

# Connie J. Sponheim

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## EDUCATOR | DRAMA & SPEECH SPECIALIST & CURRICULUM INNOVATOR

Passionate and results-driven educator with 26 years of experience in teaching English, speech, theatre arts, ESL, and social studies.

A dynamic leader in creative learning, student engagement, and theatrical productions. Recognized for inspiring students, developing innovative curricula, and directing over 50 successful plays and musicals.

## CORE COMPETENCIES:

Curriculum Development & Instructional Design

Student-Centered Learning & Engagement

Theatre & Speech Coaching

Creative Arts Integration

Public Speaking & Communication

Program Development & Leadership

ESL & Multicultural Education

Team Collaboration & Mentorship

## EDUCATION & CREDENTIALS:

M.A. Dramatic Literature – Western Washington University

B.A. Theatre Arts & Education – University of California, Santa Barbara

Single-Subject Teaching Credential (English, Speech, Drama, Clear Credential, CA) – UC Berkeley

Multi-Subject Teaching Credential (K-12, WA Life Credential) – University of Washington

ESL Certification – UC Berkeley

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

### **Eastside College Prep, Palo Alto, CA (2009 – 2011)**

Drama Teacher & Theatre Director

Designed and implemented a thriving drama program, producing multiple acclaimed productions.

Developed curriculum integrating speech, public speaking, and dramatic literature.

Engaged students from diverse backgrounds, fostering confidence and creative expression.

### **Los Gatos High School, Los Gatos, CA (2007 – 2008)**

English & Speech Teacher

Taught 9th and 10th-grade English, emphasizing writing and critical thinking skills.

Implemented engaging speech and debate activities to build student confidence.

### **Redwood Middle School, Napa, CA (2006 – 2007)**

Language Arts, Social Studies & Drama Teacher

Created an interdisciplinary curriculum combining history, literature, and performance arts.

Directed student productions that received accolades from administration and parents.

### **Aragon High School, San Mateo, CA (2005 – 2006)**

Drama Teacher & Musical Director

Directed school-wide musicals, enhancing students' artistic and team-building skills.

Implemented an innovative curriculum that increased student participation and engagement.

### **Snohomish High School & Valley View Middle School, Snohomish, WA**

English, Drama & Speech Teacher

Developed a highly successful drama program, producing numerous plays with enthusiastic student participation.

Introduced Six-Trait Writing and creative expression techniques into English classes.

**The Hispanic University, San Jose, CA (2008)**

English & Writing Instructor

Designed summer courses for non-native speakers to enhance writing and verbal communication.

Fostered a supportive and inclusive learning environment for a diverse student body.

**THEATRE & DRAMATIC ARTS ACCOMPLISHMENTS:**

Directed over 50 theatrical productions, including musicals, classical plays, and student-written works.

Award-Winning Director – Recognized for Best Show of the Season (Driftwood Players, Edmonds, WA).

Finalist for the prestigious Irene Ryan Acting Award, selected from over 200 competitors.

Developed and taught arts-integrated curriculum for multiple educational institutions and workshops.

Led professional development courses for educators on incorporating drama into traditional subjects.

**ADDITIONAL TEACHING & LECTURING EXPERIENCE:**

Adjunct Lecturer – The Heritage Institute, Seattle, WA: Taught "Enliven Any Subject Through Drama."

Educational Consultant & Trainer – Conducted workshops for educators on creative teaching strategies.

House Manager – Everett Performing Arts Theatre, WA: Managed over 100 volunteers.

Public Relations & Entertainment – Disneyland, Anaheim, CA: Experience in operations & marketing.

**TECHNICAL & CREATIVE SKILLS**

Expertise in curriculum development, student mentorship, and innovative teaching strategies.

Proficient in Microsoft Office, Google Suite, and educational technology tools.

Skilled in directing, acting, speech coaching, and public speaking.

Experience in event coordination, scriptwriting, and production design.

**PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

Union of Concerned Scientists

Educational & Environmental Advocacy Groups

**REFERENCES Available upon request.**

**Personal Interests:** Travel, research, singing, acting, directing, outdoor activities, crafting/decorating and writing





**improvisation, and volunteer work.**