

2007 Barbara Ort-Smith Flora Maria Ciccone Quintanilla



The Michigan World Language Association is proud to honor Flora Maria Ciccone Quintanilla as the recipient of the 2007 Barbara Ort-Smith Award. This award is the most prestigious award a professional in the field of world languages in the State of Michigan can receive. It is a life-long achievement award that rewards dedication to world language education and a strong commitment and service to professional language associations in our state. As we mentioned the first recipient of this award was Barbara Ort-Smith in 1988. She served as the first Foreign Language Consultant in the State of Michigan. Thus, this award was named in her honor.

Mahatma Ghandhi said that

You must be the change you wish to see in the world."
--Mahatma Gandhi

Flora Maria Ciccone Quintanilla has certainly lived Ghandhi's ideal in her personal and professional life. She has dedicated her career to changing and broadening the perceptions of high school students by bring vibrant, creative, challenging, and provocative Spanish language and culture to her students at Holly High School. **Profe**, as she is known at Holly High School is respected by students and colleagues alike. Flora sees a world where cross-cultural understanding and respect for all is the norm and she lives her vision daily through every conversation, encounter she has with others.

There is nothing like a dream to create the future." Victor Hugo French novelist

Flora certainly had a dream and created a splendid career based on her dream. After spending her first few years teaching English and Spanish in Melvindale schools, Flora moved to Holly area schools where she has taught Spanish in Holly Area Schools for the majority of her career. She has built a Spanish program second to none in her community. She created in Holly High School students a sense of understanding and appreciation of Spanish language and culture that has inspired many of her students to use their proficiency socially as well as in careers in teaching, government and business.

Flora Maria's commitment and contributions to the MIWLA have been abundant and extraordinary.

1. She has been instrumental in organizing the exhibit hall for MIWLA for many years. Flora, along with the exhibit team (many of whom she has mentored), have made it possible that the finest publishers and vendors are available to us every year. This is no small endeavor. The 100s of hours she has spent making sure everyone's needs are met is a labor of love for our organization.
2. Flora has provided quality professional development by conducting sessions annually at MIWLA always demonstrating best practice.

3. Flora's ability to provide honest, creative, quality professional development with McDougal Little, connected her to colleagues throughout the country.

Flora is a ray of sunshine for us all. Wherever she goes, she radiates a positive attitude, and a commitment to colleagues and to the teaching of world languages.

In his book *The Tipping Point*, the author describes how each of us plays a significant role in making positive changes in the world. Flora's role for our world language community is as the CONNECTOR. She knows everyone and we know her. Each of us, who has had the privilege of knowing Flora for a day, a year or for decades, feels that she is connected to us, respects us as friends and colleagues, and cherishes our company. Flora's ability to CONNECT people to build a strong more unified world language community makes her a highly respected educator.

*"When you are content to be simply yourself and don't compare or compete, everybody will respect you."
--Lao-Tzu*

Flora Maria Ciccone Quintanilla exemplifies the high standards of professional service and commitment to world language education established by the award's namesake, Barbara Ort-Smith. I am sure you join The MMIWLA Board in offering our sincerest congratulations to Flora for living a life dedicated to dreaming a future of success and service, for being the change she wanted to see and for setting such an extraordinary example for all of us of commitment, excellence, and joy in our profession.

MIWLA Board and all of us here want to congratulate Flora on her accomplishments.