

PROFESSOR: SPANISH LANGUAGE & CULTURE

- A highly effective educator with a passion for teaching and 16 years of demonstrated excellence in the promotion of language and cultural diversity to school age as well as university students and faculty.
- A native Spanish speaker; offering expertise in both Peninsular and Latin American Spanish language and culture.
- Academic specialization included Medieval to 21st Century Poetry.
- A U.S. Citizen with a high degree of cultural awareness honed through extensive travel in Europe, Asia, North America, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand.

"I am pleased to share with you my opinion that Maria De Silva teaches in the league with these greats." "I would recommend her without hesitation as a teacher training resource to Instructional Support and Development (as long as this did not deprive those of us who need her skills as a Spanish teacher)." – Robert Smith, Director of Equal Employment Office

EDUCATION

Doctorate of Philosophy – Romance Languages (1998)

Master of Arts – Latin American Languages and Culture (1994)

University of California – San Diego, CA

Italian Language, Culture and Literature (1992)

University of Bologna, Italy

Bachelor of Arts – English /Sociology (1991)

University of Victoria – Victoria, British Columbia Canada

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

University of Western Ontario – London, Ontario • 2007-2008

Spanish Professor

Provided a rich cultural and linguistic classroom environment for first year Spanish language students.

West Chester County High School – Kingsford, CT • 2004-2005

High School Spanish Teacher

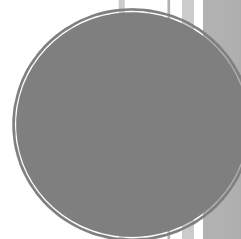
Facilitated the growth and success of 9th grade students through careful preparation of course material and effective teaching methodologies.

Irving Middle School – Lincoln, NE • 2000-2003

Middle School Spanish Teacher

Spurred the growth and success of middle school students by designing and implementing carefully prepared course material and an individualized student performance measurement system.

- Created and implemented a new Spanish language program for 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students. Nearly 99% of the advanced Spanish class students were later exempted from further High School language requirements.
- All advanced level Spanish students received college credit for first year Spanish language.



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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE - CONTINUED

Chula Vista High School– Chula Vista, CA • 1999-2000

High School Spanish Teacher

University of California– San Diego, CA •1992-1998

Spanish Professor

LANGUAGES

Spanish – Native Speaker

English – Fluent in speaking, reading, and writing

Italian– Fluent in speaking, reading, and writing

Chinese (Cantonese) – Fluent in speaking

ADDITIONAL RESEARCH & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Spent one year doing cultural research and volunteer work in Columbia (1998-1999).
- Coursework included: Strategies and Techniques for Dealing with the Most Difficult to Manage Student, Strategies for Strengthening Instruction in Your Foreign Language Classroom, English as a Second or Other Language, Modifying Instruction in the Content Class for ESOL students

COMMUNITY & INTERNATIONAL INVOLVEMENT

- Provide guidance to recent immigrants to Canada who are experiencing difficulty accessing community resources due to cultural and/or language barriers.
- Served on the board for Fundacion Iniciative Desaroyo Educacion Aruba (I.D.E.A.), Aruba.
- Developed curriculum, training materials, and facilitated training sessions for immigrant students in Aruba.
- Volunteered as a cultural advisor, event manager, and an interpreter for a scientist in the Middle East and Asia.
- Provided outreach services within the community at large and facilitated the cultural assimilation of new Latin ESL students providing community relations, mentorship and support to their parents (USA).

CERTIFICATIONS

Equal Employment Opportunity Training for Managers and Supervisors – U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Washington D.C. 2004

Equal Employment Opportunity Training for Counselors – U.S. Equal Opportunity Commission, Dallas, TX 2004