



# KSWLA NEWSLETTER

SEPT. 2020

Dear Kansas World Language colleagues,

This year has been like none that I've ever experienced before. I imagine that you can say the same. As I look at my empty classroom and prepare to teach remotely, I am reminded of how it feels to be a new teacher--the fear of not knowing what you don't know. But, I find strength in knowing that we are all in this together; that we have been given an opportunity to rethink what our instruction looks like. So, what are we going to do with that opportunity? And, because we stick together, I feel confident that we, as Kansas World Language teachers, will rise to the occasion and come out as better teachers in the end.

## WHAT'S INSIDE

- President's Letter
- KSWLA conference info
  - Keynote Bio
  - Award Winners
- Teacher Feature
  - Michelle Gerber
  - Meagan Meneley
  - Hollie Timson
- KSDE Update
- KAT Groups
  - KATF
  - KATG
- Shout Outs from Across the State
- Mini-Grant Winner Report

The Kansas World Language Association has done the same--seized the opportunity to rethink what our role is for all of you. When we realized that hosting our annual conference was no longer safe, we were adamant about making sure we continued to provide Kansas World Language teachers with high quality professional development and networking opportunities. KSWLA is proud to bring you our first virtual conference on Saturday October 24th -- **2020 Re-Envisioned: Celebrating Creativity** ([click here for registration](#)). As we made plans, educated ourselves about technology, and gathered information, we were consistently amazed at the responses we received. **People reached out to help us, we had over 40 session proposals, and we have the most diverse group of presentations and presenters that we have ever had.**

**We are also excited to host Jim Wooldridge, who you know as Sr. Wooly!** Many of you know the fun and engaging songs, stories, and graphic novels that Sr. Wooly has created. His creative imagination has brought a lot of smiles and laughter to many classrooms all over the world. Sr. Wooly shows us that our students will engage with heart-warming and thought-provoking stories, and that it can be done virtually.

There's still so much to be done. Some of you are already back in school, others will be with students very soon. Some of us are teaching in-person, others hybrid, and still more, remotely. However the start of your school year looks, remember that you are enough. Your passion for languages and teaching will come through, regardless of what your instructional format is. KSWLA's mission is to promote and improve the teaching of world languages and cultures, to provide continuing professional development, and to encourage the spirit of cooperation among world language educators in Kansas. The KSWLA Executive Council holds that mission close to their hearts. I want to take this opportunity to thank my Vice-President, Marilee Marsal; my Secretary, Alyssa Rumble; my Treasurer, Nan Bergen; and my Past-President, Heather Potter. These dedicated professionals have rallied together for you, and I am proud to serve as the current President of KSWLA with them.

Sincerely,

Amanda Williams



20-20  
RE-ENVISIONED:  
CELEBRATING  
creativity





Jim Wooldridge, a Spanish teacher in Evanston, IL (near Chicago) for nine years, used to struggle to find high-quality educational materials for his middle school students. Most existing materials treated students as though they were in kindergarten, or took the opposite approach and treated them like humorless adults.

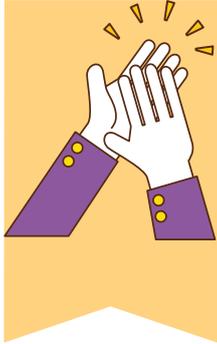
While Wooldridge's students were beginners, they weren't babies, and didn't want simplistic, babyish stuff. They were drawn in, like tweens and teens are, to funny, creative, and absurd stories with unexpected twists. So, Wooldridge decided to make those kinds of stories himself.

In 2005, Wooldridge began writing his own music for his students. Although he had not even considered seeking a wider audience, it wasn't long before other teachers found his first website, JamesWooldridge.com.

He renamed the site Señor Wooly in 2009, when he released the music videos Billy la Bufanda and ¿Puedo ir al baño? Both were hits. Since then, he has created numerous well-known musical stories, such as Guapo, Las Excusas, and Sé Chévere, among many others.

Although he is not currently teaching, Wooldridge keeps close ties with the local Spanish educational community, frequently casting Spanish students and teachers to perform in his productions.

Jim Wooldridge lives in Skokie, IL with his wife and two children.



# KSWLA AWARDS

CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER!

YOU CAN FIND AWARD DESCRIPTIONS [HERE](#). START THINKING ABOUT WHO YOU CAN NOMINATE FOR NEXT YEAR. WE HAD MANY WORTHY CANDIDATES.



