




JANET BARRESI
STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
STATE OF OKLAHOMA

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Members of the State Board of Education

FROM: Janet Barresi 

DATE: December 18, 2014

SUBJECT: Recognition of 2014 State Supervisor of the Year Award Winner

State Superintendent Janet Barresi and the State Board of Education recognize and commend Desa Dawson, Director of World Language Education at the Oklahoma State Department of Education (OSDE), for being named the 2014 State Supervisor of the Year (SSOY) by the National Council of State Supervisors for Languages (NCSSFL).

The Award, sponsored by Pearson, Inc., is to acknowledge an outstanding world language state supervisor whose leadership has had a profound impact at the state level and beyond. Achievements throughout one's career as well as recent accomplishments in implementing standards-based reform and advocating for world language education are considered equally. Nominations for the award are accepted from state world language organizations, the five regional world language organizations and national language-specific organizations.

Members of the Oklahoma Foreign Language Teachers' Association (OFLTA) nominated Dawson. She was presented the award in November in San Antonio, Texas, at a pre-convention meeting of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages for the NCSSFL and the National Association of District Supervisors of Foreign Languages (NADSFL).

Dawson has been the Director of World Language Education at the OSDE since 2006. She is Past President of the NCSSFL and has been a member of that organization since 2006. Dawson formerly taught Spanish for Midwest City-Del City Public Schools; she was a methods instructor at the University of Oklahoma, an associate director of the NEH Institute at Oklahoma State University and an adjunct faculty member at Rose State College.

While at the OSDE, Dawson has been instrumental in developing an alternative pathway for Native American Languages to support the teaching of these languages in state schools. She negotiated memorandums of understanding with the Embassy of Spain and with the Académie d'Amiens in France with the purpose of securing partnerships between Oklahoma schools and their counterparts in those countries. She also has participated in the Chinese Guest Teacher Program. She has secured multiple grants for public school language programs, served in many professional organizations and received numerous awards and honors.

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