

The 2018 Founders Award for Professional Excellence in Language Education



Patrick T. Raven

It is a great pleasure and honor to introduce 2018 CSCTFL Founders Awardee, Patrick Raven. Patrick received his B.A at Norbert College, De Pere, Wisconsin. He continued his education with an M.S. in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. He taught German for 23 years: his first year at St. John Cathedral High and the remaining years in the School District of Waukesha in Wisconsin. He has been Department Chair, Language Consultant/publishing (for 20 years), Adjunct Methods Instructor and Curriculum Specialist and is currently finishing his 16th year as the Executive Director of CSCTFL. He has presented and served on committees too numerous to mention. It is evident that he has touched so many lives during his foreign language tenure and the following are deserving tributes from colleagues.

“Personally knowing several of the original CSCTFL Board Members, I am most assured that these foreign language leaders would be more than proud knowing that Patrick would be among the distinguished, exemplified awardees of the CSCTFL Founders Award.” (Judith Michaels)

“I can honestly say that there are few people who are as professional and dedicated as Patrick has always been. He has worked tirelessly to help improve world language education in Wisconsin and throughout the Central States region. His outstanding directorship of CSCTFL, his numerous presentations and workshops, his scholarly activity, and his on-going commitment to the professional development of teachers attest to his worthiness. (Emily Spinelli)

“From leading his school district in establishing proficiency-based curriculum and instruction in the 1980s and ‘90s to that endeavor on at the national level for publishing companies Holt, Rinehart, and Winston, Heinle and Heinle, and Pearson, Patrick has been able to guide classroom practitioners in improving their craft and developing their students’ language proficiency. He served tirelessly at the national level in organizations such as ACTFL and AATG, at the regional level with his commitment to Central States and at the state level holding myriad positions with the Wisconsin Association of Foreign Language Teachers. He has always been a staunch supporter of language advocacy efforts serving on the Board of Directors of the Joint National Committee for Languages. (Marty Abbott)

“His dedication to ensuring that teachers have access to the highest quality, most affordable, and friendly professional development opportunities is unmatched and the on-going health and vitality of our organization are due in very large part to his efforts. Patrick truly exemplifies the unselfish work ethic, the dogged persistence, and the professional vision of our original founders. We Central Staters, as well as the leaders of other state, regional and national language associations, owe Patrick a huge debt of gratitude for these tireless efforts.” (Anne Nerenz)

“I could only be in awe of how much he has contributed to the whole profession. There are few world language associations where he has not had a leadership role and, therefore, dedicated his time and energy to benefit the students and educators in this profession of ours. His service is also awe-inspiring. In addition to all he has already accomplished in his career, he has done so with grace, humor, and humility. It is always a joy for me to meet him at various professional conferences, especially now that I am no longer directly involved. His perspective on the profession and its progress is always refreshing!” (Helene Zimmer-Loew)

“I met Patrick in 1991 when he was the Foreign Language Department Chair for the Waukesha Public School District. As we talked, I realized how dedicated he was to the promotion of foreign language in the school district. During our department meetings, he showed a lot of eagerness to any ideas that we teachers shared. He had a gift of bringing out the best in his teachers and making sure that foreign language was an essential part of the Waukesha curriculum. “ (Joyce Cupertino)

Congratulations to Patrick Raven, whose footprint is indelible in Wisconsin, regionally and nationally.