

Brandon Locke



Where did you obtain your degrees and what was your area of focus for each degree?

I studied at Université Laval in Québec, Canada, then returned to the University of Alaska Anchorage where I earned my bachelor's degree in French and Secondary Education, with a minor in World Geography. I earned a master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction, with specialization in Second Languages and Cultures Education and Language Immersion Education, from the University of Minnesota. I hold a second master's degree in Educational Leadership (with K-12 Principal licensure) from the University of Alaska Anchorage. I am currently a doctoral candidate in Literacy, Culture, and Language Education at Indiana University.

Briefly describe your professional background and experiences with the Concordia Language Villages (if applicable).

I have been an educator for close to 25 years. I've been with the Anchorage School District for 22 years, beginning my career as a middle school French and social studies teacher. I moved to the high school level where I taught French at all levels (I – Advanced Placement). I took a hiatus from teaching for several years and served as a middle school assistant principal for a year, followed by six years as an elementary school principal. For the past eight years I have been the Director of World Languages and Immersion Programs for the Anchorage School District, where I oversee all K-12 language programs for approximately 8,000 students, 150 teachers, in nine different languages. Much of my work is around the professional growth and development of teachers, as well as recruiting and hiring teachers, curriculum development, and advocacy. My history with the Concordia Language Villages began when I was a middle school student in the 1980's. I was a Villager at Lac du Bois, the French Language Village, for three summers. Years later I returned as a credit teacher, credit facilitator, and served as Dean of Lac du Bois for six years, at three different sites (Waubun, Fosston, and Hackensack). In 2008 I began teaching the Teacher Seminars course and when Donna Clementi retired, I took over as Dean of Educator Programs, which has included leading the STARTALK grant-funded teacher program. These programs have run concurrently with the first course in the M.Ed. program (AMLA 600) for the past few years, so there is a lot of overlap and integration of students between the programs.

What kind of research or other scholarly work do you do? What kinds of topics interest you most?

My current work is focused on indigenous language revitalization efforts. I am currently managing a \$1.3 million federal grant to launch Yup'ik (an Alaskan indigenous language) immersion program. My doctoral dissertation (in progress) is framed around public perspectives of an indigenous language program in a large urban K-12 setting. Other areas of interest include the unique professional development needs of immersion teachers and administrators, with the latter being my focus. I also work in the area of standards- and proficiency-based unit design.

Additionally, I am a frequent speaker or presenter at local, state, national, and international conferences. I've published articles, served as a peer-reviewer, and also serve as a board member of many different organizations including NADSFL (National Association of District Supervisors for Languages) and am currently the president for PNCFL (Pacific Northwest Council for Languages), ACTFL's regional affiliate in the Pacific Northwest.

What do you do in the M.Ed. program and what do you like most about working with our graduate students?

My role in the M.Ed. program is ever-changing. Consistently I have taught the foundational course (AMLA 600) in a variety of situations, included with non-M.Ed. Teacher Seminars and/or STARTALK students). Because of the flexibility of this program, it is hard to separate out students from our variety of programs and options. I've been teaching AMLA 600 for over ten years now, and I continue to love it. I absolutely love working with eager teachers who yearn to improve their practice, as well as inspire their colleagues back home after the experience the Language Villages and have experienced our unique master's program.

Is there anything else that you want students to know about you?

I am a lifelong learner and traveler. While always trying to maintain my French, I continue to dabble in Spanish, German, and Japanese. I hope to expand my German more this summer as I travel solo through Switzerland and Austria. I have had the "travel bug" for quite some time and am always looking for the next travel adventure. I'm married to my amazing wife Jaime (we met at Lac du Bois in 1998) who is a 1st grade teacher in Anchorage (formerly a French immersion teacher in the Twin Cities), and we have to children, Olivia (6th grade) and Max (2nd grade), both of whom attend CLV. I'm an amateur photographer and also an amateur antique collector, with a unique interest in antique bottles.