

Present and Past SWCOLT Award Winners

SWCOLT REGIONAL TEACHER OF THE YEAR

2025 – Ngan Ha Ta - HI
2024 – Sara Lee – AZ
2023 Natalie Lalagos - HI
2022 William Lee – TX
2021 Heather Sweetser - NM
2020 Amy Murray - NV
2019 Melanie Mello - AZ
2018 Jennifer Melgar - TX
2017 Ying Jin - CA
2016 Darcy Pippins - OK
2015 Fernando Rubio - UT
2014 Nicole Naditz - CA
2013 Norma Arroyo - CO
2012 Noah Giesel - CO
2011 Yo Azama - CA
2010 Stephen Van Orden - UT
2009 Nella Spurlin - TX
2008 Toni Theisen – CO
2007 Jamin Lynch – CA
2006 Christine Lanphere – CA
2005 Desa Dawson – OK

SWCOLT AWARDS

Excellence in Teaching – Elementary

2025 – Elinez Dos Santos Figueiredo - UT
2021 Elizabeth Vela Robles - CO
2020 Jason Fritze - CA
2018 Karen Carmean - CO
2017 Sharon Hsu - El Paso, TX
2016 Junko Agena - HI
2005 Nancy S. Hernandez - AZ
2000 Edna Alvarado - NM
1999 Lewis Johnson - CA

Excellence in Teaching – Secondary

2025 – Nancy Perez – CA
2024 Priscila Prestes - UT
2023 Amy Romanowski - CO
2022 Stephen Van Orden – UT
2021 Anthony (T.J.) Troche - NV
2020 Jillian Lykensm - CO
2019 Rebecca Kahealani Sanborn - HI
2018 Mira Canion - CO
2017 Darcy Pippins - OK
2016 Lorraine Leftwich - NM
2015 Ariana Koers - NM
2014 Sarah Sexton - Colorado
2013 Dr. Laurie Wilson - HI
2009 Shelli Brown - TX
2007 Cesiah M. Boryczka - TX
2006 Dale Crum - CO

2005 Laura A. Bertrand - AZ
2004 Joyce Pierro Lentz - NM
2003 Nancy Oakes - NM
2002 Christine S. Wells - CO
2001 Kathleen Zipf - NM
2000 Marty Christopher - OK
1999 Patricia Kule - CO

Excellence in Teaching – Post-Secondary

2025 – Anna Murta Hodgson – UT
2024 Imelda Gasmen - HI
2023 Nieves Knapp - UT
2021 Alohilani Okamura - HI
2020 Alegría Ribadeneira - CO
2019 Anne Becher - CO
2018 Dr. Teresa Bell - UT
2017 Dr. Mara Sukholutskaya - OK
2016 Dr. Glenn Fetzer - NM
2015 Dr. Deborah Arteaga - NV
2014 Dr. Alicia Giralt - UT
2012 Dr. Jessica Greenfield - TX
2011 Dr. Donna Shelton - OK
2008 Dr. Marina Peters-Newell - NM
2007 Tony Spanos - UR
2005 Miko Kurita Foard - AZ
2004 Francisco Zermeño - CA
2002 Suzanne Bader Hendrickson - AZ
2001 Elfie Manning - NV
2000 Agnes Dimitriou - CA
1999 Pete Kastner-Wells - CO

Friend of the Profession

2025 – Kristy Brugar – OK
2024 Keith Hayashi - HI
2023 Sydnee Dickson - UT
2022 Ryan Smith – NV
2020 Amy Anderton - TX
2019 Leslie Hermann - NV
2018 Lourdes Lulu Buck - CO
2017 Dr. Joseph Siano - OK
2016 Aiden Fleming - AZ
2015 Debby Gomberg - UT
2014 Dr. Jana Miller - AZ
2012 Rosalba Maniaci - NM
2009 Ralph Pohlmeier - OK
2008 Dr. Jessica Stowell - OK
2007 James Buchanan - TX
2004 Christiane Frederickson - CA
2001 María Inés García - TX
2000 Julie Gonzales
1999 William "Gully" Stanford - CO

Honorary Lifetime SWCOLT Member

2025 – Paula Hirsch – CA
2024 Jody Klopp - TX

2022 Julie Lozada Ocampo – NV
2021 Greta Lundgaard - TX
2020 Jocelyn Raught - AZ
2020 Paul Chandler - HI
2019 Lynette Fujimori - HI
2018 Nancy Oakes - NM
2018 Judith Cale - CO
2017 Brian E. Barabé - AZ
2016 Toni Theisen - CO
2015 James Yoder - NV
2014 Linda S. Bedson - AZ
2012 Elizabeth Smith - TX
2011 Janine Erickson - CO
2010 Gordon Hale - NV
2009 Helene Zimmer-Lowe - AATG
2008 Thomas Keith Cothrun - AATG

