



### **Candidate for President Elect**

**Mary Risner  
University of Florida  
Gainesville, FL**

### **Summary CV**

My passion for languages and cultures of the Spanish-speaking world began while pursuing an undergraduate Marketing degree and minor in Latin American Studies. I participated in study abroad at the Complutense in Madrid, Spain and in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico. Upon graduation, I moved to Spain to teach English and worked as a productivity consultant. After four years in Barcelona, I saw the need to professionalize my Spanish through an MA in Spanish Linguistics and Literature, which led me to teach IB high school Spanish teacher for four years. I then applied for an advanced degree at the University of Florida where I began studying Portuguese language and the Brazilian business environment. My final degree was a Doctor of Education in Curriculum and Instruction where I feel there was a culmination of my academic and professional experiences that have enhanced my ongoing work promoting world languages and culture across the curriculum, highlighting the integration of innovative technology and pedagogy.

My UF work since 2002 has included teaching Beginner Spanish and Portuguese, and has evolved through K-16 professional development and student opportunities integrating world languages and cultures. I have led multiple workshops and institutes domestically and abroad and have collaborated with K-16 instructors to develop WL handbooks, advocacy materials, and web resources. I have managed study abroad and internship programs for students and

regularly organize campus events that help students leverage their language and culture skills and connect them with alumni and other professionals engaged in global careers.

[Click here](#) to read Risner's full CV (PDF).

### **Candidacy Statement**

As potential president, I have a strong understanding of the organization and its mission. I have consistently engaged with AATSP over time as an SHH and NSE coordinator, as a session and workshop presenter since the early 2000s, as a former Portuguese Representative and through volunteering on numerous committees. I also bring organizational experience from 10 years of service as a board member and past-president of my state organization, and years of contributions to Languages for Specific Purposes initiatives.

Sample projects supporting world languages have been the founding of the online *Portuguese Language Journal* in 2006, leading the development of some of the first websites and video clips for WL advocacy starting in 2009, co-publishing Business Portuguese case studies, and co-editing handbooks that feature K-12 teachers connecting world languages to the workplace, soon to be joined by a handbook focusing on Portuguese and careers.

If elected, I'll support ongoing improvements to AATSP and hope to explore how to revitalize the study of Spanish and Portuguese through re-imagined professional development and member sharing of innovative curriculum that engages and retains students. More AATSP webinars on targeted topics and encouragement of in-person state chapter activities might help motivate our members during complicated times. I believe promoting the benefits of virtual exchange and community experiential learning through the WL classroom ensures that all students have real-world opportunities regardless of socio-economic status. PD activities like these and others to be named might help improve new teacher retention and increase student enrollments.

[Click here](#) to view Risner's video statement.