

2019 Foreign Language Association

Excellence in Foreign Language Study, Junior High School: Sidney Tran



This prestigious award is given to a Junior or Senior high school student of foreign language who exhibits superior performance in the foreign language classroom. The nominated students must demonstrate superior ability dependent upon their level of study in reading and listening comprehension, interpersonal and presentational speaking/writing and cultural awareness; demonstrate excellence in classroom cooperation and good citizenship; exemplify trustworthiness and responsibility; and display leadership and trustworthiness in the classroom.

Sidney's leadership is evident in the classroom. One instant that stands out was when her table group was preparing for speaking; a student was struggling others were getting a little off task and wanted to speak in English when I heard Sidney say: *Nosotros necesitamos hablar en español* and as she helped her table group get back on task and speaking Spanish I could hear her again. *¡Tú hablas muy bien!* Sidney is not only a leader but she is dependable and takes responsibility for her learning, and helps others do the same.

Sidney is enthusiastic about learning and practicing her new language skills. One day I asked her how she practices and she responded: "I have friends that are Spanish speakers and we always speak Spanish when we are together. Sidney consistently seeks out students who speak Spanish and makes friends so that she can speak and learn the culture. Sidney is also a member of our Conversational Spanish class. Taking this class is a choice Sidney has made to improve her speaking, meet native speakers and learn the culture. She is curious and wants to learn from native speakers about the similarities and differences. I enjoy listening to the interactions between her and native speakers because she shows sensitivity and sincere interest in the Culture.