SWCOLT SHOLARSHIPS

FRENCH

Académie de Langues de Trois-Pistoles, Quebec

2011 Susan Carlock - CA
2010 Jennifer Jones - NM

French Embassy

2006 Barbara Russek - AZ
2004 Lorraine Leftwich - NM
2003 Lela Kimber, K.O. Knudson - NV
2002 Mayrene Bentley - OK
2001 Kelly M. Olsen - TX
2000 Linda Bayes

GERMAN

Goethe Institut

2010 Shannon Szuszalski - NM
2004 Debbie Singer - CO
2002 Carolyn M. Killgore - TX
2001 Debbie Singer - CO
2000 Sandra Almgren
2000 Ron Hubbard
1999 Pam Su'a - UT

SPANISH

Centro Mundolengua, Sevilla, España

2025 Rebecca Webb - CO
2024 Emily Edman - UT
2020 Monica Mancillas - NM
2019 Argelia Meza - TX
2018 Michael Kraniski - UT
2017 Jenette Cross - Utah
2016 Maylén Rafuls Rosa - CA
2014 Stephanie Hill - NV
2013 Virginia Mendoza-Dávila - TX
2012 Carol Moir - CA

2011 Erika Stinnette - NV
2010 Matthew Zealand - CA

Academia Latinoamericana de Español Scholarship, South America

2012 Jorge Arriaga - NV
2011 Linda Colenda - NM
2010 Jessica Larson - NM

Centro Bilingüe – Cuernavaca, Mexico

2005 Sharon Jennings - TX
2004 Susan Peña - CA
2002 Cynthia Baca - CO
2001 Patricia Smith - TX
2000 Nancy E. Schuetz

Interamerican University Studies Institute – Querétaro, Mexico

2007 Julie Rivera - NV
2006 Michael Hydak - TX
2005 Lucy Linder, Río Salado - AZ
2004 Susan Bogner - CO
2004 Diane Christensen - UT
2003 Sheila Ainsworth - UT
2002 Dona Dougherty - NV
2001 Gina Taylor - TX
2000 Ron Hubbard
1999 Christine S. Wells - CO

Spanish Embassy

2019 Emily Edman - UT
2013 Julie Rivera - UT
2006 Georgina Georgelos - AZ
2005 Linda Mayer - CO
2004 Maritza Sloan - TX
2003 Rosa Isela Ramos - TX
2002 Mira Canion - CO
2001 Shwanté Washington - TX
2000 Mary Ann O'Hara

Cemanahuac University Studies Institute, Cuernavaca, Mexico

2020 Paige Ebberts - CO
2019 Jared Nebeker - UT
2018 Bryan Arciniega - NV
2017 Suzanne Contreras - CA
2016 Nina Barber - CO
2014 Barbara Packer - UT
2013 Antonio Carrillo - AZ
2012 Lee Carlton - NV
2010 Allison Knopic - AZ
2008 Natalie Figueroa - NM
2007 Virginia Porto - OK
2006 Victoria Grablander - CO

Universidad Internacional—The Center for Linguistic Multicultural Studies

2021 Edna Morales - AZ
2020 Rebecca Webb - CO
2019 Beatriz Gallego Marquez - TX
2018 Elizabeth Ludwig - UT
2017 Lyanne Terada - CO
2016 Laura Blancq - HI

2014 Richard Cordova - AZ
2010 Rachel Mamiya - HI
2006 Manny Durazo - AZ
2003 Maria Zambrano - TX

Costa Rica Connection

2002 Cynthia Joy - TX
2001 Anita J. Robbins - OK

Central American Inst. for International Affairs

2000 Jean McCollum

Lynn Sandstedt Memorial Spanish Scholarship

2016 Jeenna Canche - HI

SWCOLT-Vista Higher Learning-Future Language Educator Scholarship

2023 – Ashley Driggs – UT (K-12)
2024 – Cheydon Agos – HI (K-12)
2024 – Heidi Hawkins – UT (Post Secondary)
2025 – Ximena Guzman Ibarra – CA (Post Secondary)
2025 – Bethany Billeter – UT (K-12)