The AATSP Distinguished Leadership Award is given to an AATSP member in good standing who has shown leadership within the profession as a whole and who has made scholarly contributions to the profession.

FERNANDO RUBIO
University of Utah; Salt Lake City, UT

Fernando Rubio is an outstanding national leader and educational expert who has brought language proficiency, assessment, and pedagogy knowledge to K–12 education through creativity, research, and understanding. Fernando is well known for his work with the AP Spanish Language and Culture Development Committee which he co-chairs and whose responsibility is to create the annual assessment taken by some 185,000 students. Fernando is also well known for his work with the Utah Dual Language Immersion Program where through his guidance the Program is providing a pathway for students to access upper-level university coursework in high school which allows them to enter higher education well prepared and a few courses away from a minor in their chosen language. A colleague in that Program noted that Fernando’s “professional behavior, knowledge, passion and expertise are quite remarkable. He has established a magical rapport with his colleagues that is composed of mutual respect and a shared desire that all students preK-20 succeed.” Fernando’s role in these two programs are just a tiny representation of his many professional accomplishments. A colleague summarized Fernando’s many achievements with these words: “Through his research, he has enhanced and expanded the field with his many articles, books, monographs, and conference presentations. Through his teaching at various institutions, he has opened the Spanish-speaking world to countless students. He is a recognized leader in our field who has contributed greatly to its advancement.”