

Ann Mayeda

I am writing this letter to nominate Ann Mayeda for the Mid-Career Scholar Award (Teaching). Ms. Mayeda is an Associate Professor in the Department of English for Global Communication at Konan Women's University in Kobe.

Ann Mayeda is a dedicated and passionate teacher trainer who has contributed immensely to the fields of learner autonomy and extensive reading. She is responsible for establishing an Extensive Reading program at her university and for developing and scaling up the Self-Access Center at her university.

While Ms. Mayeda is an accomplished presenter and writer, having been the plenary speaker at PanSIG 2022 and an invited speaker at many conferences, universities, departments of education, and organizations such as Peace Boat along with being a published author of not just papers but also of graded readers, the reason I am nominating her is the pure passion with which she fosters her students, many of whom want to become Early Childhood Educators of English.

Her passion for fostering young teachers, does not end with her students. She has been actively involved in training teachers in various schools in Nepal, helping them set up Extensive Reading libraries as well as teachers in the Philippines through the The Regional English Language Office US Embassy in the Philippines & the Dept. of Education, Philippines.

She has also been an exemplary mentor to junior faculty members in her department, fostering and empowering them while treating them as equals and providing them with autonomy. I have directly benefitted from this mentorship which has helped me transform from a timid novice to a self-assured teacher and junior administrator who is secure in his cultural, racial, and linguistic identity.

Finally, as a POC female academic, Ann Mayeda is not only a role model for other marginalized and under-represented teachers but also an advocate for diversity, equity, and inclusion. This is represented in the people she was instrumental in hiring for the self-access center, the cultural events she has used her administrative influence to back, and in the characters in her graded readers - Trafficked and Mine.

Awarding Ann Mayeda with the Mid-Career Scholar Award (Teaching) will acknowledge not only the community building she has done within JALT but also the stellar and empowering work she has done as a teacher and teacher trainer with her students, her junior colleagues, and many teachers in Japan, Nepal, and the Philippines.

-- Chhayankdhar Singh Rathore