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Veronica M. La Vista

Overview—I have twelve years of experience teaching college preparatory English to 9th, 10th, and 12th graders at a parochial high school and Blue Ribbon School of Excellence in Somerville, New Jersey; and 9th, 10th, 11th graders at a Connecticut marine science magnet high school. In 2015/2016, I was certified to teach AP/ECE English Language and Composition. I am a dedicated learner who seeks to guide and inspire young people to become lifelong learners themselves. I am seeking a position in a comprehensive high school where I will continue to develop lessons that foster student-centered learning and enhanced critical thinking skills. Connecticut Professional Certificate 015 (English, Grades 7-12). Master of Arts in Teaching earned May 2011.

Education

2015

Southern New Hampshire University, Online

Completed a graduate level course in literary theory (total graduate credits: 56—38, education; six, English; 12, Jewish-Christian studies).

2009—2011

Isabelle Farrington School of Education, Sacred Heart University

Master of Arts in Teaching, May 2011; 4.0 average. Completed Masters Project on Howard Gardner's Multiple Intelligences: an MI unit on Sandra Cisneros's *House on Mango Street*.

1975—1978

Smith College

Bachelor of Arts Degree in three years with high honors, English; Dean's List; prize for best honors thesis submitted to the Department of English; attended Dartmouth College to complete requirements for early graduation.

2003—2006: **Seton Hall University**, full scholarship recipient for graduate study, Sister Rose Thering Endowment, Center for Jewish-Christian Studies. 2006, selected Teacher of the Year (12 graduate credits).

2002: passed Praxis 0041, English Language Literature and Composition, Content Knowledge. Received Certificate of Excellence; successfully completed Praxis 0042 and Praxis 0043 Pedagogy.

Convent of the Sacred Heart, Greenwich, CT: Valedictorian; National Honor Society; National Merit Scholar; NY Regent's Scholar (1975).

Professional experience

2011—Present **Marine Science Magnet High School of Southeastern CT** Groton, CT
College Preparatory English Teacher, Grades 9, 10, 11; AP/ECE Teacher, Language and Composition—Full-time teacher in a rigorous college-preparatory environment in a marine-related magnet school. Wrote curriculum for 9th, 10, and 11th grade (UbD format) with emphasis on the study of literature for reading comprehension and critical analysis, grammar and vocabulary, internet-based research and thesis formulation; alignment with CCSS standards. 2015/2016: Instructor, AP/ECE Language and Composition. Differentiated instruction includes test modifications, alternative reading assignments, and student choice. Co-curricular responsibilities include Art Club, Yearbook Club as well as National Honor Society. CT TEAM mentor for four beginning teachers. Developed successful CAPT "Boot Camp" for Response to Literature and Reading for Information tests. Participate in Professional Learning Community meetings with colleagues on a weekly basis to calibrate curricula and summative assessments within grade levels, and track effective instructional practices among diverse learners; participate in Interdisciplinary Professional Learning Community meetings on a weekly basis to collaborate on cross-curricular teaching units, student performance assessments, and literacy instruction. Participated in the Stanford University/Innovation Lab Network: Spring 2014 Performance Task Pilot, to integrate a performance assessment and collect data on students' achievement using given rubrics. Implement school-wide rubrics on performance tasks at least four times each quarter to monitor students' academic progress in relationship to the ELA Common Core State Standards, and 21st Century Learning Expectations; NEASC Evaluation Committee member Spring 2014 (Hopedale High School); completed LEARN Curriculum Institute (June 2014) and AP Language and Composition Camp (July 2014). Led professional development for staff on grammar and mechanical basics to support literacy across the curriculum (2016).

2008—2011 **St. Patrick Church** **Mystic, CT**
Office Manager/Bookkeeper (part-time)—Provide administrative support in a parish of 700+ families including maintaining parishioner data base, generating weekly bulletin, managing accounts receivables and payables, coordinating volunteer activities and committee meetings, and promoting outreach in greater Mystic community. Proficient in Microsoft Office and Publisher.

2000—2007 **Immaculata High School** **Somerville, NJ**
Teacher, College Preparatory English, Grades 9, 10, 12—Full-time teacher in a rigorous college-preparatory environment in a student-centered classroom. Curriculum emphasized the study of literature for reading comprehension and critical analysis, grammar and vocabulary, internet-based research and thesis formulation. Extracurricular responsibilities included Assistant Choral Director, Homeroom Moderator.

1994—1997 **Anderson House** **Whitehouse Station, NJ**
Executive Director, halfway house for women recovering from drug and alcohol abuse
Responsible for construction expansion, staffing, scheduling, public relations, fundraising and grant-writing for new nonprofit initiative formed to provide long-term treatment and recovery services to women suffering from the disease of addiction. While executive director, generated more than \$700,000 in state, corporate, and private donations. Prior to appointment as director, served as board member, vice president, and president. Responsible for recruitment and training of new board members.

1986—1992 **Additional Professional Experience** **NJ, CT**
Customer Relations Manager/Rental Supervisor, Flemington Car & Truck Country, Flemington, NJ; **Communications Manager**, Hunterdon County Chamber of Commerce, Flemington, NJ; **Public Information Officer**, Connecticut State Department of Housing, Hartford, CT; **Membership Services Director/Downtown Coordinator**, Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce, Manchester, CT.

1998—Present **Music Minister, St. Edmund's Retreat** **Mystic, CT**
Responsibilities include liturgical planning, hymn selection, piano accompaniment, and cantoring. Substitute organist at St. Patrick Church, Mystic, CT.

**Summary—
Community
Activities
and Honors**

Appointed Justice of the Peace, Town of Stonington (Spring 2016); Secretary and board member, Bishops Cove Condominium Association, 2011-present. Volunteer Pianist and song leader, bi-weekly sing-a-longs, Avalon Healthcare Center at StoneRidge, 2016. Volunteer organist and pianist for special services and events; calligrapher. Director, Raritan Township General Assistance Board, 1992—1996; Vice President, Anderson House Board of Directors, 1994; President, Anderson House Board of Directors, 1995; Freelance writer, National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence 1993—1995; Representative, Raritan Township Planning Board, 1998—2000; *Operation Shoebox*, 2005, 2006. Volunteer, Mystic Manor and Rehabilitation, Monthly Sing-A-Long 2010-2012. Tutor for young men recovering from alcohol and drug abuse to improve their written and oral communication skills. **Honors:** 2011 Dean's Leadership Award for Academic Achievement, Sacred Heart University Isabelle Farrington School of Education; 2006, *National Endowment for Humanities Summer Seminar Grant* "Introducing James Joyce," Connecticut College, New London, CT annual nomination and inclusion in *Who's Who Among American High School Teachers* 2002—2007; published in the New Jersey Council of Teachers of English Journal 2003 edition. *Outstanding American Teachers*, 2006/2007 Edition; Cambridge *Who's Who*, 2007. 2006, selected Teacher of the Year by the Scholarship Committee of the Sister Rose Thering Endowment, Seton Hall University. 2006.