

Susan Watson, Teacher of the Year for the California Language Teachers' Association (CLTA), has been teaching Japanese at Long Beach Polytechnic High School for over 13 years. In addition, she has also taught at various public and private elementary, middle, and high schools. Long Beach Polytechnic's Japanese program has the distinction of being the biggest Japanese program in the contiguous 48 states, educating over 500 students each year.

She is the CLTA Past-President and President of Modern and Classical Language Association of Southern California (MCLASC), a CLTA affiliate. She also served as Secretary for California Association of Japanese Language Teachers (CAJLT) for eight years. Susan was appointed to the California World Language Standards Advisory Committee and played an instrumental role in the revision of those standards in 2019. She currently serves as the World Language Department Chair at her high school.

Susan was nominated to represent California at the ACTFL Leadership Initiative for Language Learning (LILL) in 2019 and 2020. She received the CLTA Outstanding Teacher Award in 2016 and was named the 2016-2017 L.A. County Teacher of the Year. She has presented at numerous ACTFL and CLTA Conferences. Susan received her B.A. in East Asian Studies from Bryn Mawr College and her M.Ed. in Secondary Education from Pepperdine University.

[Candidate Video](#)