución." After my 2 weeks in Cuernavaca, I plan to meet up with 2 world language colleagues in Mexico City. There, I plan to visit Frida Kahlo's Casa Azul, La Plaza de la Constitución, where the president gives the Grito de Dolores every September 16th and the Basilica of the Virgin of Guadalupe. I teach about these topics every year, and the idea of seeing them first hand brings tears to my eyes.

My students often tell me that their favorite part of my class is the stories I tell. Surely I will return from Mexico with lots of good stories, and I will be able to tell them with an enhanced control of the language.

I am honored to be the 2017 recipient of the Cemanáhuac Educational





Lyanne Terada
Recipient of the Universidad Internacional
Scholarship at the Center for
Linguistic Multicultural Studies

SCHOLARSHIPS 2017

Lyanne Terada, originally from the state of Hawai'i, is a Spanish teacher at Horizon High School in Thornton, Colorado. She is a National Board Certified teacher, adjunct faculty for the CU Succeed Gold Program with the University of Colorado at Denver, and on the Board of Directors as a secondary representative for the Colorado Congress of Foreign Language Teachers. She has her Masters of Arts in Spanish Language Teaching from Southern Oregon University in Guanajuato, México.

Lyanne loves teaching. One of her Level 4 students said, "I am going to become fluent in this class with this teacher." Instilling this sense of possibility and providing opportunities to build proficiency are reasons why she teaches. She has presented at HALT, CCFLT, SWCOLT, and most recently as "Best of SWCOLT" at ACTFL in Boston last November. Her participation in the Leadership Initiative for Language Learning (LILL) in 2015 and 2016 fueled her desire to move her sphere of influence in World Languages beyond her classroom and school.

She is immensely grateful to the awards committee, to SWCOLT, and to the Universidad Internacional Scholarship at the Center for Linguistic Multicultural Studies for allowing her this amazing opportunity to study in Cuernavaca, México, for two weeks. She will be taking her family to this linguistic and cultural experience so they, too, can benefit. In addition, she knows she is inspiring her current students to be lifelong learners with her example and to always take risks in order to improve. Her future students will benefit from her photos, videos, stories, and hopefully new Mexican cooking skills along with her improved proficiency of Spanish and new jokes to tell. She plans to share this experience with her colleagues and with SWCOLT upon her return. You can connect with her on Twitter: @SraTER.

