

2026 Nancy A. Carnevale Grant for Teachers of MLLs (Pre K-12)



Nancy Carnevale, M.Ed., a National Board-Certified Teacher of English as New Language (ENL) invested her 38-year career in supporting urban MLLs and their families. She exemplified the “can-do” philosophy. Nancy serves as a model of best practices in urban education for MLLs. A lifelong advocate for children, she took every opportunity to acquire the latest MLL teaching practices so that she could promote success for her students in every way possible. She is honored for her passion, her love for and unwavering dedication to her students, her collaborative nature and for her clarity of vision that teaching is most successful when you “teach from the heart.”

We are happy to announce the opening for applications for the Nancy Carnevale Award. The Nancy A. Carnevale Grant is awarded to classroom teachers who exemplify Nancy’s life and career. The award includes \$500 for project costs, a 2027 RITELL membership, along with some RITELL swag. The Grant is open to Rhode Island teachers of multilingual learners in grades Pre-K through Grade 12. Successful proposals extend beyond the classroom to students’ families and community, capturing the spirit of Nancy: “to teach from the heart.” You can complete your application using [this Google Form](#).

Here are the recent Nancy Carnevale Grant recipients:

- Megan Johanson, first grade teacher, B F Norton Elementary School, Cumberland, used funds to purchase multicultural books and art supplies. Students created posters that were displayed throughout the school. Parents were invited in to share their heritage and customs. In Megan’s words, *“Students will share, learn, and explore their multicultural identity, but also learn and understand that they do not have to choose just one heritage, but embrace all parts of their heritage.”*
- Kerri Valentine, science teacher, Central Falls High School, and 2024 recipient of the Nancy Carnevale Award, used the funds as part of a culturally responsive unit combining students’ cultures into learning about hydroponic gardening. In Kerri’s words: *“the garden becomes a hub for community engagement, fostering shared learning and intergenerational connection.”*
- Paula McKenna, MLL teacher at Tolman High School, and 2023 recipient of the Nancy Carnevale Award, used the funds for her “Club International,” an after-school club that celebrates the diverse communities at Tolman. In Paula’s words: *“Each month we celebrate a different culture. Students and faculty from various departments attend, sharing a typical meal and learning about each other’s cultures.” The hugs and smiles tell it all!*
- Adam Hogue, 4th grade teacher at Citizens Memorial Elementary in Woonsocket and 2022 recipient of the Nancy Carnevale Award, used funds to purchase a class set of the graphic novel, **Borders**, by indigenous author Thomas King, as part of unit on Native Americans and First Nations People. In Adam’s words, *“These books help me tell a more personal narrative of the modern first nations people and use that as a lens to approach modern issues concerning racism, marginalized groups and resilience.”*
- Angie Hartley, 4th grade teacher, Gladstone Elementary School, Cranston and 2021 recipient of the Nancy Carnevale Award, used the funds to purchase a classroom set of **Stamped (for Kids): Racism, Anti-racism and You**. Students led a school-wide campaign on anti-racism creating posters, plays, videos and narratives. In Angie’s words: *“I love teaching multilingual learners because I love learning and they teach me so much.”*

Deadline for all applications is December 18, 2026. Winner will be announced in January, 2027.