

## Ying Shao - Arizona



Ying Shao was selected to represent Arizona as Teacher of the Year 2024 at the Southwest Conference on Language Teaching (SWCOLT). Ying is a third-grade Mandarin teacher in the Dual Language Immersion (DLI) program at Tarwater Elementary School. As the first DLI teacher in the district, she has been a tireless advocate, actively promoting, presenting, and supporting the program across schools and throughout the community. Committed to lifelong learning, Ying participates in professional development by attending training, workshops, and conferences to ensure her teaching is grounded in research-based practices. In 2023, she earned National Board Certification in Literacy: Reading-Language Arts, making a significant key milestone in her professional journey. In the classroom, Ying strives to create immersive, authentic, and interactive language learning experiences, inspiring her students to explore Chinese culture using all five senses. She has secured multiple grants to implement creative and enriching projects. Ying deeply values community involvement, engaging her students in cultural performances and competitions to make language and cultural learning both meaningful and impactful.

[Candidate Video](#)