

## **ABOUT MAREN BENN, MA**

Born in Puerto Limón, Costa Rica, and raised in Panamá City, Panamá. Maren holds a Bachelor of Arts in Language and International Trade, and a Master of Arts in Spanish Literature. With over fifteen years of diversified experience, Mrs. Benn is an achievement-oriented educational professional, experienced in teaching first, second, and third-year college level Spanish courses. Beside Spanish grammar, she also taught courses such as Spanish Literature, Spanish Translation, Spanish Composition, and Spanish Reading. Throughout her teaching career, she worked at Wayne State University, at Eastern Michigan University, and at the University of Michigan. As a member of ACTFL (American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages, Mrs. Benn is a certified Spanish language proficiency expert coach as well as a reader, rater and tester of OPI (Oral Proficiency Interview), CLEP Exam (College Level Examination Program), AP Test (Advanced Placement), and AAPPL Test (ACTFL Assessment Performance and Proficiency in Languages) programs. She has traveled with, and supervised college students in study abroad programs to Spain and Costa Rica; and served as translator as well as interpreter on a mission trip to Puerto Rico. When Mrs. Benn is not teaching, translating or interpreting, she plays the role of a Spanish proficiency coach to professionals, and to students aspiring to become Certified Spanish teachers. The nature and effectiveness of Mrs. Benn's approach to curriculum, and instruction stems from her own personal experience as a native Spanish speaker learning English as a second language. She strongly believes that in order to achieve communicative and cultural competence in Spanish language learners, it's important to provide meaningful and relevant input which students can relate to. In addition, Mrs. Benn's greatest passion is the creation of documentaries that showcase the culture of Afro-descendants in Spanish speaking countries.