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**BETTY LOU LEAVER, DAN E. DAVIDSON, AND CHRISTINE CAMPBELL TO
RECEIVE THE MLA'S KENNETH W. MILDENBERGER PRIZE FOR
TRANSFORMATIVE LANGUAGE LEARNING AND TEACHING; CARL S. BLYTH AND
JOSHUA J. THOMS TO RECEIVE HONORABLE MENTION**

New York, NY – 6 December 2023 – The Modern Language Association of America today announced it is awarding its thirty-seventh Kenneth W. Mildener Prize to Betty Lou Leaver, former provost of the Defense Language Institute; Dan E. Davidson, director of the American Councils Research Center and emeritus professor of Russian at Bryn Mawr College; and Christine Campbell, president of Campbell Language Consultants and professor emerita of the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center, for their book *Transformative Language Learning and Teaching*, published by Cambridge University Press. Carl S. Blyth, associate professor of French linguistics at the University of Texas, Austin, and Joshua J. Thoms, professor of applied linguistics and Spanish at Utah State University, are receiving an honorable mention for their work *Open Education and Second Language Learning and Teaching: The Rise of a New Knowledge Ecology*, published by Multilingual Matters. The prize is awarded for an outstanding work in the fields of language, culture, literacy, and literature with strong application to the teaching of languages other than English.

The Kenneth W. Mildener Prize is one of twenty-two awards that will be presented on 5 January 2024 during the association's annual convention, to be held in Philadelphia. The members of this year's Mildener Prize Selection Committee were Gillian Lord (Univ. of Florida), chair; Emma Trentman (Univ. of New Mexico, Albuquerque); and Heather Willis Allen (Univ. of Wisconsin, Madison). The selection committee's citation for the winning book reads:

Betty Lou Leaver, Dan E. Davidson, and Christine Campbell bring together well-known and up-and-coming scholars in language teaching and learning to provide a thorough, coherent treatment of the concept of transformative learning in *Transformative Language Learning and Teaching*. Each of the twenty-four content chapters outlines relevant theoretical approaches and supplements them with successful examples from institutions around the world to illustrate theory into practice. With a broad range of examples and end-of-chapter discussion questions, this book is certain to become a go-to resource for teachers, teacher educators, administrators, and researchers alike.

The committee's citation for the honorable mention reads:

Open Education and Second Language Learning and Teaching: The Rise of a New Knowledge Ecology operationalizes the open educational movement in the context of language teaching and learning. A historical overview of the movement is supplemented with a thorough exploration of the new knowledge ecologies it produces, particularly in the world of language education in and beyond the classroom context. By combining

theory and practice with examples for a range of different languages, Carl S. Blyth and Joshua J. Thoms's book is relevant across many fields and for researchers as well as educators.

The Modern Language Association of America and its over 20,000 members in 100 countries work to strengthen the study and teaching of languages and literature. Founded in 1883, the MLA provides opportunities for its members to share their scholarly findings and teaching experiences with colleagues and to discuss trends in the academy. The MLA sustains one of the finest publication programs in the humanities, producing a variety of publications for language and literature professionals and for the general public. The association publishes the *MLA International Bibliography*, the only comprehensive bibliography in language and literature, available online. The MLA Annual Convention features 750 scholarly and professional development sessions. More information on MLA programs is available at www.mla.org.

The Kenneth W. Mildenberger Prize was established by the MLA Executive Council in 1979. First presented in 1980, the prize is awarded under the auspices of the MLA's Committee on Honors and Awards. From 1998 to 2002, the prize was awarded in alternate years to an outstanding book and an outstanding article in the field. From 2004 to 2007, the Kenneth W. Mildenberger Prize was selected by a committee that also reviewed work for the Mina P. Shaughnessy Prize, which is awarded for an outstanding work in the fields of language, culture, literacy, and literature and that has a strong application to the teaching of English.

Other awards sponsored by the committee are the William Riley Parker Prize; the James Russell Lowell Prize; the MLA Prize for a First Book; the Howard R. Marraro Prize; the Mina P. Shaughnessy Prize; the MLA Prize for Independent Scholars; the Katherine Singer Kovacs Prize; the Morton N. Cohen Award; the MLA Prizes for a Scholarly Edition and for Bibliographical or Archival Scholarship; the Lois Roth Award; the William Sanders Scarborough Prize; the Fenia and Yaakov Leviant Memorial Prize in Yiddish Studies; the MLA Prize in United States Latina and Latino and Chicana and Chicano Literary and Cultural Studies; the MLA Prize for Studies in Native American Literatures, Cultures, and Languages; the Matei Calinescu Prize; the MLA Prize for an Edited Collection; the Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Prizes for Comparative Literary Studies, for French and Francophone Studies, for Italian Studies, for Studies in Germanic Languages and Literatures, for Studies in Slavic Languages and Literatures, for a Translation of a Literary Work, for a Translation of a Scholarly Study of Literature, for African Studies, for East Asian Studies, for Middle Eastern Studies, and for South Asian Studies; and the Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Publication Award for a Manuscript in Italian Literary Studies. A complete list of current and previous winners can be found on the [MLA website](#).

Kenneth W. Mildenberger (1921–79) devoted his distinguished career to the advancement of the study of foreign languages. He received his PhD in 1951 from New York University and an honorary doctorate of laws from Middlebury College in 1963. He joined the staff of the MLA in 1952 and served as associate secretary and director of the association's Foreign Language Program until 1958. He then moved to Washington, DC, where he served first as assistant chief of the Language Development Section in the United States Office of Education and then as chief until 1961. From 1962 to 1965 he served as director of the Division of College and University Assistance of the United States Office of Education. After his government service, Mildenberger returned to the MLA as deputy executive secretary and treasurer. During his career at the MLA he was instrumental in the establishment of the Center for Applied Linguistics, the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages, and the first ERIC Clearinghouse on Foreign Languages. He also directed numerous research projects, edited special publications, and was the founding editor of *Foreign Language Annals*.