

Martin J. Koszegi

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**MA—Literature, University of Houston Clear Lake**

**BA—English Education, Michigan State University**

## **Philosophy of Education**

I believe that students and teachers should be committed to a teaching-learning partnership. My philosophy of education does indicate an acceptance of learning by doing, and an acceptance of students as experimenters who must put thoughts to the test. Such an active learning environment is possible only when the teacher plans open-ended learning experiences, encourages discussion, and commits classroom time to exploration.

I think that permitting students to explore, to take risks, and to make mistakes involves a respect for their intellectual capacity and their investment in the learning process. It commits students to taking responsibility for their own decision making, for evaluating the effectiveness of the alternative paths they have explored, and for formulating at least tentative conclusions, in the sense that I see myself with students becoming focused on finding workable solutions and progressively more satisfying ones, and not always upon determining final right answers.

## **Teaching Experience**

In the Houston Independent School District, for the past thirty-six years, I have taught English Language Arts in the following capacities.

### ***East Early College High School***

I am currently a member of the English Department, teaching Creative Writing and Forms of Literature at the twelfth grade level. As a firm believer in the synergistic powers of all four language areas operating in each student, I have been incorporating rigorous standards into the language arts program, emphasizing skill acquisition principles for reading, writing, speaking and listening. I have also incorporated what my district calls a fifth language area: “viewing and representing,” which provides a form of template opportunity I use to further develop the other language areas. As a Texas Blue Ribbon Team Member, I have received recognition for my students’ Reading Improvement, as well as for incorporating innovative technology into my classroom.

### ***Contemporary Learning Center (CLC)***

From 1998 to 2011, I have taught English, ranging from grades seven through twelve. I came to CLC campus as an English Department Chairperson for the Houston Night High School (HNHS), remaining in this position, and teaching the eleventh and twelfth grades, until the HNHS was officially absorbed into the CLC campus. During the beginning portion of the merging phase of HNHS into CLC, Mr. Garza, my former principle (of HNHS), retired and then my new principle at CLC was Naurita Daniels. Under Ms. Daniels' administration, I taught tenth and eleventh grade English, and secured recognition as campus Teacher of the Year. When Mrs. Daniels retired in 2006, my new principle was Ms. Teresa Moore. During Ms. Moore's administration, the Middle School leg of our campus began a period of time under state accountability. She made a decision to move me to the Middle School in order to assist students in raising their TAKS scores. I was thrilled to be complimented by Ms. Moore for the subsequent improvements that students achieved on their state tests. As a consequence of other state accountability parameters, Ms. Moore left HISD in 2010 and Ms. Elaine Lewis became my next principle.

### ***Houston Night High School (HNHS)***

From 1994 to 1998 I taught twelfth grade English and became the English Department Chairperson (in 1995). (HNHS was based on Milby High School campus until 1998 when we moved to the Contemporary Learning Center campus.)

### ***James Madison Senior High School***

From 1981 to 1994, I taught Reading and tenth grade English, respectively, under the principles, Mrs. Carrie McAfee (until 1991) and then Mr. Ervin (until 1994). I began to seek other Language Arts employment in the HISD when I was informed that the Reading program was going to be ended on the campus, which heretofore comprised most of my teaching load. I interviewed for the HNHS position, was received, and so began teaching there.

## ***References***

**Ms. Tamera Bolden**, principle of East Early College High School: (713) 847-4809

**Ms. Elaine Lewis**, principle of Contemporary Learning Center for the 2010-2011 school year: (713) 942-1426

**Ms. Naurita Daniels**, principle of Contemporary Learning Center from 1998 to 2006: (713) 433-0663 / 2815 Dragonwick Dr., Houston, TX 77045

-----pending contact information below-----

**Ms. Teresa Moore**, principle of Contemporary Learning Center from 2006—2010: No longer with the HISD; contact information pending

**Mr. Garza**, principle of Houston Night High School, from 1998 to 2002: Retired; contact information pending

**Mr. Warner Ervin**, principle of James Madison Senior High School, from 1991 to 1994: Not registered in the HISD portal; contact information pending

**Ms. Carrie McAfee**, principle of James Madison Senior High School, from 1981 to 1991: Retired; contact information pending