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- Statement of Eligibility, Florida Department of Education, K-12 Spanish and French

Statement of Teaching Philosophy

My teaching philosophy is the result of my experience as a teacher as well as a student for more than 18 years, in Europe and the United States. As a student in Europe, I had the opportunity of having great teachers that were passionate about their subject and strove to transmit their passion to their students. They established a pleasing class atmosphere through a rapport of mutual respect with their students and by encouraging personal work and active class participation insisting that the fact, of learning was an intense pleasure.

During my doctoral studies at the University of Paris Sorbonne, I had the chance to work as research assistant as well as a teaching assistant at the University of South Brittany and at the Western Catholic University. This experience spanned diverse classes involving diverse teaching methods. Throughout this experience, I culled those aspects of excellent teaching that I had experienced myself as a student such as passion, dedication, deep knowledge of the subjects taught, use of iconographic material to reinforce memorization and increase the interest of the students and their pleasure, allowing them to actively participate in the acquisition of the languages. I truly believe that life-long learning occurs when students are not just being told facts, but are fully engaged in the class. It is important for me to set high standards for my students.

My goal as a professor is to have my students leave the class understanding the subject and how to use it in real life. Teaching Spanish and French goes beyond teaching a set of grammatical rules, facts and definitions. It is teaching students a way of thinking that will help them as citizens and in whatever career they decide to pursue by comparing and comprehending other cultures and communities.

One of the things I most enjoy about teaching is personal interaction with students. It is really rewarding to work with them and to see them progress. My main goal is to encourage my students to become life-long learners, to develop critical thinking skills, and gain an understanding of the world we live in.