

The Central States Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages
and the Minnesota Council on the Teaching of Languages and Cultures

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Maureen Peltier Named Central States Regional Teacher of the Year



Maureen Peltier, a French teacher at St. Paul Central High School in St. Paul, Minn., was named the Central States Regional Teacher of the Year by the Central States Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (CSCTFL) at its annual conference March 15 in Columbus, Ohio.

Having been named Minnesota World Language Teacher of the Year by the Minnesota Council on the Teaching of Languages and Cultures (MCTLC) last fall, Peltier was chosen from a field of nine state finalists to represent CSCTFL as the region's candidate for National Teacher of the Year, an honor to be awarded by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) at its annual convention in November in Washington, D.C.

"Our 2019 CSCTFL regional winner, Maureen Peltier is an award-winning teacher who has been a tireless advocate for early-start, long-sequence foreign language programs," said CSCTFL Executive Director Anne Nerenz. "Her deep knowledge and experience teaching and leading immersion programs clearly set her apart. We appreciate her vision and her commitment to language learning for all and we are delighted that she will represent each of the foreign language teachers in our 14-state region in November 2019 in the national Teacher of the Year competition."

Peltier has been an educator for 35 years. She began teaching in a small community in southern Minnesota where she was responsible for developing a French International Baccalaureate (IB) program, and throughout most of her career has continued developing IB curriculum to meet the ever-changing needs of her students. She has taught at the elementary, middle and high school levels, in public and private settings, in rural and urban communities, domestically and internationally. She is passionate about promoting early language programs and developing high school immersion programs. Peltier believes strongly that "all students should be given the chance to experience, to explore and to internalize what language and cultural learning offer" because these pursuits "open doors that can lead to other opportunities, even passions."

She holds an Administrative Licensure (K-12 Principal), a Certificate in Staff Development, a Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction (Second Language and Cultures: French) and bachelor's degrees in French and in International Relations. She was a Fulbright Exchange teacher in Belgium and was Minnesota's French Teacher of the Year in 2002.

The Central States Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages advocates for world language programs and provides professional development for teachers at all levels in a 14-state region encompassing Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. The state, regional, and national Teacher of the Year awards were created to share the important contributions that learning a world language in addition to English makes to each child's overall education and readiness to achieve 21st century personal and professional goals and to celebrate the teachers who make such rich, standards-based, and communication-focused learning experiences possible.