## Laura Salmeron, Phyllis Farrar Award Winner

Congratulations to Laura Salmeron, the Phyllis Farrar Leadership Award winner! Laura spent 35 years teaching Spanish at Valley Center High School. During her career, she was actively involved in KSWLA (formerly KFLA) and AATSP. After her retirement in 2008, she taught part-time at Goesell Jr./Sr. High Schools for 5 years.

During her career at VCHS, she instilled the Spanish language and culture into her students--with at least ten students moving on to be Spanish or language teachers! Like many World Language teacher, she has traveled abroad to target-language countries with and without students. Her travels have taken her to Spain, Mexico, Costa Rica, and Guatemala. Andrew Ward, one of Laura's former students and now

a Spanish teacher remembers the trip to Spain he took with her, "What a memorable experience that was! It's been 27 years since that adventure, and I'm still in frequent contact with my host family in Spain."

Like many World Language teacher, she has traveled abroad to target-language countries with and without students. Her travels have taken her to Spain, Mexico, Costa Rica, and Guatemala. Andrew Ward, one of Laura's former students and now a Spanish teacher remembers the trip to Spain he took with her, "What a memorable experience that was! It's been 27 years since that adventure, and I'm still in frequent contact with my host family in Spain."

Students like Andrew had such great experiences in a Spanish-speaking country because they became competent Spanish-speakers from her classes. Betsy Machain (Robinson) adds, "Before "Comprehensible Input" was a thing she was speaking Spanish in her classroom from day 1. Her creative lessons and spunky personality kept students engaged and challenged in the target language."

## Leigh Rysko, KSWLA Teacher of the Year Award Winner

The Kansas World Language Association would like to honor and recognize Leigh Rysko of Shawnee Mission South High as the Kansas World Language Teacher of The Year for 2020.

Leigh Rysko teaches Spanish and has more than twenty years of world language teaching experience. They earned their BA in Education and Spanish from Denison University in Ohio and their MA in Second Language Acquisition from the University of Southern Mississippi in Madrid, Spain and holds professional certification in Translation and Interpretation from the University of California, San Diego.

Leigh has taught Spanish to High School students, including Heritage students for many years, as well as English as a Fulbright Exchange Teacher in Iquitos, Peru. They spent many years teaching at the University level in both Spanish and English and as a Course Coordinator at the University of Kansas.

Leigh currently serves as Department Chair for the WL department at Shawnee Mission South High and has also served as a Mentor Teacher, facilitated Equity and Inclusion training for schools and was a recent presenter at the KNEA Racial and Social Justice Summit in 2019. Their success in WL teaching includes their many years of coordinating and chaperoning student trips to Spain, France, Italy and Mexico and in their years of dedication to Amigos de Las Americas where their students participate in the Amigos program to take trips that connect them more deeply to the culture and community. Leigh's teaching colleague, Annie Hasan, wrote, "Leigh Rysko is a teacher and colleague who is compassionate, intuitive, and cares about education."



## Hannah Schmidt, Alexander Award Winner

Hannah Schmidt is this year's Alexander Award Winner. She graduated from Wichita State University with a BA in Spanish Education. Dr. Brigitte Roussel nominated Hannah. In her recommendation letter, Dr. Roussel said, "Hannah has from the start been an outstanding candidate whose Spanish is not only fluent but flawless, a rare quality among many candidates who are not native." Dr. Roussel also commented that all her other mentors have remarked on Hannah's intellect and intuitive abilities.

Dr. Roussel continued by saying, "She is also noticeable for her poise and calm when in the classroom, and able to deal with dis-engaged students and students with disabilities in ways that show compassion with discretion so she does not make these students feel different or bad about themselves. She has a way to draw them back in with her soft voice and a caring attitude that makes them feel they can trust her."



During her student teaching, she was placed with Ms. Alyssa Rumble at Wichita High School North. There Hannah was able to seamlessly take over Ms. Rumble's schedule, which included Spanish 1, 3, and Heritage Speakers 1. Ms. Rumble said that "Hannah had an incredibly difficult experience in terms of how the semester ended with school closures after spring break, but before spring break, Hannah brought engaging lessons to the students of North."

Currently Hannah is teaching Spanish 1, 2, and Heritage Speakers 1 & 2 at Wichita High School South. As Hannah is one of three brand new Spanish teachers at South, Ms. Rumble stated, "Hannah will be a capable pillar of support for her young department."

