Currently in her eleventh year as an ELL teacher, Ms. Salazar has taught students from more than 30 countries. Some speak limited English; some speak no English; and some come from countries where attending school is not possible. She addresses each of these issues with respect, dedication and compassion.

Ms. Salazar is one of the main forces in helping her students assimilate into their new country and culture. She teaches them how to navigate public transportation; how to utilize the local hospital; how to handle a trip to the grocery store. She also developed a “Know Your Rights” board, which provides resources and information to help them and their families address the personal issues they face. Ms. Salazar’s greatest attribute, however, may be her passion for her students’ academic success. She helps them select their classes; works with their subject teachers to ensure their needs are met; and even helps them secure financial aid and scholarships for college.

Ms. Salazar has clearly been a hero to her students for a long time. We were glad to make it official by presenting her with this award.