

Meet Our Consultant Team

Dear World Language Educator,

Thank you for the passion and dedication you bring day in and day out to your classroom. Preparing today's students for a global future is essential, and we at Vista Higher Learning are committed to your success. With this in mind, I'm proud to introduce you to our amazing team of trainers. Nationally-respected educators in their own right, their sole focus is providing you with the highest-quality guidance on the *why* and the *how* of our programs.

Choosing Vista Higher Learning means that you're choosing to surround yourself with educators who are as passionate about world language learning as you are. We invite you to join us, and we'll walk with you every step of the way.

Regards,

Norah Lulich Jones



Norah Lulich Jones
Professional Development Director

Norah Lulich Jones serves as the professional development director for Vista Higher Learning. For over 20 years, she was a teacher and supervisor in the Virginia public schools, where she taught Spanish, French, Russian, ESL, English, and History. Norah provides sessions and workshops for schools, school districts, and universities; is a keynoter and regular presenter at state, regional, and national conferences; and has written Spanish and French instructional materials for various publishers as well as lessons and content for global study agencies. She is a member of and a trainer for NADSFL, and has served twice as the president of FLAVA and once as the president of SCOLT. Norah is the recipient of SCOLT's Founders Award and FLAVA's Distinguished Service Award. She holds a B.A. in Modern European Studies from William & Mary and a M.Ed. in Secondary Education from Lynchburg College.



Rachel Connell
National Language Consultant

Rachel Connell has 10 years of experience teaching Spanish at the secondary level, where she helped to implement an International Baccalaureate curriculum and to create district-wide guidelines for proficiency-based assessment. Her diverse professional and personal endeavors revolve around intercultural communication. As a National Language Consultant of Vista Higher Learning for the past five years, she has continued to work to educate and collaborate with colleagues on best practices in world language instruction and assessment. Rachel received a B.A. in Spanish Literature from Colorado College and a M.A.T. from University of Portland.

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Natalie Ardagna **Professional Development Trainer**

Natalie Ardagna has been teaching high school Spanish for 11 years, including AP® Language and Culture. She also has worked as a world languages department chair, an AP® Spanish Language and Culture Examination reader, and a mentor of first-year teachers. Natalie holds a B.A. in Spanish from Pepperdine University; an M.A. in Applied Linguistics from California State University, Northridge; and a secondary teaching credential in Spanish. She is currently finishing a second M.A. in Educational Administration K–12 with an administrative services credential.

Perla DeCastro-Herz **Professional Development Trainer**

Perla DeCastro-Herz was selected as Aldine ISD (Texas) Teacher of the Year in 2006 and also as a District Teacher of the Year finalist. In 2011, Perla was nominated and selected as Texas Spanish Teacher of the Year in Katy ISD. She currently teaches Spanish 1- 4 AP® at St. John XXIII College Preparatory School in Texas. Born in Bogotá, Colombia, Perla earned a B.A. with a double major in Linguistics and Spanish Language and Literature at the University of Auckland in New Zealand.

Sharon Deering **Professional Development Trainer**

Sharon Deering taught high school Spanish for six years before becoming the instructional specialist for LOTE in the Arlington ISD (Texas). During her time as an instructional specialist, Sharon supervised the training of teachers in standards-based best practices. She served on the board of NADSFL and as president of the TFLA. Sharon is the author of the *Getting Your Bearings* series for Brazil, Uruguay, and Paraguay. She founded and directed two schools in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and in Campinas, São Paulo, providing education in English and Portuguese. Sharon also assisted with the development of materials and methodology for Real Time, a private school for ELL. Recently retired, she continues to work as one of the original collaborators of the TELL Project, and is a member of the steering committee for the LILL under the auspices of ACTFL and related organizations. Sharon holds a B.A. from Texas Tech University and a M.Ed. from Texas Woman's University.

