

# DR. LYDA MURILLO WILBUR

CONTINUOUS KNOWLEDGE SEEKER

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## PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Associate Professor of Spanish

Division Chair: Language & Literature

Administrator, Teacher, Principal and Educator with expertise in pre-kinder through higher education teaching/learning

Demonstrated success in the development of teachers and their students in urban settings

Demonstrated success in the development of university students' fluency in Spanish Language communication

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## AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

- **OBU Promising Teacher Award (2023-2024)**

Awarded for outstanding promise and dedication in teaching at Oklahoma Baptist University, recognizing contributions to student engagement and innovative instruction.

- **OBU Bison Sports Faculty Mentor Award (2022)**

Recognized as an influential mentor to student-athletes, providing academic and personal guidance that supports their success on and off the field.

- **Love of Learning Award – Phi Kappa Phi (2018)**

Awarded by Phi Kappa Phi honor society to members who demonstrate a commitment to lifelong learning; supported professional development and research activities.

- **Travel & Education Scholarship (2018)**

Scholarship awarded to support travel for academic and professional enrichment, facilitating international experiences to enhance teaching and cultural knowledge.

- **Tulsa Area Tomas Rivera Award (2017)**

Recognizes contributions to the Hispanic community, emphasizing excellence in education, leadership, and community service in the Tulsa area.

- **Kaiser Foundation Grant for Doctoral Studies (2006-2011)**

Funded by the Kaiser Foundation, this grant supported doctoral studies in urban leadership, enabling research and professional development through a partnership with Tulsa Public Schools (TPS) and the University of Oklahoma.

- **Oklahoma Assistant Principal of the Year (2009)**

State-level award recognizing exceptional leadership, instructional effectiveness, and commitment to student success as an assistant principal.

- **Tulsa Schools Area IV Teacher Award (2005, 2002)**

Presented for teaching excellence and contributions to student learning within Area IV of TPS.

- **Who's Who Among America's Teachers (2004)**

National recognition given to outstanding teachers nominated by their students for making a significant impact on their education and development.

- **Booker T. Washington High School Teacher Award (2003)**

School-level award recognizing excellence in teaching and dedication to student achievement at Booker T. Washington High School

- **Career Partners of America Scholarship (2000)**

One of two Spanish teachers selected for this scholarship, sponsored by the University of Tulsa and Tulsa Chamber of Commerce. As a public-school ambassador, traveled one week each to Argentina and Mexico, studying under the guidance of business and educational leaders from major corporations in both countries to gain insights into international education and leadership.

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## LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

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### **Associate Spanish Professor**

**Oklahoma Baptist University | Shawnee, Oklahoma**

**2017 - Present**

- **Division Chair, Division of Language & Literature**

Provide visionary leadership and strategic oversight for departmental programs, faculty development, and curriculum planning to elevate academic standards and advance excellence across language and literature disciplines. (2024 - Present)

- **Secretary, Undergraduate Faculty Council**

Maintained records and supported council initiatives focused on advancing undergraduate education at OBU. (2024-2025)

- **Vice-President, Oklahoma Foreign Language Teacher Association of World Languages (OFLTA)**

Served as a key executive representing and promoting world language educators across Oklahoma. (2024 - 2025)

- **Secretary, Faculty Development Committee**

Documented committee proceedings and actively contributed to strategic decisions supporting faculty growth and professional development across the institution. (2023-2024)

- **Professional Status and Standards Committee**

Actively contributed to advancing institutional professional standards, supporting faculty status reviews, and guiding development initiatives to promote excellence in teaching and scholarship. (2023-2024)

- **Conference Organizer and Leader**

Spearheaded the inaugural OFLTA Fall Conference at OBU, coordinating with presenters and participants; organized the first OFLTA Winter Workshop at OBU, advancing professional development for language educators across the state. (Fall 2023, Winter 2023)

- **Chair, Discipline and Faith Committee**

Led initiatives to integrate faith with academic discipline, fostering a supportive environment for personal and professional growth. (Fall 2021 - 2022)

- **Co-Advisor, Mortar Board**

Supported student leadership in this academic honor society, guiding members in professional development and community service. (Fall 2021 - Present)

- **Founding Mentor, Latin American Student Organization (LASO)**

Established and mentored LASO to provide support, representation, and cultural enrichment for Spanish and Latin American students. (Fall 2021 - Present)

- **Chapel, Diversity, and Campus Safety Committees and Hispanic Serving Institute Initiative Committee**

Contributed to meaningful initiatives within each committee, enhancing a supportive and inclusive campus culture by promoting spiritual growth, diversity, and comprehensive safety measures that positively impact the university community. (2017-2020, 2024-Present)

**Elementary School Principal**  
**Mitchell Elementary School, Tulsa Public Schools (TPS) | Tulsa, OK**

**2012 - 2017**

Urban School - Pre-K through 6th grade

- **School Operations Management**

Oversaw all aspects of school operations, including managing the Title I budget, designing the master schedule, curriculum planning, and faculty development.

