

AATSP President's Message
January 2014

Articulation and Connections

Saludos, saudações, greetings. Welcome to an exciting new year at AATSP! I would like to begin the year by thanking you for granting me the opportunity to serve this outstanding organization, especially as we draw nearer to the 100th anniversary of our founding. I am both humbled and privileged to serve you and pledge to do everything possible to forward the goals of the association and to support the membership. I would like to thank the outgoing members of the Executive Council who have given so generously of their time and talents during their term—Terry Ballman, Christine Campbell, Cheryl Fuentes-Wagner, and Loknath Persaud—and to extend a warm welcome to our new members--Elaine Davis, Ana Sánchez-Muñoz, Pamela Ottenheimer, and Sergio A. Guzmán.

We have much to look forward to in 2014, not the least of which is our annual conference in Panama. The conference will take place from July 8-11, 2014 at the Panama Hilton Hotel in Panama City. You can count on wonderful workshops, interesting sessions, and, as you might expect, unparalleled excursions. Our conference theme, “Articulation: A Pathway to Success,” is one that we will consider throughout the year as we examine articulation pathways in the study of Spanish and Portuguese. These pathways include not only articulation between and among various educational sectors and systems, but also extend to the work force and beyond. At the same time, we will consider our connections to other disciplines—particularly STEM disciplines—and to our sister organizations as we join our voice in the national conversation regarding advocacy and the place of languages as we continue to support Spanish and Portuguese in all arenas. As you are aware, the need for advocacy for and education regarding the importance of languages at all levels continues undiminished.

I remain committed to pursuing the four objectives I outlined as a candidate for this position. I plan to work with my K-12 colleagues to develop a workable system to foster further language study at the college and university level and to appropriately place incoming students. I will strive to expand the membership in the organization by targeting underrepresented sectors, including community college professors and adjunct professors. I will continue to work on strategies rooted in articulation to increase the number of majors and minors at the undergraduate level, including the active cultivation of students in the two-year sector for matriculation in our four-year institutions. Finally, I will work with my colleagues in Portuguese to provide a platform and rationale to expand Portuguese offerings at every level.

I wish you the best for 2014 and look forward to seeing you in Panama. Please look for registration information on the Web site soon. *¡Todos a una!*

Best wishes,

Sharon

Sharon Ahern Fechter
2014 President