Edgar Serrano
University of Mississippi
Oxford, MS

Edgar Serrano, M.A.
Instructor of Spanish
University of Mississippi
2018 AATSP Teacher of the Year
President - MFLA
NNELL State of Mississippi Representative

STATEMENT:

“Stereotypes exist for many reasons, but in the 21st century we should not assume that they are necessarily true. Therefore, it is not enough to only learn a language or expose students to typical cultural activities or films. As a former director of international sales, I know the importance of being culturally aware and no buying into stereotypes. Students need to be exposed to 21st Century Spanish or Portuguese cultures where their economies and languages are evolving and could have an impact on these student’s future. Teaching Spanish pre-k to 3rd grades, as well as University Spanish levels, it is important to me to help my students see Spanish-speaking peoples and countries as equals. Hopefully, this exposure will allow them to see the value and benefit of speaking a second language, both in the long run and short term, by pushing them to become biliterate and culturally sensitive in our complex, globalized world.

BIOGRAPHY:

Edgar is originally from Mexico City, Mexico. He has lived in the United States for more than 20 years. He has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Administration with a minor in International Marketing; plus a Master of Arts degree in Modern Languages, both from The University of Mississippi. Currently, Edgar teaches Spanish full-time at the University of Mississippi and also part-time at Oxford University School. He is an advocate of early language learning.

Edgar just finished serving as president for the Mississippi Foreign Language Association (MFLA) and is the Mississippi Representative of the National Network for Early Language Learning (NNELL). His presentation, A Picture is Worth Thousand Words, Really! was voted as the Best of Mississippi at the 2014 MFLA conference. In 2015, he was recognized as Teacher of Excellence by the MFLA. In 2018, Edgar had the
honor of receiving the AATSP’s Elementary Teacher of the Year Award in Salamanca, Spain.

Also, he is currently advocating for the implementation of the Mississippi Seal of Biliteracy. He is an active speaker at various local, regional, and national conferences. Edgar lives in Mississippi where he has eight dogs; all rescued. He is a strong supporter of his local Humane Society and also actively supports St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital. Edgar enjoys running different races for charity, biking, and also working out.