Statement

Education involves more than using techniques and theoretical information acquired in classrooms; experience has taught me that compassion and excitement for my profession constitute genuine ingredients for my successful accomplishments so far. The experience of regularly working with heterogeneous groups of learners constantly renews my instructional curiosity and increases my range and skills as an educator. Promoting classroom experiences that engage people in the learning of language and culture increases my own sense of responsibility and expands my perception of their strengths, as well as of the aspects where there is room for improvement. At the same time, it helps us all as learners to become aware of our own values and opportunities to expand limits.

Learning a language has to be understood as a preparation for an even more important trans-cultural competency that enables learners to function in different cultural settings. Establishing a safe and welcoming environment is crucial from the beginning, as well as creating dynamic activities to promote interaction through peer collaboration and communication proficiency in the target language. As a consequence, learners experience both a sense of autonomy and improvement of social skills, which is encouraging to advance and risk another step on this process.

As I embraced this profession inspired by many other professionals who also love to work with education, I intend to keep fostering new challenges, and I will strive for my accomplishments to contribute to a better quality of education and the well-being of those I can impact directly and indirectly.

Biography

Dr. Renato Alvim is currently an Assistant Professor at California State University - Stanislaus, and teaches lower, intermediate and advanced Portuguese, Lusophone Culture, and lower and intermediate Spanish levels. He has taught at American University - Washington, D.C., Indiana University - Bloomington, and University of Alabama – Birmingham. In Brazil, he has taught at UFMG - Faculdade de Letras (FALE) and at Universidade de Itaúna. Dr. Alvim received a Fulbright Scholarship to pursue a master’s degree in Secondary Education at Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana.
His research interests include Portuguese Language, Lusophone Literatures, Brazilian Cinema, and Latin American Studies. His publications appear at *Review: Literature and Arts of the Americas*, Routledge; *Hispania*; *Todas as Letras – Revista de Língua e Literatura*, Universidade Presbiteriana Mackenzie Press; *REI – Revista de Estudos Internacionais*, Universidade Estadual da Paraíba Press; and others. He has participated in and presented at various conferences: AATSP, ACTFL, M/MLA, American Portuguese Studies Association (APSA), Foreign Language Association of Northern California (FLANC), Luso-American Education Foundation Conference (LAEF), and others.