



DORA KENNEDY NEW TEACHER AWARD

2023-24

What is it?

The Maryland Foreign Language Association (MFLA) has established this scholarship to honor Dora Kennedy and her lifelong passion for building teacher leaders. Dora, a former Latin teacher, Supervisor of World Languages for Prince George's County Public Schools, and methods instructor at the University of Maryland, was a strong proponent of the study of world languages at all levels. She was involved in numerous initiatives throughout the region and an active member of NECTFL and ACTFL, as well as other organizations promoting the study of world languages. The purpose of this award is to support MFLA members who are new to the teaching of World Languages and interested in participating in a professional learning opportunity to improve their ability to implement current best practices in the classroom.

Who may apply?

MFLA members who are World Language teachers in their first, second, or third year of teaching and who wish to participate in a professional learning opportunity (program or conference) targeting effective instructional best practices. A scholarship may be distributed annually to a qualified teacher.

What funding is included?

The awardee will receive a scholarship of \$750 distributed in two installments of \$375 each. The first will be awarded upon selection and the second following presentation of a related session at the MFLA Fall Conference. Recipients must show proof of completion of a professional learning experience or conference occurring in the current school year, and a receipt of payment in order to receive the second installment of \$375.

What is the application procedure?

Applicants must submit the following items:

- A *curriculum vitae*—including a list of previous professional learning opportunities - programs or conferences attended.
- Two recommendations—with at least one being from an immediate supervisor. Recommendations should include detailed comments on the teacher's abilities, potential, and interests, as well as the benefit the chosen program would provide the applicant. Recommendations should be as specific and concrete as possible.
- Professional Learning Experience. Details of the opportunity in which the applicant wishes to participate (title, dates, content, and location of experience/conference). Information should clearly show the relation to best practices and include costs and availability of credit.
- An essay in English, written by the applicant, of at least 250 words describing how this experience will help him or her better implement current best practices, build student proficiency, and collaborate beyond their classroom. Be specific and concrete.

What is the application deadline?

All applications must be completed electronically and received by **April 30, 2024 by 11:59PM**, using this [form](#).

Applicants must include all information required in the application packet in order to be evaluated by the Awards Committee. Applicants will be notified of a decision by the end of May.

What are the criteria for selection?

The rubric used to evaluate each application is included below.

What are the responsibilities of the recipient?

MFLA will follow up with local media for press releases and coverage, with the written approval of the local school system and recipient.

Dora Kennedy New Teacher Scholarship Rubric

To be completed by the Awards Committee when evaluating the application.

Name of Applicant: _____

Year of Teaching: 1 2 3 **Language/Level(s) Taught:** _____

√	Criteria	√	Criteria
	MFLA Member		Curriculum vita
	Application submitted on time		List of prior opportunities attended
	Recommendation 1 (immediate supervisor)		Essay
	Recommendation 2 (other: _____)		Description of proposed opportunity

Title/Name of Professional Learning Opportunity: _____

Location	Date(s)	Credits Available	Costs/Expenses

Selection Criteria:

Clear relationship between the professional learning opportunity and current best practices 5 10 15 20

Comments:

Level of need for the program experience as determined by prior experiences 5 10 15 20

Comments:

Strength of teacher’s future potential and current abilities as evidenced in two letters of recommendations 5 10 15 20

Comments:

Articulation of the benefits inside the classroom (e.g., instructional practices, student proficiency etc.) 5 10 15 20

Comments:

Articulation of the benefits outside the classroom (e.g., collaboration benefits to school/district etc.) 5 10 15 20

Comments:

Total Score _____ / **100 points**

Final Disposition: _____