## Alondra Aguilera, Garinger Award Winner

Alondra is one of the Garinger Award winners. She was nominated by Mr. David Shelly, her IB Spanish teacher at Wichita High School East. Mr. Shelly said, "She ranks with the best I've taught, commanding an excellent level of skills in all aspects of her Spanish program."

In his recommendation, he also stated that he worked with Alondra on an important project outside of school, he said, "I organized a summer service and cultural learning trip to Guatemala, where we spent most of our time in Kakchiquel indigenous communities. For Alondra this was a great chance to get acquainted with another culture completely different from her own Mexican culture."



During her high school career, Alondra was an active member of her school community. At East she was the President of Spanish club. As President, she spearheaded efforts to raise money for a middle school student in the region of Guatemala that they visited. In addition to being the President of Spanish club, she was also an officer of Spanish Honor Society.

Finally, Mr. Shelly concludes with, "Personally Alondra is determined, focused and ready to take on challenges. It wasn't always easy for her to balance her demanding outside interests with the rigor of the IB program, but she persisted to the end, and looks forward confidently to her university career at Wichita State. It has been great to work with Alondra, and I know her professors and classmates will quickly come to know and appreciate this outstanding young woman."

## Porter Richards, Garinger Award Winner

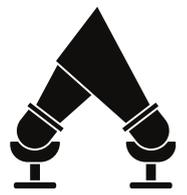
Porter Richards is a freshman in college and grew up in Garnett, Kansas.

Porter was always interested in sports as a kid and participated through high school until he had the opportunity to study abroad in Milan, Italy. When he arrived in Milan he did not have any Italian or foreign language background except for a year of Spanish in high school.

When he arrived he worked and studied extremely hard to be able to learn Italian and achieve fluency. Once he achieved his goal, he realized that he wanted to use Italian for the rest of his life.

He has decided to go to the University of Kansas to pursue a major in Italian and International Business! He plans to live in Italy when he is older and hopefully inspire kids to go through the same exchange experience he had!





## Michelle Gerber



**mgerber**  
**@silverlakeschools.org**  
**Silver Lake Jr. Sr.**  
**High School**  
**Spanish Teacher**

### Why did you become a world language teacher?

I enjoyed learning languages from a young age receiving my first exposure in a summer Spanish program. In high school, I found languages challenging and completed four years of Spanish and two of German as well as participating in travel to Germany and Mexico.

I continued my study of Spanish as I pursued my degree in Social Studies Education when I realized I could also receive a K-12 Spanish endorsement. The rest, they say, is history. I have enjoyed teaching students Spanish full and part time at Pre-K to college levels in private and public schools both brick and mortar and virtual.

Through two decades I have always been a #departmentof1 but love the challenge and required creativity of developing my own curriculums and style.



### The best activity I have done with my world language class is...

I took my advanced Spanish students to a neighborhood grocery store that has a lunch counter where they ordered in Spanish and tried a variety of authentic lunch dishes. Then, we went to the Zoo and toured in Spanish. Students took turns describing and telling facts about animals from around the world.



### As a teacher the best memory I have is...

My best memories are a collage of the moments when I connected with students and when students took the time to do something special like decorate my door or bake me cookies. These memories can lift me up on a challenging day.

### The best place I have ever visited in the target culture that I teach is...because...

Costa Rica because I was able to take a group of students along with my family to share new foods, places, and experiences.



### The best advice I could give new teacher is...

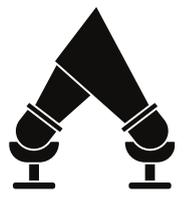
Always remember you teach students not a subject. Don't be afraid to admit when you make mistakes or change your plans when they fail. Respect, Empathy, Creativity and Challenge will help you establish a great foundation on which to build your classes and career.



### One of my goals is...because...

To continue to incorporate more CI into my classes and to improve my overall curriculum and evaluation processes.





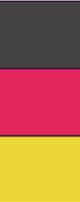
## Meagan Meneley



### Why did you become a world language teacher?

I was lucky enough to have an amazing German teacher in High School who introduced me to the language, recognized my interest in other cultures and encouraged me to share my new-found passion with others, including classes at our Elementary School.

My fantastic college professors encouraged me to study abroad and helped me build a degree to suit my interests (German and Elementary Education).

