



**Senator
Dennis Kruse**

And

**Representative
Robert Behning**



Indiana

**The 2018 Simon Award
for the
Promotion of Language and
International Studies**

We are proud to award the Simon Award to a team from the state of Indiana: Senator Dennis Kruse and Representative Robert Behning. Senator Kruse is a State Senator in District 14. He has been in the Senate from 2004 – present and was previously a Representative for fifteen years. He is the Education & Career Development Chair. Representative Behning has served in the Indiana State Legislature since 1992 and represents House District 91. He is currently the Chair of the House Committee on Education. During the last 4 years, Indiana foreign language teachers and students have witnessed the exceptional contributions of these two legislators to the field with the introduction of the bill to create the Seal of Biliteracy, the introduction of the bill to fund more than 15 Dual Language Immersion programs in Indiana elementary schools and the endorsement to support the Indiana Language Roadmap with which the state will benefit from a federal grant to create a plan that will improve quality, increase access, enhance and diversify opportunities, ensure equity and strengthen the statewide infrastructure to support and expand world language learning. According to Pam Gemmer, IFLTA Advocacy Chair, “Indiana is extremely fortunate to have such great “language learning” legislative advocates who understand the benefits of beginning world language study at an early age and the importance of recognizing second language achievement of high school students.”