

## Andrew Williams

### 2020 FLAM Friend of Foreign Language Award



The Friend of Foreign Language Award is to be presented to an individual or group from outside the foreign language teaching profession who has made significant contributions to the teaching and learning of foreign languages.

Andrew Williams is our Friend of Foreign Language Award recipient and he currently works for Orscheln Products. He spent two years serving for his church in the Japan Tokyo North Mission. After his mission, he enlisted in the military and learned Chinese at the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, CA. Although he has conducted classified operations in the Air Force while in Hawaii and has traveled through his current job to places such as Japan, China, Thailand, Australia, South Korea, Singapore, Malaysia, India and England, the place he visits every other year that earned him this award is the classroom of his local Spanish teacher, Mr. James Barker, where he inspires young minds to seek out the tools that will give them the opportunities of a lifetime.

Andrew visits the high school classroom every other year to talk about his journey to learn languages and uses it to motivate young learners who hear first-hand what an impact another language can have on their lives through opportunities. Learning languages has given him the opportunity to live with and understand the cultures that he so wanted to learn from since he was young.

Andrew's story about his internal motivation has helped countless students at Moberly High School find their reason and drive to continue studies of languages to the post-secondary level, travel the world through study abroad trips, and ultimately follow their dreams to have life-changing experiences while learning from different cultures.

"Because of Andy I have had students pursue degrees in German, Italian, and Spanish. They have gone on study abroad trips to immerse themselves in those languages and are now in the professional world using their languages of passion. They have created opportunities for themselves. He is an asset to me, my students, and the foreign language world."

- James Barker, Spanish teacher, Moberly High School