

**NEWS RELEASE**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**NEBRASKA WORLD LANGUAGE DISTINGUISHED SCHOLARS RECOGNIZED**

The Nebraska Department of Education and the World Language Advisory Council are recognizing distinguished scholars during World Language Week, April 1-7. The theme of World Language Week is “The Power of Languages To Be College, Career, and Civic Ready.”

The World Language Distinguished Scholar Award was developed to reward students for their leadership in language learning, commitment to language study, appreciation for cultural diversity, and communicative competence.

World Language teachers from around the state nominated students they felt were most deserving of the honor. Students then had to submit an online portfolio that required use of the language of study. Each portfolio was evaluated and judged on criteria such as comprehensibility, effective and accurate use of language structure, and complexity of vocabulary.

This year, one student per ESU was chosen from the nominations to represent each level of language learning. Level I/II corresponds with a first or second year language student. Level III/IV corresponds with a third or fourth year language student. Level 5+ corresponds with a fifth year student, a heritage speaker, or an Advanced Placement course.

For more information about World Language Week and the World Language Distinguished Scholar Award visit: <https://www.education.ne.gov/worldlanguage/world-language-week/>.

**ESU 2**

Level I/II:

Tessa Gatewood

Spanish

Wahoo High School

Teacher: Allie Munch

Level III/IV:

Leigh Jahnke

Spanish

West Point-Beemer

Teacher: Meghan Schneider

**ESU 3**

Level I/II:

Vy Tran

Japanese

Elkhorn High School

Teacher: Mariko Anderson

Level III/IV:

Emily Gress

French

Bennington High School

Teacher: Amy Nguyen

Level 5+:

Sonia Garcia Martinez

Spanish HS

Ralston High School

Teacher: Jamie Honke

Level 5+:

Ethan McDermott

Spanish

Millard North High School

Teacher: Theresa Jensen

**ESU 4**

Level I/II:

Dannielle Schutz

Spanish

Syracuse High School

Teacher: Jacqueline Mohr

Level III/IV:

Sage Beers

Spanish

Syracuse High School

Teacher: Jacqueline Mohr

**ESU 6**

Level I/II:

Stephanie Elder

Spanish

Waverly High School

Teacher: Cass Didier

Level III/IV:

Emily Binder

German

Crete High School

Teacher: Julie Schumacher

**ESU 7**

Level I/II:

Kaitlyn Brandl

German

Columbus High School

Teacher: Rae Fahrlander

**ESU 8**

Level III/IV:

Clayton Spray

French

Norfolk High School

Teacher: Martha Thompson

**ESU 9**

Level I/II:

Victoria Hofmann

Spanish

Sutton High School

Teacher: Ana Baquedano Sarrionandia

Level III/IV:

Spencer Tessman

German

Hastings High School

Teacher: Eric Garchow

**ESU 10**

Level III/IV:

Brayan Martinez

Spanish

Lexington High School

Teacher: Diego Gamero

**ESU 11**

Level I/II:

Sadie Ritter

French

Alma Public Schools

Teacher: Shennon Helms

**ESU 13**

Level I/II:

Elsianne Cron

Chinese

Scottsbluff High School

Teacher: Jin Ni

Level 5+:

Yoselin Parra

Spanish

Sidney High School

Teacher: Brett Avila

**ESU 16**

Level I/II:

Madison Jones

Spanish

Mullen Jr./Sr. High School

Teacher: Kelly Garcia

**ESU 17**

Level III/IV:

Raven Stewart

Spanish

Ainsworth High School

Teacher: Jessiah Owen

**ESU 18**

Level I/II:

A.J. Richerson

Spanish

Culler Middle School (LPS)

Teacher: Jessica Nickum

Level 5+:

Annika Bjorkman

Spanish

Lincoln High School

Teacher: Dr. Janet Eckerson

Level 5+:

Priscilla Lebesse

French HS

Lincoln Southwest High School

Teacher: Alexandra Van Zandt

**ESU 19**

Level I/II:

Myo Ka Zin Soe

Chinese

Omaha Northwest High Magnet School

Teacher: Chunhua Kong

Level 5+:

Barbara Barrientos

Spanish AP

Omaha South High Magnet School

Teacher: A. Laura Chambers

Level 5+:

Sara Curtis

Spanish

Omaha Burke High School

Teacher: Tasha R. Horn

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