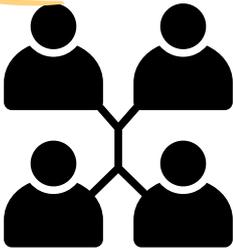


Today I can't imagine anything better than sharing the gift of connecting to the world with my students!



### The best activity I have done with my world language class is...

A historical research project involving documents from local sources. One group was able to locate a family member out of state who would be passing through and got to share with him what they had learned about his deceased relative. The students were cross-country runners who often ran by this man's grave in the cemetery and now have a personal connection to him and his role in our community.



### As a teacher the best memory I have is...

Some of the best memories have been made during our exchange trips. One of the most celebrations is the year that I had a student run up to me on the streets of Germany telling me that he had "ordered ice cream in German...and it worked!"



### The best place I have ever visited in the target culture that I teach is...because...

When traveling with my students, I usually try to stay at family-run bed and breakfast type hotels and over the years many of these owners have become like family. One of the best is in the little town of Füssen in southern Bavaria. The family who owns it gives us the whole house and garden. The kids really feel welcomed and at home!



### The best advice I could give new teacher is...

Never stop learning...surround yourself with a professional community that will support and encourage you.

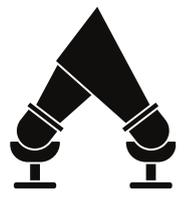
### One of my goals is...because...

to connect personally with each of my students, because we all learn better when we feel seen, heard and valued for the unique gifts we bring to the learning environment!





# FEATURE TEACHERS



## Hollie Timson



### Why did you become a world language teacher?

As a high school student, I fell in love with the Hispanic culture and language, and was destined to incorporate Spanish into my career.

While at JCCC, I participated in a service learning opportunity in Las Pintas, México. One year, I translated for preschool teachers, and the next, for dental hygienists. During that second visit, a group of kids ran from their homes to hug me, shouting, “¡Maestra, maestra!”

They had remembered me! That moment cemented my decision to become a teacher. I wanted to make a difference, to provide opportunities for discovering a new language, culture, or life-changing experience!

**htimson**  
**@colbyeagles.org**  
**Colby High School**  
**ESOL & Spanish**  
**Teacher**



### The best activity I have done with my world language class is...

having the students vlog in the target language, watch each others' vlogs, and comment on the vlogs in the target language.



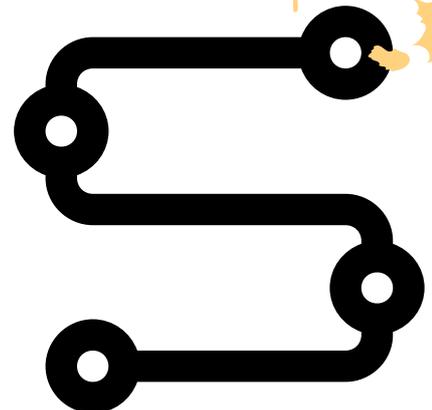
### The best advice I could give new teacher is...

making a mistake in the target language is inevitable, as we often forget that we sometimes make mistakes in our first languages. This is the best lesson you can teach your students!

They will be hesitant at times to participate, because they want to demonstrate perfection; however, if you celebrate the students' attempts to use the target language, and do not focus solely on their mistakes, you'll see immense growth in student participation and second language acquisition.

### One of my goals is...because...

to never cease my acquisition of the language I teach, because you lead by example and learning is a life-long journey.



**If you'd like to be featured in our newsletter, please fill out this [form](#). You can fill out some or all of the questions.**



# News from Regina Peszat, World Languages consultant at KSDE



Approximately 150 teachers attended the summer professional development series via Zoom this summer. Four Kansas teachers—**Amanda Williams, Meagan Meneley, Kari Hillen, and Lorranda Baldrige**—were invited to share their standards-based model lessons with participants. Most of the attendees were from Kansas, but we also welcomed teachers from other states. Our World Language Standards are aligned with the ACTFL World Readiness Standards and the Can-Do Statements, so the PD was useful to teachers in many states. Our four presenters offered examples of how their lessons could be taught in class or via Zoom. Connecting and engaging students on-line has been a daunting and frustrating challenge for teachers nationwide, but it is still important to innovate and do the best we can until we can all be back together in person. **If you missed these sessions, they were recorded and are still available, just send me an e-mail (rpeszat@ksde.org).**

The Kansas Seal of Biliteracy initiative continued to grow last year in spite of the pandemic. We have had another **increase** in the number of school districts that are offering the Seal of Biliteracy to their students as well as an **increase** in the number of languages. We did not award quite as many Seals of Biliteracy this year, but I am certain that we will continue to see growth.

