

# News Release: PGCPs Honors 2015 World Languages Teacher of the Year

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For Immediate Release

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**UPPER MARLBORO, MD** – On April 22, the World Languages Office for Prince George’s County Public Schools (PGCPS) honored Dr. Patrick Bonner, Spanish teacher at Buck Lodge Middle School, as the 2015 World Languages Teacher of the Year, and Laura Guzman, Capitol Heights Elementary School teacher as the first runner-up.

Bonner, who has taught at Buck Lodge for the past two years, was ecstatic about receiving the award and thankful that such an award exists.

“I am beyond honored to be this year’s recipient,” said Dr. Bonner. “Winning this award is truly a tribute to my school and the many students who strive to succeed in class everyday.”

As the 2015 World Languages Teacher of the Year, Dr. Bonner will represent PGCPS at the Maryland Foreign Language Teacher of the Year State Competition in Maryland.

The World Languages Teacher of the Year Award was created in 2010 as a way to recognize the value and commitment of foreign language educators in the county. It would also provide PGCPS with an opportunity to spotlight the importance of learning languages and experiencing other cultures.

“We are always excited about this time of year and the recognition it brings to our teachers, as well as our language programs,” said Maria Flores, supervisor of world languages at PGCPS.

“The award provides a platform to promote foreign languages as a core curriculum component that improves critical thinking skills and raises student literacy levels,” added Dr. Bonner.

To apply for the award, language teachers must participate in a highly selective application process. Candidates must be nominated and submit an application that will be reviewed by a panel of professionals and local community members. Additionally,