



Dear Administrator,

As President of the Chicago Area Chapter of the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese (AATSP), I would like to wish you a smooth and rewarding 2010 school year. As you look to increase your Spanish teachers' participation in professional learning communities, I urge you to promote this professional organization to your staff. We offer a strong link to the IL Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ICTFL), the state language teacher organization. Our members support the ICTFL fall conference by attending, presenting, and volunteering. The Chicago AATSP extends professional development opportunities by hosting a winter workshop at an area school.

However, equally important are the opportunities for our members' Spanish students. In November we hold a poster/poetry contest at Proviso West High School in Hillside. The formats of poetry recitation and art offer outlets for Spanish that tap multiple intelligences not always expressed in the classroom. The drama or art also offer possibilities for collaboration with other colleagues.

In the spring our chapter sponsors the National Spanish Exam (NSE), a test administered at your school. The exam aims to recognize successful Spanish language students at all levels. Although high scores may lead to national recognition and scholarship opportunities, our chapter determines local awards. Last May we held an Awards Tea at Dominican University to honor over 250 Chicago area Spanish students and awarded them over \$15,000 in cash prizes. In addition, we also sponsor college scholarships to students who have participated in the National Spanish exam multiple years.

Our website, www.chicagoatasp.org, contains general information as well as details regarding membership and contests. It also has a link to the national AATSP and the ICTFL sites. Our mission to help your Spanish teachers and students cannot be met without membership, and your encouragement to join and benefit in our professional association is greatly appreciated.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Muy buen año escolar,

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