AATF REBECCA AND JEAN-PAUL VALETTE LEGACY AWARD

JENNIFER HOBAN is a French teacher at Louisville Collegiate School (KY). While predominantly teaching at the middle school level, she has also taught all grade levels from kindergarten through college-level French. During her time at Louisville Collegiate, the French program has seen tremendous growth in the middle school with full classes and the opening of new sections. Jennifer passionately believes that every student should have the opportunity to learn a World Language. Learning a language not only brings students undeniable cognitive and long-term professional benefits, it also opens new worlds to them. In Jennifer’s classroom, students not only learn to communicate in a second language, but learn through listening and observation to become curious, empathetic, and engaged citizens of the world.

DOROTHY S. LUDWIG EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD - HIGH SCHOOL LEVEL

DEBORAH BLAZ is a Google-certified educator, full-time high school teacher (Angola High School) and part-time university adjunct (Ivy Tech and Trine University). Deborah has taught French for 41 years. Deb was named honorable mention to the USA Today All-America Teacher Team and received the Project E Excellence in Education award in Indiana.

Deb has written six books on world language pedagogy, several articles for the AATF National Bulletin and the Language Educator magazine, and as a professional translator has helped many adoptive families and participated in a team that translated The Popacy: An Encyclopedia.

A career-long member of AATF and IFLTA, she has done numerous keynote talks and workshops nationally and internationally and yearly presentations at state conferences on a variety of topics, several times selected as Best of State or All Star at Central States, as well as helping with her state foreign language website. Her classes have pen pals from France each year, with a recent exchange visit from Normandy, and the pétanque team boasts several trophies.

DOROTHY S. LUDWIG EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD - POST-SECONDARY LEVEL

ANNE LAIR received her Ph.D. in French culture and literature from the Ohio State University in 2003. She was an Associate Professor of French at the University of Northern Iowa until 2012, and then joined the University of Utah where she currently is a Professor/Lecturer of French and directs the French Basic Language Program. She is also the French Bridge Curriculum Director and French Coordinator for the State of Utah. Prior to this, she served as the Dual Language Immersion Coordinator (2013-15) and then became the Coordinator of the Secondary French Dual Immersion Program until 2018. Anne is the Honorary Consul of France in Utah.

Anne has been recognized professionally on several occasions. She was named a Chevalier dans l’Ordre des Palmes académiques (2017), Teacher of the Year at the University Level by the Utah Foreign Language Association (2014), the ACTFL Nelson Brooks Award (2012), and the Outstanding Educator of the Year at the University Level granted by the Iowa World Language Association in 2008.

Anne was invited to co-author first- and second-year textbooks (Cengage Learning). When she isn’t teaching or giving workshops, she enjoys cooking, skiing, and hiking with her family.