Dear LFLTA Committee,

It is my pleasure to recommend Laura Cerniglia for the LFLTA Teacher of the Year Award as she embodies the qualities of an outstanding and inspiring educator. During a recent visit to Laura's classroom, I was immediately impressed by the intentionality behind her instructional practices. She incorporated phenomenal visuals to support student understanding and make the content more accessible to learners. She was also strategic in her grouping of students, thoughtfully pairing students with varying levels of proficiency to encourage collaboration and peer learning. Throughout the lesson, Laura continuously moved around the classroom, checking for understanding, providing support, and remaining actively engaged with her students. Perhaps most notably, the students appeared incredibly comfortable and confident in her classroom. They were at ease participating, asking questions, and engaging with both Laura and their peers. It was evident that she has cultivated a classroom environment where students feel supported, valued, and empowered to learn. Additionally, Laura used gestures, signs, and Teaching Proficiency through Reading and Storytelling (TPRS) strategies to support language acquisition. She incorporated these techniques so naturally and effectively that they enhanced student comprehension while keeping students actively engaged in the lesson. Her ability to use movement, visuals, and storytelling to make language accessible demonstrates both her instructional expertise and her passion for language teaching.

Beyond her instructional expertise, Laura is also someone who genuinely invests in the growth and success of her colleagues. She is consistently encouraging and supportive, always motivating me to pursue my professional goals and become a stronger educator. Her willingness to share her knowledge, offer encouragement, and inspire those around her speaks volumes about the kind of teacher and colleague she is. Laura does not simply make an impact within her own classroom; she positively influences the educators fortunate enough to work alongside her. I am one of those educators.

I give Laura my highest recommendation for LFLTA Teacher of the Year. Please feel free to contact me at 504-300-7873 or mshowers@ashrosary.org if you would like to discuss Laura's impact further. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Mimi Yacoubian Showers, MAT
Upper School Spanish Teacher
The Academy of the Sacred Heart- New Orleans
Educational Leadership Graduate Student
Creighton University