November 12, 2026

Awards Committee
Louisiana Foreign Language Teachers Association (LFLTA)

Re: Letter of Recommendation for Laura Cerniglia – 2027 LFLTA Teacher of the Year Award

Dear Members of the LFLTA,

I am writing to wholeheartedly recommend Laura Cerniglia for the 2027 Louisiana Foreign Language Teachers Association Teacher of the Year Award. As the parent of a student at Mount Carmel Academy, I have had the privilege of witnessing firsthand the impact Mrs. Cerniglia has on her students both in the Spanish classroom and across the broader school community.

In her dual role as a Spanish teacher and Mount Carmel Academy's Foreign Language Curriculum Coordinator during the 2025–2026 academic year, Mrs. Cerniglia has demonstrated exceptional instructional leadership and an unwavering commitment to language education. Most notably, she has made a lasting impression on our daughter, transforming how she approaches language learning and other cultures.

What sets Mrs. Cerniglia apart is her immersive, student-centered teaching style. Rather than relying solely on memorization or textbook drills, she creates an engaging environment rooted in real-life application. By centering lessons around practical communication, authentic cultural experiences, and active student participation, she empowers young women to step outside their comfort zones and use Spanish with genuine confidence. Under her guidance, our daughter did not simply study a subject - she experienced a living language, developing both linguistic proficiency and a meaningful appreciation for Spanish-speaking cultures.

Equally impressive is how closely Mrs. Cerniglia pays attention to each individual learner's growth. When our daughter was in her Spanish I class, Mrs. Cerniglia recognized her dedication and growing proficiency mid-year and advocated for her placement into Spanish I Honors. That personal attention and encouragement meant the world to our daughter. It validated her hard work, challenged her at the right level, and gave her a noticeable boost in academic confidence that has carried well beyond the Spanish classroom.

Mrs. Cerniglia embodies the very best of what the LFLTA Teacher of the Year Award represents: innovation, individualized mentorship, curriculum leadership, and a profound ability to inspire lifelong learners. I can think of no educator more deserving of this recognition, and I give her my highest recommendation without reservation.

Sincerely,

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