

Denise Pahl

2020 FLAM Lifetime Achievement Award



The Lifetime Achievement Award honors a member of the foreign language teaching profession who has devoted his/her professional career to the improvement of foreign language learning.

Denise Pahl is our Lifetime Achievement Award recipient and a Spanish teacher who worked in several districts in St. Louis. Denise dedicated her life to teaching Spanish and has worked hard as an advocate for the learning of a second language. She has volunteered on numerous committees across St. Louis and served as the FLAM Conference Chair from 2015-2017. She has spoken to various small groups on issues of immigration, personal experience with immigrant accompaniment, and volunteered at a migrant shelter in El Paso. She is a strong supporter and volunteer of the Saint Louis Interfaith Committee on Latin America. Denise retired from the Rockwood School District in 2014 after 24 years of teaching, and she spent her last ten years at Eureka High School, where she taught Spanish II, III, IV, and led Spanish-immersion trips to Costa Rica and Spain.

“Denise’s experience as a teacher exemplifies the standards of working hard, going beyond the minimum, and structuring class activities and assessments in a fair, equitable, and clearly communicated manner. Denise cared deeply about her students and her belief that every student deserved a teacher that worked hard to ensure successful learning was evident. I have never had the opportunity to collaborate with someone quite the same way that Denise and I collaborated together.”

- Kimberly Lackey, Spanish teacher, Rockwood Summit High School

“Señora Pahl’s dedication to and enthusiasm for education, the Spanish language, Hispanic & Latinx culture, and social justice have spread such an important message to so many people. The lasting impact of her work has and will continue to change the world.”

- Grace Wildenhaus, a former student