

**The 2012 Founders Award  
for Professional Excellence  
in Language Education**



*Donna L. Clementi*

As her numerous letters of support stated, Donna L. Clementi is “first and foremost a teacher”. She began her career in Appleton, Wisconsin as a high school teacher of French, and, in the same year, began working at the Concordia Language Villages. In her school, Donna has served as department head. At Concordia she has been dean of the French Village, director of the Teaching Seminars, and, currently, director of Education and Research.

Donna is a leader. She has served her state as president of WAFLT, her region as Board member and as chair of the CSCTFL, and nationally as Board member and treasurer of ACTFL.

Donna has received numerous awards that exemplify her teaching and leadership skills. She received the ACTFL Florence Steiner K-12 Leadership Award in 2000, the WAFLT Distinguished FL Education Award in 2002, and the NADSFL Supervisor of the Year in 2004.

Donna has been a mentor to many foreign language educators. “No picture of Donna Clementi would be complete without comment on her indefatigable energy, her self-effacing humility, her wonderful sense of humor, and her unforgettable laugh. Donna is one of the most complete people I have ever known. All that she does, from presentations at national conferences, to classroom instruction, to curriculum development, to teaching teachers, to raising her beautiful daughters, she does it with grace, wit, charm, and warmth. Donna is a sterling example of excellence in teaching, leadership in education, and pure goodness in humanity.” — Patricia Thornton, director of summer Programs, Concordia Language Villages