

2019 Connecticut Language Teacher of the Year Polyglot Educator of World Languages & Cultures



Richard W. de Meij

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Educational Experiences

Central Connecticut State University, Connecticut, USA

- Graduate Studies in Educational Leadership, 2009 – 2013

International Congress & Seminars, Aruba, Dutch Caribbean

- Attendee & Interpreter Social & Cultural Diversity in Education, Summer 1995

The University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, USA

- B.A. and Graduate Studies in Speech-Communication Sciences & Disorders, 1988
- Graduate Degree Certificate in Applied Linguistics & TESOL/ESL, 1993

Goethe Institute, Atlanta, Georgia, USA

- ZERTIFIKAT – *Deutsch als Fremdsprache*, 1988 || ZEUGNIS – Zentrale Mittelstufenprüfung, 1990

National Professional Experiences

Hartford Public High School, Hartford, CT

- *Spanish & French* Language Educator, 2008 – present | SGC, 2009 – present | USC, 2011 – present
- HPS District Curriculum Co-writer | T.E.A.M. Trained | Lead-Teacher/Mentor, 2012 – present
- Portuguese Interpreter | Advisor for: Yearbook (2010 - 2016), GSA Club (2016 - present), Model U.N. (2019)

The Scribe's Institute Language Enrichment Cohorts, Hartford, CT

- Taught *Spanish* to Hartford's underserved elementary/middle school students, Aug. 2015 – present

Education First, East Hartford, CT

- Taught *English*, summers 2011 – 2014

AETNA Center for Families, Hartford, CT

- Taught *English*, August 2002 – June 2007

Weaver High School, Hartford, CT

- Taught *Spanish & French* Languages, 2006 – 2008 | Led WL Trip to Nicaragua, summer 2008

Sedgwick Middle School, West Hartford, CT

- Taught *Spanish & French* Languages, 1999 – 2006 | Co-wrote *Spanish & French* Curriculum, 2003 – 2006

Central Connecticut Adventist Virtual School, CT

- Taught *Spanish* online, live, face-to-face, to elementary, middle & high school students, 2003 – 2013

University of Florida, Gainesville, FL • Dept. of Romance Languages & Literatures

- Taught *Spanish & Papiamentu* Language courses | *Spanish* Translator & Interpreter, Jan. 1988 – Dec. 1993
- Organized, coordinated and oversaw *Spanish* class cultural excursion to Mexico, summer 1991.

University of Florida, Gainesville, FL • Dept. of German & Slavic Languages & Lit.

- Taught *German & Dutch* classes, and trained apprentice teachers, January 1988 – December 1990

International Professional Experiences

Court of Justice, ARUBA

- *Multilingual* Legal Document Translator & Simultaneous Interpreter, March 1994 - March 1996: Translation & Interpretation Languages: *Dutch - Spanish - English - Papiamentu - Portuguese*

University of Sofia, Sofia, Bulgaria

- Developed & Taught Conversational *English* Courses | Named Best English Teacher, summer 1991

University of Utrecht, Instituut Voor Inpassing, Utrecht, The Netherlands

- Taught *Dutch* language & culture to immigrant learners, September 1986 – April 1987

LOCAL

Foran High School, Milford, CT

- Presented on Multiculturalism - March 2011

Hello! West Hartford, West Hartford, CT

- Board Member & Comm. Advocate, 2014 - present

STATE

CT Council OF Language Teachers (CTCOLT) • ctcolt.org

- Co-Chaired & Coordinated State Workshops, Oct. 2003 – 2011 | Presented workshops, Oct. 2003 – Present
- Selected as “Best of Conference 2011” | CT WL Poetry Contest - Portuguese Judge, 2005 - 2012

University of Connecticut - Neag School of Education

- Presented as Guest Speaker on *EduTech in Modern Language Education*, Fall 2013 & Fall 2014

REGIONAL

North-East Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (NECTFL) • nectfl.org

- Presented "Best of Connecticut" Workshop: "Pathways to Proficiency, winter 2011 & winter 2020"

NATIONAL

American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) • actfl.org

- Member since 2001 | Presented in Nov. 2005, Nov. 2009 & Nov. 2010 | Member of Portuguese S.I.G.
- **Chair** of Teachers of African-American Students S.I.G., November 2010 – November 2013
- Contributions in “Words and Actions: Teaching Languages Through the Lens of Social Justice,” ACTFL 2014

Concordia College, Moorhead, MN

- Guest speaker in Master’s Program for Language Teachers, Fall Semesters, 2015 - present

INTERNATIONAL

International Polyglot Language Conferences (www.polyglotconference.com)

- Attendee at conferences in NYC, 2015 || Reykjavik, Iceland, 2017 || Ljubljana, Slovenia, 2018

University of Aruba • Pedagogical Institute of Aruba (IPA)

- Workshop Presenter on various 21st Century educational topics, summers 2013 & 2014, and fall 2014

Various Degrees of Proficiency

- **Native / Near-Native:** Dutch, Papiamentu, English, Spanish, Portuguese
- **Intermediate/Advanced:** German, French | **Novice:** Italian, Jamaican Patois

Educational Technology & Web 2.0 Skills

- Online Course Delivery • Content Mgmt Systems • Presentational Tools • Webpage Design
- Online Assessments • Multimedia & QR-codes • Infographics & Video • Curated e-Magazines

Achievements, Accolades & Awards Received

- **2019 Connecticut Language Teacher of the Year** | **2019 NECTFL Language Teacher of the Year Finalist**
- ACTFL (Nat'l) Service Award 2015 | The Scribe’s Institute Education & Advocacy Award, February 2017
- Fred Astaire New England Dancesport Championship Awards, Quincy, MA: 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012
- Golden Key National Honor Society & Sigma-Tau-Sigma Honorary Tutor Society – Lifetime Memberships
- Awarded the 2004 Neighborhood (Community Education) Service Award – Hartford, CT

Additional Information Online

- Dynamic, Expanded Resume, Available Online: www.celebratelanguages.com/resume.html
- Professional References, Available Online: www.celebratelanguages.com/references.html
- CT Language Teacher of the Year Professional Statement: www.celebratelanguages.com/toy.html
- **Founder & Webmaster** of www.celebratelanguages.com (≈ 9.2 million world-wide users!)
- Co-creator of **The Greater Hartford Festival of Languages 2021** | More info at: <http://bit.ly/ghfol2021>