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Greendale World Language Educators Commended By School Board for WAFLT Recognition

GREENDALE, WI -- Greendale Schools Board of Education presented commendations to Cathy Stresing, Greendale High School French teacher, and Sarah Thompson, Greendale Middle School French teacher, at its Board Meeting on Monday, December 4. The commendations were presented to recognize recent honors presented by the Wisconsin Association For Language Teachers (WAFLT).

Cathy Stresing received the 2017 WAFLT Distinguished Educator Award. This award, WAFLT's highest recognition, is conferred annually to an individual of the language teaching profession who has demonstrated long-term achievement and service to WAFLT and to the profession - locally, statewide, regionally, and/or nationally. Stresing was selected for her leadership in the profession of world language study. A leader in proficiency-based world language instruction, her 29-year career includes previous high school positions in Jefferson, Fennimore, Mequon and Wauwatosa. In addition to teaching in Greendale, she is also a teacher consultant for Wisconsin Virtual School through CESA 6.

Stresing is also actively involved in professional organizations as a co-presenter at WAFLT Fall Conferences, the Central States Conferences on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (CSCTFL), and the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL). She served as co-chair of WAFLT's Fall Conference from 2013- 2016, and now serves on the Board of Directors of CSCTFL as co-chair of the 2019 conference and chair of its CSCTFL Leadership Program. She is also a member of the Xperitas Educator Advisory Council, regularly facilitating workshops to support educators traveling abroad with their students.

Sarah Thompson, Greendale Middle School French teacher received WAFLT's 2017 Frank M. Grittner award. The Frank M. Grittner Award is presented to a new teacher 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 as the Wisconsin State Foreign Language supervisor from 1961 to 1991.

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Thompson is known for creating authentic experiences for her students and her development of thematic units to support her instruction. She works to improve her own teaching by participation in professional development and networking opportunities to benefit her students, including WAFLT and Southeastern Wisconsin Academic Alliance in French (SWAAF).

Greendale Schools offers a comprehensive language experience for all students, beginning in K5. As a team, its educators have worked on different levels of integrated performance assessments and thematic planning step by step, have set the standard for a greater than 90 percent target language use at all levels, and have established proficiency targets for each level of instruction.

WAFLT has been serving Wisconsin world language teachers since 1913 and is one of the largest state language associations in the country. The purpose of WAFLT is to promote, strengthen and facilitate the teaching and life-long learning of world languages and cultures in schools and communities to meet the needs of our increasingly interdependent world.

The awards were presented to Stresing and Thompson at the 2017 WAFLT Conference on November 3.

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ABOUT GREENDALE SCHOOLS:

Established in 1938, Greendale Schools is home to more than 2,600 students. The District prides itself in providing an outstanding education for all students from Kindergarten through twelfth grade at Greendale High School, Greendale Middle School, and three elementary schools (Canterbury, College Park and Highland View). Greendale Schools, in partnership with students, families, and the community, is committed to developing leadership, creativity, and educational excellence. By creating multiple opportunities for learning, each student's unique abilities are developed to achieve success and contribute positively to our global society.