

Melinda Sue Forward

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www.weallhaveavoice.org



Education

National Board Certification: World Languages – Early Adolescence through Young Adulthood, 2014.

B.A. French Language and Literature with English minor, Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, MI, 1990.

*Honors in French with thesis in French Culture Analysis

Secondary Education Certification, 1990 – Current. (NM Level III licensure, 2015)

M.A. French Language and Literature, the University of North Texas, 23 credits completed, 1993.

Professional Experience

French Teacher, Highland High School, Albuquerque, NM, 2007 – Present

- * Taught Level 1 – 4 French classes to large groups of diverse students.
- * Grew the program and recruited for advanced French classes.
- * Designed and implemented innovative curriculum using TPR and stories.
- * Engaged students with French Culture using Edmodo and Tumblr.
- * Faculty sponsor of the French Club 2009 – Present.
- * Faculty sponsor of the “We All Have a Voice!” Program and Club, 2014 – Present
- * Professional Learning Committee, School Culture Chair 2015 – Present.
- * Trained staff in language acquisition techniques to help ELL students in all content areas.
- * Mentor for two student teachers, 2008 – 2010.
- * Focus on student engagement, communicative and cultural fluency, and lifelong learning.
- * Awarded a \$1,500 grant to for innovative literacy strategies based in French cooking, 2013.
- * Awarded technology grant for 15 Flip Cameras to engage students in French film-making, 2011.

ASCD Featured Teacher: “Engaging Students with Poverty in Mind” VIDEO, Albuquerque, NM, 2014.

- * Modeled innovative uses of music, manipulatives, and stories to engage students.
- * Engaged large classes of students in language acquisition.
- * Built students voice and school culture with service learning projects.

Author, Teacher Trainer, Founder, Culture Quest Language Institute, Sandia Park, NM. 1998 - Present.

- * Developed professional development workshops *Dynamic Language Acquisition*
- * Developed and published *French and Spanish Curriculum*

Education Coordinator, Director, Founder, *We All Have a Voice!* Campus Empowerment Program

- * Trained and supported students to create *Service Learning Projects* to address issues in schools.
- * Faculty sponsor of the “Before I die” *Wall of Chalk Dreams Project*, received national attention.
- * Led outreach to middle schools to train students to create school-wide *Service Learning Projects*.
- * Guided students to build and grow new school culture and community to raise achievement.

Professional Memberships

ASCD - Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development
ACTFL – American Council for Teachers of Foreign Languages
AATF – American Association for Teachers of French
NMOLE – New Mexico Organization for Language Educators
Alliance Française Albuquerque

Publications

Dynamic Language Acquisition: Adventures in Storytelling, Units 1 - 6, 2008 (in revision)
Organizing and Managing a French Language Classroom, 2015 (in revision)
The French Verb Timeline, Teacher’s manual and wall posters, Second Edition, 2015
Transforming the Textbook, 2004.

*Other publications available upon request.

Presentations

ASCD Annual Conference, “*Three Surprising Tools to Engage High-Poverty Students*”, Atlanta, GA, 2016

* One of 236 workshops accepted from over 1,000 proposals.

American Council for Teachers of Foreign Languages Annual Conference (ACTFL). San Diego, CA, 2015

“*The Culture Quest: Art in Action! Engaging students in title one schools with innovative strategies for art appreciation, understanding, and personal enjoyment.*”

Southwest Conference of Language Teachers (SWCOLT), Las Vegas, NV, 2012

“*Conversation Clubs: Creating Classroom Communities through personalized speaking challenges.*”

Engaging students with speaking competitions where students show mastery of topics and connect one on one.

Northeast Conference for Teachers of Foreign Languages (NECTFL), New York City, NY, 2009

“*Organizing and Managing an Effective, Efficient Language Classroom*”, three-hour workshop

***Complete CV of presentations from 1998 - 2008 available upon request**

Extracurricular Interests

Cooking: Food is the language we all speak.

Yoga, particularly Ashtanga

Travel: local, national, international

Reading: fiction, travel, neuroscience, education

Outdoors Activities: camping, hot springs, hiking, walking, skiing

Spending time with French friends: Partage French Meet-up Group (*Organizer*)

Enjoying Family time: Married into a large NM family and travel to see Michigan/Texas family.

