

2019 Foreign Language Association of Missouri

Outstanding Future Foreign Language Teacher: Alyssa Gill



The Outstanding Future Foreign Language Teacher Award is presented to a post-secondary foreign language student who exhibits superior performance in a foreign language program. The nominee demonstrates superior ability in reading, writing, speaking, listening comprehension and cultural awareness in a second language; demonstrates excellence in classroom cooperation and good citizenship; is consistently trustworthy and demonstrates responsibility; and shows leadership and initiative in the foreign language classroom.

My name is Alyssa Gill. I attend the University of Missouri in St. Louis. I am getting two degrees: a bachelor's in modern languages with the emphasis in Spanish and a bachelor's degree in secondary education with the emphasis in Spanish. I went to Francis Howell North for high school and built strong relationships with the foreign language faculty.

I was raised bilingual because of my Mexican-American mother. I would speak in Spanish with my mom and in English with my dad. In addition, my mom sent me to a Spanish language preschool for four years. Because my parents decided to raise me in a bilingual fashion, I decided to pick up Portuguese later in life as my third language.

When I become a teacher, I would love to take groups of students to foreign countries so that they can have an immersion experience. It has been proven time after time that immersion is the best way to learn an additional language....my job as a future teacher will be to make language learning as comfortable as possible for the students.