Dear AATSP Educators,

Greetings! I first would like to acknowledge the time, effort, and contributions that all previous AATSP presidents have selflessly provided. My recent appointment as president has moved me to renew my commitment to do my best to serve each member. I will accomplish this by working in unison with our Board of Directors and our new Executive Director, Sheri Spaine Long. I am resolute to reevaluate, refine, and reenergize the mission and vision of our great organization during our 101st year.

All of us have already returned to schools and colleges this year to stimulate the minds of our students as they discover the richness of learning the Spanish and Portuguese languages, literature, and respective cultures. I would like for us to reflect upon the core reason for our existence as a professional entity which is to engage students in meaningful and transformative learning experiences. Never forget that YOU make a difference every day.

The programs, supports, and services we enjoy within AATSP are aimed to facilitate our growth as professionals while developing our students into agents of change. It is important to remember as we plan this year that our actions at a local level can have a significant impact at the global level. As we work to ensure students meet learning outcomes, we build powerful relationships and connections so that our instruction goes far beyond our classroom setting and into our communities.

As you reflect on the benefits of your membership, I hope that you will renew your AATSP membership while advocating for friends and colleagues to join as well. Finally, I plan to see each of you at the Annual Conference in San Diego, California. We are asking that by October 20, 2018 you submit your proposals around the strands of innovative curriculum, heritage language instruction & learning, and advocacy.

Thank you and let us remain: “Stronger Together: Spanish and Portuguese”
“Juntos más fuertes: el español y el portugués”
“Juntos mais fortes: o espanhol e o português”

Martha Ligia Vásquez
San Antonio, Texas