



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## English Language Learning Achievements Honored

Six educators from across Kansas and a high school student were recognized recently for their work in English language learning.

The seven honored were Judy Arpin, Sunset Elementary, Salina; Antonio Granillo, Moscow; Irene Perez, Southwest Plains Regional Service Center; Larry Philippi, Moscow; Louise Quintana, Moscow Elementary/High School; Abdelilah Salim Sehlaoui, Emporia State University; and Patricia Wilde, Briarwood Elementary, Shawnee Mission.

They were honored at the Kansas Association of Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (KATESOL) and Bilingual Educators 2008 Conference. The conference was held March 26-27 at Emporia State University and was attended by 110 people from across Kansas.

### 2008 KATESOL STUDENT AWARD

#### **Outstanding Achievement of an ESOL Student: Antonio Granillo, ELL Student, Moscow Schools**

"Antonio (Tony) Granillo started kindergarten class with no English and was part of the English as Second Language program," reads his nomination form. "Just as he was hungry to learn the English language, we could see that he was hungry for knowledge. In 2004, Tony was exited from the ESL program because he had scored proficient in all area of the language proficiency test. Tony has succeeded in music, playing the drums and xylophone. In sports, no matter football, basketball, and track, he has always excelled. He is involved in numerous school clubs and activities. I am so proud of Tony in the way he has moved from being non-English to fluent English and how he has excelled in school. The fact that he has retained his first language will also help him to succeed. Tony is the co-valedictorian for the year 2007-2008 of Moscow High School. Tony has been an example that language should not hold you back from succeeding."

### 2008 KATESOL AWARDS FOR PROFESSIONALS

#### **Outstanding Contribution of an ESOL Papaprofessional – Judy Arpin, ESL Paraprofessional, Sunset Elementary, Salina**

Arpin has worked in the ESL program in Salina for 25 years. She was recognized for her dedication to her job, her students and their families. Arpin was cited for working hard to help her students achieve their goals and the continued gains her students make in test scores.

#### **Outstanding Contribution of an ESOL Consultant – Irene Perez, Consultant, Southwest Plains Regional Service Center, Sublette**

Perez serves as an ESOL consultant for several schools in southwest Kansas. She coordinates meetings where all people who work in the ESL departments in schools school can get together to learn new information concerning the ESL program. Her nomination read, "If we have any questions, she will answer them but what I really like is that she is not ashamed to say I don't know and will find the answer and get back to us. She is an inspiration to all of us that work in ESL programs because she wants to pass her knowledge to us so we in turn can help our students to succeed."

###MORE###



**Outstanding Contribution of a K-12 Administrator –  
Larry Philippi, Superintendent, Moscow Schools**

Sympathetic and aware of the need for ESL classes for all non English speakers in the Moscow community, Philippi started ESL classes for adults during the day and evening hours. Initiatives he created include: free daycare for the children of people attending ESL classes, the Parents as Teachers program to encourage parents to read to their children, and he was instrumental in establishing preschool and pre-kindergarten classes so these non-English speaking children would be exposed to the English language and be prepared for kindergarten. His nomination read, “Mr. Philippi is one administrator that truly cares about population and he only wants the best for them. He cares about all people getting ahead in their education but the programs that he has started here in Moscow go above and beyond what his job entails.”

**Outstanding Contribution of a K-12 Teacher –  
Louise Quintana, ESOL teacher/coordinator, Moscow Schools**

Well known in Moscow, Louise Quintana’s work with English language learners continues beyond the school day and into the weekends. She attends school activities, quinceaneras, showers, weddings, and other family functions to be involved with her students and their families. She works with ELL students, both school-age and adults for many years. Her nomination read, “She is constantly on their case; teaching, encouraging, pushing them to do better, and going to bat for them when needed. If there's anyone you would want on your team, it's Louise.”

**Outstanding Contribution of a University Professional –  
Abdelilah Salim Sehlaoui, Associate Professor of Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) and Applied Linguistics, Emporia State University**

Sehlaoui has served the TESOL profession and has taught ESL/EFL since 1985. He was elected president of KATESOL for 2007-08. He has prepared hundreds of outstanding ESL teachers for Kansas since coming to ESU in 1999. His publications and research are in the areas of: developing cross-cultural communicative competence in ESOL teachers; ESL/EFL reading; TESOL teacher program effectiveness; and socio-cultural dynamics of Computer-Assisted Language learning. As a further contribution to the field, Dr. Sehlaoui has co-authored five federal grants in professional development training in TESOL totaling awards of over \$6 million dollars.

**Outstanding Contribution of an ESOL Aide –  
Patricia Wilde, ELL Aide, Briarwood Elementary, Shawnee Mission**

Wilde was recognized for going above and beyond her duties and the rapport she has built with ELL families. She established a dental program for the ELL students through her own dentist and is in her second year of managing the adult ELL classes offered through her school. Wilde is also the liaison between Johnson County Community College and the parents taking English classes. She was cited for being, “the reason that our ESOL program has been successful the past few years.”

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