Our **Visiting International Teacher** program was significantly impacted by the pandemic this year. We were only able to make one placement of a teacher from Spain to teach science classes in the dual language program at Topeka High School. Nine of our guest teachers returned to Spain, but sixteen of them decided to stay and participate a second year in the three-year program, but were not able to return home to Spain for the summer to see their families. We are lucky to have teachers in Kansas from many different countries, not just Spain. It is essential that students get to know and appreciate people from different cultures. As world language teachers we can facilitate positive learning experiences between our students, international students, heritage speakers, and guest teachers.

Your KSWLA Executive Board has worked continuously throughout the summer to plan the virtual version of the KSWLA annual fall conference. Much of the in-person conference planning had been done when the board members had to make the decision to cancel the in-person conference and pivot to a virtual format. In spite of the fact that we will all miss out on being together in person this year, the KSWLA Executive Board is very happy with the **quality and quantity of sessions**, and the **cost** of this year's conference. Your executive board of officers has yet again booked a national leader in world language pedagogy. **Señor Wooly** will be giving the keynote address! Let's hope we will all be together in person next year and extra appreciative of the connections from talking to presenters after their sessions, catching up with colleagues we haven't seen for a while, and those impromptu meetings with colleagues who become new friends.

Please feel free to contact me to let me know what good things are going on in your programs and what you might need help with. It's my job to help inform teachers across the state about the Kansas World Language Standards as well as a variety of other topics. I am happy to create a presentation to fit your district's needs. If you are a singleton in a rural district, I would be happy to coordinate PD for a group of teachers in a region. Later this fall I will be offering a special session with Jill Woerner and Mary Porterfield to discuss ways to enrich your programs with international students, heritage language speakers, and resources available for the teaching of languages from the United Nations. I will send out information on the KSDE World Languages listserv. If you do not already receive my e-mails, I can add you to the list, please email me at **rpeszat@ksde.org**



# News from KATG

Please join us for KATG's annual Deutsches Wochenende on September 11th and 12th. This year the event will be held online via Zoom. This is an opportunity for German teachers in Kansas and surrounding areas to come together to speak German and participate in professional development activities. The focus this year will be on Open Educational Resources available online through KU and on creating a stronger connection between high school and college German programs.

There is no cost to attend. Please email Emily Wallace at [emily.wallace@ku.edu](mailto:emily.wallace@ku.edu) by September 7th to register.

## News from KATF



The AATF is offering a variety of on-line professional development sessions. See the full list of webinars being offered by clicking [here](#).

Many of us will be teaching remotely this school year. There are many great tips and tricks for engaging students and presenting content [here](#).

We welcome Jessica Murray to our leadership team! She will be serving as the Vice-President of Kansas AATF. Here is some information about Jessica:

Jessica Murray is currently a teacher at Blue Valley West and Blue Valley High Schools in Overland Park. She is passionate about expanding networking and learning opportunities for French teachers so that more and more students can discover the French language. She graduated from Rockhurst University and was a recipient of the Pi Delta Phi French Honor Society Scholarship to the American University of Paris. She then taught English as a part of the TAPIF program in the Académie de Montpellier. After returning to the KC area, she started her teaching career with the Olathe Public Schools and has been fortunate to teach with and learn from many amazing colleagues.

Kansas had **many** student place at the national level on the Grand Concours this spring. Here are the results of State Winners who also qualified for National recognition:

### Level 1A

- 1st place. Bahia Mohammed Seghir. Olathe East H.S.
- 2nd place. Larissa Rodrigues da Silva. Mill Valley H.S.

### Level 2A

- 1st place. Nasseem Eldika. Wichita Collegiate School.
- 2nd place. Sabrina Wilson. Wichita Collegiate School.
- 3rd place (tie). Cameron Hagemaster. Prairie View H.S.
- 3rd place (tie). Luke Hoelting. Mill Valley H.S.

### Level 3A

- 1st place Chanez Hachour. Olathe East H.S.
- 2nd place. Yuwen Li. Blue Valley Northwest H.S.
- 3rd place. Ria Agarwal. Blue Valley Northwest H.S.
- 4th place. Emily Manning. St. Thomas Aquinas H.S.

