

LAILA TASLIMI

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE - EMPLOYMENT

2014 – 2015 Demonstration teacher at UCLA Lab School, Intermediate (3rd/4th grade) and Reading Support Teacher

1997 – 2014 Classroom teacher at McKinley Elementary School, Santa Monica Malibu Unified School District in 1st, 1st-2nd, 2nd, 3rd grades, and RTI reading teacher 2nd-3rd grades

1995 – 1996 One-on-one full-day aide to autistic student at Grand View Elementary School in Los Angeles, employed by Institute for Applied Behavioral Analysis (IABA)

Prior to 1995, my careers were in the field of construction general contracting (1988 – 1994) in Los Angeles, and in theater direction (1982 – 1988) primarily in Slovenia.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE – PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT, LEADERSHIP

2010-2012 Awarded fellowship with Cotsen Foundation received weekly coaching by mentor in selected focus: math instruction

2009, 2010, 2011 Attended Cognitively Guided (math) Instruction conference, summer trainings, and yearlong evening programs

2004, 2005, 2009-12 Attended eight (8) weeks total of Advanced Summer Institutes at Teachers College Reading and Writing Project, Columbia University, NY

2006, 2007 Observed exemplary Reading and Writing Workshop classes in action across several New York City schools

2003, 2004 One-year training at UCLA Math Project, advanced to Teacher Leader

Throughout my teaching career I have benefitted from visiting classes within and outside my school district. In the years I was an 80% teacher, I was able to utilize my Mondays off to do so. Whenever feasible, I joined in with colleagues on site visits with debriefs to process what was learned. I participated (on occasion, as facilitator) with colleagues in lesson study-type and other collaborative models to develop units of study and to improve teaching methods for reaching targeted students.

In 2005-06 I served as a member on my site's Professional Development Leadership Team, charged with yearlong staff development planning and implementation. I have coached new and experienced teachers at my site with their Writing Workshop, Reading Workshop, and Words Their Way (word study), which I also taught at a District-wide pre-service PD day. I led reading comprehension workshops for senior volunteers who served our district as tutors, and hosted monthly Family Forums for parents of my students to address their concerns about their children's academic and social development. Since 2012 I served on two district-level committees: the Teacher Evaluation Study Group charged to research and re-design our system of evaluating all teachers, and the Health & Safety Committee which is an advisory council to our School Board (current appointment). Since 2015 I have also participated alongside other advocates for quality care and education in our city's Early Childhood Task Force.

In 2016 I completed additional early childhood teacher and administrator coursework through UCLA Extension and SMC, including two practicums in early education centers – First Years of Venice and Growing Place Marine Park. I formed a non-profit organization to open a model nursery school to serve families evenly spread across socio-economic levels. My career as an educator culminates in this effort to serve my community's need for quality early learning.

EDUCATION & CREDENTIALS

2017 Program Director Child Development Permit

2007 National Board Certified in Literacy (Reading: Language Arts for Early and Middle Childhood, Ages 3-12)

1996 – 1998 CLAD and M.Ed, Teacher Education Program, UCLA

1978 – 1982 B.A. Theatre Arts, UCLA

1974 – 1978 Westlake School for Girls, Los Angeles

1968 – 1974 Mirman School, Los Angeles

1967 – 1968 Franklin Elementary School, Santa Monica

1965 – 1967 Nursery Schools: Presbyterian and Jewish