



American Association of Teachers of German, Inc.

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October 15, 2019

Rick Beck
West Valley High School
9800 Zier Road
Yakima WA 98902

Dear Rick,

It is my great pleasure to inform you that the West Valley High School's German program has been designated a German Center of Excellence by the American Association of Teachers of German. After carefully reviewing your application, the jurors found the West Valley High School programming excellent in every category.

Your program will be honored during the AATG Awards Presentation at the ACTFL Convention and World Languages Expo on Saturday, November 23, 2019 at 7:30 pm at the Goethe-Institut Washington in their new location at 1377 R Street NW (Metro U Station), Washington, DC. We do hope you will be able to attend but unfortunately we are not able to provide any travel assistance. Registration and housing information for the convention can be found at www.actfl.org. October 30 is the deadline for advance registration.

The jury was impressed in particular that the German program is so very well established and growing. There is clear evidence that the program has strong support from the administration, professional colleagues, parents and students, and has strong ties to the wider community. Extracurricular activities and special events are clearly integral elements of the program.

Furthermore, the selection panel noted the exemplary faculty with credentials appropriate to the teaching assignment and an appropriate faculty-student ratio. The application provided clear evidence of continuing faculty development at local, state, and national levels. The opportunity to collaborate and evidence of self-evaluation and shared program goals are to be commended.

Most impressive is the program's curriculum. There is a clear, articulated sequence of instructional programming that is standards-based and reflects current methodologies. Outcomes at each instructional level are clearly articulated and diverse learning styles are respected through varied instructional and assessment techniques. The materials used in the program are culturally authentic and interdisciplinary connections have been established.

The German program at the West Valley High School certainly values its students. The jury noted that the faculty clearly values student feedback and the application provided abundant evidence of the good rapport the faculty has with its students. This is truly a program that is designed to meet the needs of students.

Please accept my congratulations to you on this honor!

Greetings,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Keith Cothrun', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Keith Cothrun
Executive Director