### Level 4A

- 1st place. Joan Downey. Mill Valley H.S. Le Petit Prince
- 2nd place. Andrea Shehi. Olathe East H.S.

# Shout Outs from Across the State

**Congratulations to seniors from Manhattan-Ogden USD 383 that qualified for the Seal of Biliteracy!!**

**"Manhattan High School will award 38 Seals of Biliteracy to students who graduated in 2020. There will be twenty-five Seals for Spanish Language and Culture and Spanish Literature, one for Latin, one for Italian, seven for German, two for French, and two for Chinese.**

All Seals were earned through AP Exams where students had to achieve a score of 3 or 4 for a Silver Seal and a 5 for a Gold Seal. To earn their respective Seals, students also had to meet English requirements at a certain level.

In addition, several Freshmen, Sophomores, and Juniors took AP Language and Culture exams this year. They will receive their Seals upon graduation 2021 - 2023. The Manhattan High School World Language Department is very proud of their students being so successful during a difficult spring semester 2020. Congratulations to all of them!"

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**September 3, 2020**

**Contact: Laura Fuller**

**316-295-5809**

**[laura\\_fuller@friends.edu](mailto:laura_fuller@friends.edu)**



**FRIENDS  
UNIVERSITY**



**Dr. Jerry Smartt celebrates 45 years of service at Friends University**

**Dr. Jerry Smartt, professor of Spanish and director of foreign languages, celebrates 45 years of service in foreign language at Friends University. Dr. Smartt graduated from the University of Texas at Austin with a Bachelor of Arts in Spanish and English. She also holds two master's degrees in Spanish, as well as a Ph.D. from Wichita State University.**

**In Dr. Smartt's years of service and dedication she has achieved a number of outstanding accomplishments to benefit the students of Friends University. She recently transformed the Spanish major to focus almost exclusively on interpretation and translation to meet the needs of twenty-first-century learners. She has also dedicated the last four years to developing and overseeing the Latino Leaders program, which now consists of 40 students and 120 mentors. Dr. Smartt received the W.A. Young Award for Excellence in Teaching in 1991 and 2005. Other recent awards include the Outstanding Leadership Award for the Kansas World Language Association in 2019; the 2019 Wichita Business Journal award for Women Who Lead - Education and the Innovators of the Year award (which she shared with Teresa Molina, assistant professor of Spanish at Friends); the 2020 Wichita Business Journal's Women in Business award; and the Phyllis Farrar Outstanding Teacher award from the Kansas World Language Association (KSWLA).**

**Dr. Smartt dedicates her time and talents to the university and the greater Wichita community in a number of significant roles, including serving as an interpreter for the Wichita Mayor and City Council from 1980-2016, serving four terms as the Chair of the Faculty Senate, serving as a past president of the KSWLA and a member of the Wichita Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors.**

**"Dr. Smartt lives out the mission and vision of Friends University each day through her passion, devotion and commitment to her students, colleagues, university and community," said Ken Stoltzfus, academic dean. "It is amazing to think about how many lives have been impacted by her 45 years of service and dedication to Friends. It is an honor for us to celebrate this accomplishment with her."**

**Dr. Smartt and her husband, Dan have been married for 50 years and are the proud parents of three adult sons, daughters-in-law and six grandchildren.**

**Friends University, a Christian University of Quaker heritage, equips students to honor God and serve others by integrating their intellectual, spiritual and professional lives.**



# Last Year Mini Grant Winner Report



During last school year, I was thrilled to be a recipient for KSWLA's annual opportunity for a mini-grant for innovation. I spent most of the rest of the school year exploring the digital tools and resources that I was able to purchase due to KSWLA's generous funding. In my initial thoughts and proposal, I knew that I wanted to increase my effective integration of technology while also moving away from a traditional textbook-based classroom and towards an approach that offered more comprehensible input and target language input opportunities. With the funds provided by this mini grant, I was able to purchase a year-long subscription to Señor Wooly, Garbanzo, and Gimkit. Through these resources I was able to increase engagement, technology use, target language input, and instruction through comprehensible input. This has allowed my instruction to move away from strictly a textbook based curriculum to one that incorporates a variety of target language input resources. I was able to share with a district colleague how I was utilizing these resources and what I had been learning, and she asked me the following questions, which I am eager to share with world educator colleagues around the state. If you have any further questions or ideas, I would love to connect with you! **My contact is millerka@usd416.org.**

## **1- Are your new resources effective? And are they worth your money?**

Yes and yes! Absolutely. Each resource proved to be effective and very much worth the money, so much so that I have been able to work with my administration to renew these resources for the benefit of my students in the future. Señor Wooly is hands down the most engaging and comprehensible target language resource we have had access to in my teaching career thus far. The setup, where students are exposed to new crazy, silly, fun, and comprehensible stories and encouraged to earn "nuggets" to prove their growth and progress is highly motivating and exciting. The stories vary by theme, vocabulary, grammar, and proficiency level, and can be matched to almost any common unit typically taught in a world language curriculum.

