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# the LAKEWOOD LEAD

Behind the scenes stories about educators that matter to you.

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## Muchas Gracias Señor Urka

### *Mr. Urka Hosts World Language Competition...Anyway*

A cancellation of the annual Central Michigan University World Language Competition did not stop Mr. Urka from providing this meaningful experience for Lakewood students. Rather than passing news of the cancellation to his students, Mr. Urka decided to be the proud host of the FIRST foreign language day competition right here in Lakewood. Right on Mr. Urka!

#### THE WHY

The 2017 CMU hosted Foreign Language Day Competition was canceled. Our students have participated and benefited from this world language talent competition that includes skits, songs, dances, poetry, interpretive readings, displays, etc. The Foreign Language Competition provides students a meaningful opportunity to demonstrate their love for the Spanish language through words, artistic expression, and actions.

Foreign language study enables Lakewood students to communicate and serve people in a powerful way. Did you know Spanish is the second most spoken language in the United States of America? And, Spanish is the “gateway” language that makes it easier to learn other languages. Mr. Urka keeps it real in his classroom and provides his students with practical application of the language. His students are fully immersed in the Spanish language and culture.

#### THE HOW

Mr. Urka responded to the cancellation of the World Language Competition by springing into action and began planning. The result was a full on Spanish talent competition in the high school media center. Mr. Urka didn’t settle for the competition alone, it was followed by a fiesta in the cafeteria which celebrated Spanish food and culture. Mr. Urka immerses students in Spanish language and culture. Not only do his students become fluent, but they also learn the cultural norms and practices that provide them with a rich foreign language learning experience.

#### THE IMPACT

Mr. Urka’s techniques and quality approach to teaching a foreign language gives Lakewood students a step up as they compete in the world of business and personal growth. Fluency in a foreign language will provide a significant competitive advantage and give Lakewood kids a global perspective, enhanced communication and critical thinking skills. It is an essential component of general education and personal growth. Thank you Mr. Urka for instilling cultural appreciation in Lakewood students!

Success. Nothing Less.

