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To: The Ohio Art Education Association

RE: Nomination for Advocate Award; Violeta Chinni, Galion High School French teacher
North Central Region

To Ohio Art Education Association:

It is with great pleasure that I nominate my co-worker Ms. Violeta Chinni for this distinguished award.

This is Violeta's 4th year at Galion High School, and she has greatly changed our foreign language program with her excellent integration of art in her curriculum. Violeta is an artist in her own right, and previously operated a gallery in Mansfield, Ohio, prior to her employment with Galion High School. She frequently incorporates art in her curriculum, and her students are responsible for artistically creating a bulletin board for French club, as well as projects involving drawing, painting, and the creation of their own fleur de lis designs.


I have attended several field trips with Ms. Chinni as a special invitation to collaborate with her curriculum. We have attended the Mansfield Art Gallery to see a special photography exhibit entitled "Bridges", in which the subject matter was all bridges located throughout France. We recently attended the Cleveland Museum of Art to see the Rodin exhibit, as well as French Impressionism. She frequently borrows my art books about French artists/artwork to incorporate in her displays, and to use in her classroom work. The cultural enrichment with the use of art is outstanding.

Violeta has an incredibly beautiful classroom with a flexible seating arrangement, complete with café-style tables, in which the "menus" on the table are each different French-speaking countries, such as Senegal, complete with lists of that country's customs and culture. There is artwork tastefully displayed around the room, with non-traditional lighting. It is a sight to behold. Students like to arrive early to get the best seats, but all of them are very inviting. There is even a chaise lounge.

In conclusion, I feel that Violeta's influence on her students help inspire them to learn more about art and culture, and greatly enhances what I am doing in my classroom. She is a phenomenal asset to our school.

Thank you for accepting this nomination for an outstanding educator.

Sincerely,


Linda K. Wilson
GHS Art Teacher