Phyllis Dobbins **Professional Development Trainer**

Phyllis Dobbins has over 35 years of experience in language education, including classroom teaching with pre-kindergarten through adult learners in world languages and ESL. She completed her academic training in French, German, and Applied Linguistics at the College of Wooster, Ohio, and Florida Atlantic University. For the past 20 years, she also has worked as a professional development specialist and materials developer/publisher. Her focus is on the integration of technology in language learning.

Judy Fritz **Professional Development Trainer**

For more than 40 years, Judy Fritz has taught languages at all levels. She has directed exchange programs for Atlanta Sister Cities and school-to-school exchanges, and has taught in high schools across Virginia, Vermont, and Georgia, and in Coordinating International Programs at Rollins College, Florida. During the last 22 years of her educational career, she taught in the Talented and Gifted and World Languages programs in Fulton County, Georgia. She was an AP® Grader, a national board certified teacher, a Star Teacher, and a Teacher of the Year. Judy earned an M.A. in Languages and Linguistics at Georgetown University and a DML (French and German) from Middlebury Language Schools, Vermont.

Cheryl Kincaid **Professional Development Trainer**

Cheryl Kincaid has taught Spanish for 12 years in various public schools throughout Virginia. For the past eight years, she has worked as a presenter and consultant with Vista Higher Learning, providing numerous presentations and workshops in Vista Higher Learning materials and second-language acquisition in schools, in school districts, and at state and regional conferences. Cheryl holds a B.A. in Spanish Education from the University of North Carolina, and studied Instructional Technology at the University of Virginia.

Ines Lormand **Professional Development Trainer**

Ines Lormand is a specialist in second language acquisition. She is multilingual (six languages), and has taught elementary, secondary, and post-secondary world languages. Before moving into the publishing industry, where she worked for several large publishing houses, Ines was the supervisor of Bilingual and Immersion programs in Louisiana. During her almost 20 years in publishing, she worked with both world languages and ELL, and was a frequent contributor to publications as well as a speaker at national and international conferences. Ines holds a B.A. from the University of Tübingen, Germany, and an M.A. from the University of Málaga, Spain.

Linda Markley **Professional Development Trainer**

Linda Markley taught Spanish and French for 35 years, and became the district supervisor for world languages at Brevard Public Schools in Florida. She received the District Teacher of the Year Award in 2002, was named FFLA Teacher of the Year in 2007, and received the Florida District Supervisor of the Year Award in 2011. Linda was a National Board Certified Teacher and has been a reader for the AP® Spanish Language Exam for the College Board. She has served on several special projects, such as the writing of the Florida NGSSS World Languages Standards, the Florida End of Course exams for Spanish, and the Florida Spanish Teacher Certification Exam. Recently retired, Linda continues to serve on the boards of several language organizations, including FFLA, SCOLT, and NOBLE.

Cheri Quinlan **Professional Development Trainer**

Cheri Quinlan taught in New Jersey's Toms River Regional Schools as a Spanish teacher and as the supervisor of instruction for world languages and fine arts. She served as the coordinator for world languages, international education, and the gifted and talented programs for the New Jersey Department of Education. She also has served on the board of FLENJ for more than 20 years, including two terms as president. Cheri is currently a director for NECTFL, a long-time member of the ACTFL, a member of the NCSSFL, and a more recent member of the DECTFL.

She has presented at state, regional, and national conferences on a wide range of topics related to world languages and global education. Cheri holds a B.A. in Spanish from Georgian Court University, New Jersey.

Nilda Rivera **Professional Development Trainer**

Her teaching career began as a History, French, and Theater teacher for grades 3–12 and then Spanish for native speakers in grades 6–9. While at Tulane University in New Orleans, Nilda began teaching Spanish as a Foreign Language. She currently teaches Spanish IH, IIH, AP®, and VH at Jesuit High School of New Orleans. Nilda received the Profile of the Jesuit Teacher Award in 2014 for her commitment to the formation of her students as lifelong learners. She lived in Madrid as a Fulbright Scholar; holds an M.A. in Spanish from Tulane University and a B.A. in History from the University of Puerto Rico-Cayey; and studied Comparative Literature and Theater at the University of Puerto Rico-Río Piedras.