Garbanzo, a comprehensible reading application from renowned CI instructor Martina Bex, was another wonderful addition to our toolkit. One of the bonuses of this technology piece is the quality and quantity of the target language input. Her application is seamlessly planned out to allow students to grow in their second language proficiency. Again, you can search by grammar, theme, or vocabulary target, but a hugely apparent benefit is that she masters the inclusion of authentic cultural themes into her stories. Garbanzo includes content from her CI curriculum called Somos, and is a great stepping stone into this curriculum if you or your department are considering a new non-textbook based curriculum.

Finally, Gimkit is the ultimate vocabulary and content-knowledge practice game. If you have tried Quizlet Live, Kahoot, or Quizizz, I can guarantee you that although your students will still ask for the variety of those games mentioned, Gimkit will by far be their very favorite, the one that brings out the most focus, individual initiative, and and competitive spirit. You can play live or assign independent practice. Although Gimkit is free, if you teach multiple units and multiple preps, you will want the paid version, where you are able to create and save multiple kits for various units and concepts.

## **2 - Why did you choose these resources? How did you implement them to enhance instruction?**

I chose these three resources based on personal research and investigation, as well as exposure to and trials of these resources. I was lucky to attend Martina Bex's presentation at Wichita State through KATSP at the beginning of summer 2019, and was immediately motivated to access and try any of her resources. Garbanzo requires no prep other than aligning the chosen story to your current learning targets and proficiency level, and assigning the story to your students. They then work independently to acquire language and vocabulary that matches their level and their learning targets.

I had already been using Gimkit and could never see myself giving it up as a resource! I knew I would have to get the paid version in order to support all my students and classes through their year-long learning journeys. Without the paid subscription, you are limited to just a few "kits" and I like to have 1-2 per unit. Gimkit easily integrates with Quizlet so that you can export a quizlet vocabulary set into Gimkit and not have to re-create work that has already been done. Señor Wooly is another resource that I had been exposed to at a limited level, and I could not wait to dive into further. Although I teach students at the novice level, there are resources for students up into levels 3 and 4 with more difficult grammar concepts and content driven toward older students. You could truly make a whole curriculum just from the extensive stories, videos, activities, and lesson plans offered in your Señor Wooly Pro subscription, but I like to use it as one resource in a themed unit.

All three of these resources are very easy to integrate into units and lessons you already have. As stated above, each of these resources can easily be related to commonly taught topics at each level of world languages in KS. No matter what ACTFL standard you are trying to meet, any of these resources could be combined into your curriculum for a positive effect.

## **3 - How did your students respond? How user friendly are these for teachers?**

The students have responded so well! With just a little bit of help and instruction, students are easily able to create, utilize, and monitor their accounts and progress. Garbanzo is integrated with Google, which has been great for us as a Google school. Señor Wooly has an easy-to-use password system for students, and the Gimkit game has no log-in required. Technology is second nature to students of 2020 and they are easily able to help each other through technical difficulties. Each system has technology support and customer service, but I have rarely needed to use them because their resources and FAQ sections are well-equipped to address common issues. For teachers who love to integrate technology, I foresee these programs being very user friendly for you. Even in just the last year, the programs continue to be updated to work more efficiently for students and teachers both! If you are less comfortable with technology, choose just one, and find a teammate or a colleague in Kansas who is looking to try something new. Two brains are better than one and teachers can do anything they can put their minds to! Finally, I want to mention that whether you are fully in-person, hybrid, or totally remote, this could definitely be the year to try one or all of these things. Technology that allows for comprehensible, target language input with little prep is something we all could benefit from in this unprecedented time in teaching, and I hope you are each able to find these or other new resources helpful as you begin your challenging and interesting journey into the 2020-2021 school year!

To learn about mini-grants, see our [website](#).