

## 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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**

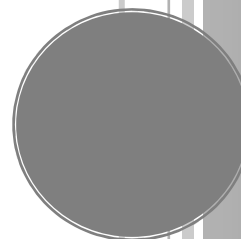
Facilitated the growth and success of 9<sup>th</sup> grade students through careful preparation of course material and effective teaching methodologies.

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 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> 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.



## **MARIA DE SILVA – PAGE 2**

### **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