

## 2011 Frank M. Grittner Award

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The Frank M. Grittner Award is presented to a new member of our profession who has shown excellence in teaching and has provided leadership in service to school, community, and professional organizations. The award honors Frank Grittner, a tireless promoter of high standards for language teacher preparation in our schools as the Wisconsin State Foreign Language supervisor from 1961 to 1991.

Keli Reinke has taught Spanish 1 and 2 for three years at Hortonville High School. Her classroom is a model of differentiation and hands-on experience. She is dedicated to providing authentic written and audio sources for her lessons. Her students develop their independence in their conversational tasks as they learn how to handle both presentational assessments and the latest technology to enhance those presentations. Her students also appreciate her ready smile, and, because they recognize how she has helped them learn and grow in the language, they seek her out and continue to take more Spanish as a result. She makes them see how important Spanish is and, in the words of one of her students, "makes it obvious she wants all of her students to do their absolute best." Her students speak of her willingness to come in early and stay late to help them, her ability to help with Spanish or life questions, and her determination that they understand and succeed with the material.

Being a new teacher has not stopped Keli from making a poised and positive impact on the teachers around her. She serves on school committees graciously, and gave up her vacation plans to travel to Ecuador with students when another teacher unavoidably had to pull out at the last minute. She also has taken on summer sections of Spanish in Hortonville and Appleton. When she was dissatisfied with the workbook used to maintain horizontal alignment in her district for Spanish 1, she went to her district coordinator to seek a solution. Together, they modified the curriculum and Keli spent many hours developing common performance assessments for each unit. Keli already is a vibrant part of her district language team; she is willing to seek and take advice from other teachers, and she is equally willing to reach out to others who are struggling. In her second year she took the initiative to mentor a first year teacher who needed guidance. This is the confidence and kindness which speaks to a great future in our profession.

In addition to her great work in the classroom and in her district, Keli has attended the WAFLT Fall Conference each year and has even presented two sessions. She

now serves as the co-chair of local arrangements and exhibitors for the WAFLT Fall Conference. She attended the Minneapolis and Chicago Central States Conferences, and she has also presented at Marquette University, her alma mater, about teaching world languages using a standards-based curriculum without a textbook.



**Keli Reinke**

For all of her work with her district and professional organizations, Keli remains student-centered. She is known by her students to be tough but fair, and she is willing to go the extra mile to help them achieve their best. WAFLT is pleased to recognize Keli Reinke as the 2011 Frank M. Grittner Award recipient.

### **Donna Clementi Blue Ribbon School Award for Excellence in World Language Programs**

Do you have a school or district World Language Program that is worthy of praise? Do you have an exemplary program model, well-articulated curriculum, stellar staff, advocacy and outside community support, and program/student achievement results that speak to the excellence of your school(s)? If so, then nominate your school(s) for this special award! Details can be found on our Web site at [waflt.org](http://waflt.org).