

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION ABOUT PRESENTER: Dennis Meredith

Having graduated from Wisconsin State University with a major in Spanish and a minor in French, Dennis Meredith began his career in education as a junior high school French teacher with the Appleton School District in Wisconsin. He went on to teach Spanish for fourteen years at his Alma Mater, Appleton High School. In his third year as a teacher he became system-wide world languages coordinator for the district's two high schools and four junior high schools.

Between 1976 and 1985, he traveled regularly to Spain with his students, averaging 25 to 30 students each time. Believing strongly that an immersion program was superior in many ways to a tour-only program, he traveled with Intercultural Student Experiences, a nonprofit educational organization that specializes in immersion experiences.

In 1981 he did graduate work at Purdue University as part of a National Endowment for the Humanities program. He credits his experience at Purdue as a turning point in his teaching career insofar as teaching language and culture was concerned.

In 1985, he became the Spain Programs Coordinator for Intercultural Student Experiences, where his own love of Spanish and Spain have since facilitated the experiences abroad for hundreds of Spanish teachers and their students throughout the country. In his tenure as Spain Programs Coordinator the number of his trips to Spain, combined with his travel with his own students, exceeded 25. He has also traveled multiple times to Mexico, Costa Rica, France and Germany, where the vitality of local cultures continued to impact him.

In 2005, Dennis was appointed Director of Education for ISE, a new position which linked him and the ISE immersion mission to national world language associations like AATF, AATG and AATSP as well as multiple state organizations like NILA. He was responsible for coordinating ISE awards in support of these entities and for planning the annual ISE Leader Workshop which brings together some 250 teachers who will be traveling abroad with students. He also was charged with creating educational materials for ISE teachers. In 2007 he published a three-lesson series on the [nature of culture](#), [globalization and culture](#) and [cultural competence](#). In 2008 he wrote a three-lesson study unit set about Spain which will be used by teachers to prepare their students for an immersion experience in Spain

Dennis retired from ISE in September of 2008, but continues to volunteer for ISE in numerous ways, among them serving on the ISE Financial Aid Committee, the ISE Alumnus Scholarship Committee, and representing ISE at state world language conferences. He has been asked to be a keynote speaker at several world language conferences to address a topic in which he believes fervently: cultural competence.