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**Erin Weldon**

**Spanish Teacher**

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Dear Illinois Retired Teacher Association Foundation,

I would like to extend my sincerest gratitude for the generous grant in the 2020-2021 school year. This year has been a year like no other in education, and the books (*Vida y Muerte en la Mara Salvatrucha*) and materials purchased with these funds have allowed my students to experience a world very different from their own of a boy their age in the MS-13 gang. We are learning about the violent civil war that took place in El Salvador, causing many people to emigrate to the US, and so much more of the Salvadoran culture and history. The book is written from the perspective of the boy, and is a comprehensible level of Spanish in which my students are able to do all of the aforementioned things in the target language. This is a challenge in language instruction, and I am grateful to have received the funding to be able to bring this opportunity to my students this year and in years to come.

Thank you for supporting my classroom and students as you do for many others. Making things that seem unattainable possible for us is exactly what we need this year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Erin Weldon". The signature is written in a cursive style and ends with a long horizontal flourish.

**Erin Weldon**