Terri Salsman de Rodriguex **Professional Development Trainer**

Terri Salsman de Rodriguex is a National Board Certified Teacher. During the past 15 years, she has been working as an educational technology mentor and assisting with technology integration in all subject areas. The Goldin Foundation honored Terri for being a leading Tech Teacher. She has presented workshops relating to technology integration and best practices at the California Language Teachers' Annual Conference, the AP® College Board Annual Conference, and several other technology conferences in California. Terri is a graduate of the award-winning MERIT (Making Education Relevant and Interactive through Technology), serves as mentor to local teachers in San Jose, and is a Spanish AP® reader for the College Board. She holds a B.A. in Spanish and Political Science from the University of Santa Clara, California, where she also received her teaching credential.

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Deanna Scheffer **Professional Development Trainer**

Deanna Scheffer has taught primarily French and German, and is a national board certified Teacher of French at St. Augustine High School in Florida. She has served AATF as the Florida director for Le Grand Concours and three terms as chapter president. Deanna was the AATF 2013–2014 Chapter President of the Year and is currently on the Executive Board. She has served on the College Board World Languages Commission, its Best Practices Committee, and the AP® French Language and Culture Curriculum Design and Test Development Committees. Deanna also has served as the CBA between the College Board and ETS. She currently serves in Leadership at the AP® French Reading, and is an AP® Consultant and Consultant Mentor. In 2009, Deanna became a Chevalier de L'Ordre des Palmes Académiques. She was the FFLA French Teacher of the Year in 2011 and the FLENEF World Language Teacher of the Year for 2015–2016.

Ken Stewart **Professional Development Trainer**

Ken Stewart was the first ACTFL National Foreign Language Teacher of the Year. Currently teaching Spanish at Chapel Hill High School in North Carolina, Ken also has taught multiple levels of Spanish. He is a National Board Certified Teacher and a recent member of the ACTFL Board of Directors, and has been a College Board world language consultant for over 25 years. Ken was appointed to the AP® Spanish Language and Culture Test Development Committee at ETS and currently serves as a Question Leader at the AP® Spanish Reading. He has conducted over 150 workshops throughout the United States and in Europe, the Middle East, Asia, and Latin America. Previously, Ken was honored as the Central North Carolina Teacher of the Year by the State of North Carolina and as Teacher of the Year by the AATSP. In 2014, he received the Florence Steiner Award for Leadership in Foreign Language Education, K–12. Ken earned a B.A. in International Studies and Spanish at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and an M.A. in Spanish from North Carolina State University.

Sarah Thompson **Professional Development Trainer**

Sarah Thompson is currently an adjunct professor of Spanish at the College of DuPage in Illinois, as well as a private Spanish teacher and tutor for high school students. She began teaching Spanish Conversation at the College of Charleston in South Carolina in 2004, and went on to teach for Marist High School, Morton College, and the University of Chicago. During her time at Marist, Sarah taught Spanish 1-AP® and hosted study abroad experiences to Spain, Morocco, Uruguay, and Argentina. She holds a B.A. in Spanish from the College of Charleston, South Carolina and an M.A. in Hispanic Languages and Literatures from Chicago's Loyola University; has studied in Spain and Mexico; and has worked as a school coordinator, translator, and ESL instructor in both Ecuador and Costa Rica.

Linda Zins-Adams **Professional Development Trainer**

Linda Zins-Adams teaches German at Archbishop Moeller High School in Cincinnati, Ohio, where she also serves as the world languages department chair and AP® curriculum director. She is a certified and trained AP® consultant, reader/table leader, and reviewer for the College Board, and has conducted numerous state, regional, and national workshops and webinars. Linda has received the Distinguished Alumna Award from the University of Cincinnati, the Federal Republic of Germany Friendship Award, the AATG/Goethe-Institute Certificate of Merit, and, most recently, the Award for Excellence in Foreign Language Instruction Using Technology with IALLT (K–12). In 2014–2015, she was the president of SCOLT. During her term on the SCOLT board, she served as the SCOLTalk editor and Awards Chair.