ACADEMY OF THE SACRED HEART

OUR GIRLS CHANGE THE WORLD

November 15, 2026

Dear LFLTA teacher selection committee:

It is with great enthusiasm that I write in support of the nomination of Laura Cerniglia for Teacher of the Year. In my role as World Language Department Chair at Academy of the Sacred Heart, I have been a witness to her remarkable teaching thus far in the 2026-27 academic year.

Laura has demonstrated exceptional professionalism in the art and science of teaching Spanish. Her commitment to study and application of Comprehensible Input methodologies are evident in her curriculum planning and daily execution. The student outcomes are a testament to this. Her novice Spanish students in 5th and 6th grade, within 2 months time, are able to read short short stories, compose sentences and even sythesize to create mini-stories. All the while, students have physical supports all over the room with word walls and images to support them gaining comfort in the immersive classroom.

Equally impressive is Laura's intentional integration of cultural learning into her language instruction. She consistently uses high-frequency language structures to explore culturally relevant people, traditions, and events. One particularly meaningful example is her approach to Dia de los Muertos. Her students created a beautiful altar containing all relevant elements of an *ofrenda* complete with their personal photos. This teaching was extended to the Middle School community with a presentation at a Middle School assembly, which was followed up at our Catholic chapel service.

In October 2026, students had a formal reflection activity in which they showcased artificats representing their academic growth. Many of her students proudly selected their Spanish writing samples coupled with comments of "Class is fun" and "I'm amazed at how much I'm learning."

Her students' comments and evidence of learning demonstrats that she creates a classroom environment where students are able to take learning risks and are eager to participate. She is the model of instructional excellence, cultural appreciation, and genuine dedication to the students she serves.

Sincerely,

Cherie Tregre, M. Ed.