Statement

My first experience with languages was in Spanish classes in junior high, including a memorable trip to Mexico with my ninth grade class and our teacher, Mr. McBride. After high school I served a two-year religious mission in São Paulo, Brazil, where I learned Portuguese and fell in love with Brazilian culture. I subsequently completed a double major in music and Portuguese and then an M.A. in Portuguese Pedagogy at Brigham Young University, during which time I had the opportunity to teach first- and second-year Portuguese classes. I enjoyed it so much that I decided to pursue a Ph.D. in Second Languages and Cultures Education at the University of Minnesota. During this time I also taught high school Spanish part time and supervised student teachers (which is why it took me six years to graduate). Since that time I have worked as a professor of Spanish and Portuguese Pedagogy at Brigham Young University.

I currently serve as Director of Test Development for AATSP’s National Portuguese Exams. It has been eye-opening to learn that there exist dozens of Portuguese programs across the U.S. at the secondary school level. I believe that AATSP plays an important role in providing a professional community for Portuguese as well as Spanish teachers to network with each other and keep abreast of new and best teaching practices. I believe that AATSP can also serve as an advocate for teachers and students with educational policymakers, who I have found sometimes need to be reminded of the realities of public education in the United States.

Biography

Blair Bateman is a Professor of Language Pedagogy in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese at Brigham Young University, where he teaches methods and research courses at the graduate and undergraduate levels and coordinates lower-division Portuguese courses.

He currently serves as program coordinator for the Dual Language Immersion teaching endorsement program. He recently published the textbook Perspectivas: Português para Falantes de Espanhol along with several co-authors. His research interests include the teaching and learning of Portuguese at all levels and with different student populations, as well as culture teaching and learning.