

## **Debra West**

Freelance  
Paris, France

### **Education**

- MA (no thesis) Cross Cultural Communication, New College Berkeley,
- Certificate, French, La Sorbonne
- Certificate, Multi- cultural Primary Education, San Jose State University
- BA, French, University of California Berkeley

### **Professional Work Experience**

- Language Trainer for Adult Continuing Education, Faculte des Metiers, Paris/Evry, France 2008-2022
- Language Trainer for Engineers, Management and MultiMedia, Leonard DeVinici Pole Universitaire, La Defense, Puteaux, France 2016-2022
- Language Trainer for Management, EM Normandie, Paris, France, 2019-2022, 2013-2016
- British Civilization/American Civilization and Culture, La Sorbonne Nouvelle, Paris, France 2021-2022
- Language Trainer for the School of Management, La Sorbonne, Paris, France 2021-2022
- Language Trainer, University of Versailles, Versailles, France 2022
- Second Year Teacher, Section International de Sevres, Sevres, France 2005-2012
- Some Other Clients since 2003: Jussieu, ISEFAC, UPMC, SKEMA MANAGEMENT SCHOOL, ORSAY PARIS SUD UNIVERSITY, SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION, BTS( ACCOUNTANTS), ESCE, ESEII ( PARIS, FRANCE)
- BUSINESS DIRECTORS, MANAGERS, MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS, UNM, MARKET RESEARCHERS, CHILDREN, JR & SR HIGH STUDENTS, COVEA INSURANCE, HEWLETT PACKARD STAFF, NOVARTIS PHARMACUETICAL, AIR FRANCE, (PARIS AND SUBURBS OF PARIS, FRANCE)
- CONVERSE LANGUAGE SCHOOL, ST GILES, EF IN SAN FRANCISCO, CA, KAPLAN, NEW YORK CITY.

### **Professional Affiliation**

- TESOL International: CPC member, 2021-present
- TESOL International: ANPC Organization: member (2017-18)
- TESOL International: ALC member (3yrs) Chair (2014-2017)
- TESOL France: member, board member, VP and President, Workshop Coordinator( 2008-present)
- NAFSA: National association of Foreign Student Advisors: (member and committee participant) 1988-1994
- CACUHO: California association of college and university offices: member 1988-1990
- FLANC: association of foreign languages: member 1982, 1984-1991

### **Relevant Presentations**

- Webinar IATEFL Poland Presenter: Revisiting Oral Activities: May 2022
- ELT Ireland Plenary/ Workshop Presenter: The Power of Storytelling/ Revisiting Oral

Activities: Dublin, Ireland 2022

- IATEFL Poland: Workshop Presenter(online): Moving From Study to the application of language skills through Projects: 2021
- (workshop presenter more or less every year with TESOL Spain and IATEFL Poland since 2008/9 approx)
  - TESOL Mexico
  - JALT
  - IATEFL
  - IATEFL Hungary

**Candidate's Statement:** What kind of leaders does the association need? Why are you a good candidate to choose them?

In preparing for this application, I have remembered that I have always tried to be involved in a professional organization that was linked to the work I was doing as a Foreign Language teacher of French to working in higher education with the different types of associations. I feel that this professional connection helps me in my endeavors to be better at my job, to know what is going on in the field, to make connections and to help contribute to the professional wellbeing of other colleagues.

When I moved to France, I was a bit lost after the loss of someone dear to me, I started to teach English since I already had a background in teaching. So with the aid of a friend who was a Director of an ESL program at a community college in California, I received materials that would help me in this pursuit. It was not until after some time that I discovered TESOL France and I immediately jumped in to help the team because I was surprised that they did not have any volunteers to help with their annual conference. I think I thought this way because just a couple of years prior to that I was on the local team of organizing the NAFSA Annual Conference in San Francisco and for each part of the organizing we had to have at least 10-20 people helping for a conference of over 3000 people. TESOL France is not that big but I knew the need of having volunteers and thus I became involved and actually moved up in the ranks.

I feel it is a real honor to have the responsibility of helping other colleagues to access professional development through TESOL France (TESOL Intl and IATEFL, our sister organizations). It is because of this that I continue to try to add my little part in helping people to understand the need for professional development as leaders in education and how this can affect their own teaching and interactions as an educator, no matter what their role is. Membership is what helps every association, and it is the challenge for each association whether it be local or international. The collaboration and sharing are what makes us as individuals as well as an association healthy as we face all the challenges of teaching to those who speak other languages. I feel it is important that we think outside of the box to help teachers know and understand the benefits of being a member and how this helps contribute to professional growth and development. Teachers / Educators are the leaders who do not always consider themselves as such, and yet they should because we all affect so many lives in all we do.