



NNELL Award for Outstanding Support of Early Second Language Learning is given to an individual or individuals who have demonstrated outstanding support of early second language learning of languages other than English. Nominees are individuals whose primary job responsibilities are NOT related to the field of second language education.

The 2017 NNELL Award for Outstanding Support of Early Second Language Learning is presented to Representative Peggy Mayfield, Assistant Majority Floor Leader of the Indiana General Assembly.

Representative Mayfield was instrumental in the passage of Indiana SB267 which provided \$1,000,000 in funding as seed money to begin world language programs in Indiana's primary schools. She guided the process strategically by eliciting the support of the Chairmen of the Education Committees in both the Senate and the House of Representatives and established additional support on both sides of the political aisle in different capacities.

When this legislation was finally passed, it actually contained two world language bills: one in support of the seed funds to initiate dual language/immersion world language programs in primary schools and the other in support of the Seal of Biliteracy. The combination was extremely powerful on many levels. The legislation provided financial incentives to initiate dual language and/or immersion programs in kindergarten and first grade and created a means to recognize the achievement of biliteracy in English and a world language upon graduation from high school.