- **Leadership Training and Mentorship**

Trained and mentored a leadership team of ten teacher leaders and multiple principals, fostering professional growth and driving school improvement.

- **Data-Driven Instructional Development**

Implemented data-driven training for faculty, enhancing instructional effectiveness through evidence-based practices.

- **Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math (STEAM) Curriculum Development and Grant Acquisition**

Introduced a STEAM curriculum, leading efforts to secure a \$10,000 grant from Code.org to expand educational opportunities and resources.

**Graduate Research Assistant**

**Oklahoma Center for Education Policy, The University of Oklahoma | Tulsa, Oklahoma**

**2011 - 2012**

- Collaborated with academic professionals on critical data collection and analyzed projects for Oklahoma's second-largest school district, generating insights into policy impacts that informed state-wide educational improvements. This data was integral to my dissertation research, which examines how Autonomy Support, Competence Support, and Relational Support can foster self-efficacy for self-regulated learning in urban schools.

**High School Principal**

**Will Rogers High School, TPS | Tulsa, OK**

**2009 - 2011**

Urban School -- 9th through 12th grade

- **Instructional Leadership and Faculty Development**

Provided instructional leadership, guided curriculum development, and supported faculty professional growth, leading to the achievement of Adequate Yearly Progress in 2011.

- **Operational Management and Resource Expansion**

Directed high school operations, fostering strategic community partnerships and establishing the Will Rogers High School Foundation to expand resources and enhance support networks.

- **Community and Parental Involvement**

Increased parent and community engagement by 91%, significantly strengthening support networks essential for student and school success.

**Assistant Principal**

**Will Rogers High School, TPS | Tulsa, Oklahoma**

**2005 - 2009**

Urban Schools -- 9th through 12th grade

- **Professional Development Coordination**

Organized and led professional development sessions for faculty and staff, enhancing instructional practices and supporting continuous growth.

- **Transition Program Development**

Developed and led programs to support academic and social transitions for incoming students, including coordinating summer math and reading camps to strengthen foundational skills.

- **School Operations and Budget Management**

Assisted in managing Title I budgets, overseeing curriculum planning, and supporting daily school operations to ensure a well-structured and effective learning environment.

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## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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### Associate Professor of Spanish

Oklahoma Baptist University | Shawnee, OK

**2017 - Present**

#### Academic Leadership in Spanish Language and Cultural Studies

- Teach a range of courses, from introductory to advanced Spanish, fostering student proficiency and cultural awareness. *(Fall 2017-Present)*
- Keynote Speaker: The National Baptist Women's Congress of Panama, SA. *(Fall 2024)*
- Spokesperson for the Rev. Angel & Nila Murillo Endowment at the Oklahoma Baptist Hispanic Pastors' and Wives' Conference. *(Fall 2023)*
- Panel moderator and speaker at Oklahoma Baptist Hispanic Women's Conferences, supporting dialogue and growth for Hispanic women in ministry. *(Summers 2023, 2024)*

#### Mentorship

- Active mentor to students, guiding their academic and career journeys. *(Fall 2017-Present)*

#### International Education Leader

Designed and led academic courses in Central America, South America, and Spain, engaging students in cross-cultural studies and immersive learning experiences.

- **Honors Colloquium in Ecuador**

Organized and instructed a summer course in Ecuador, assisting in the facilitation of short-term internships for Spanish language students to enhance practical language skills. *(Summer 2021)*

- **University-Level Topics Courses in Panama and Spain**

Facilitated two international courses in Panama and Spain, providing students with immersive experiences and expanded perspectives in language studies. *(Winter, Summer 2019)*

- **Educational Sessions in Peru**

Prepared and presented two 2.5-hour sessions in Peru, focusing on adolescent developmental stages and methods for engaging youth in church settings. *(Summer 2019)*

- **Specialized Training at Trujillo Baptist Seminary, Peru**

Delivered a 3-hour session to Seminary Faculty on differentiated instruction techniques for adult learners. *(Summer 2019)*

### High School Spanish Teacher

Booker T. Washington High School, Tulsa Public Schools | Tulsa, Oklahoma

**1993 - 2005**

- **Second Language Acquisition and Cultural Integration**

Facilitated language acquisition, communication skills, and cultural understanding using diverse learning strategies, connecting language with core subjects such as math, language arts, science, and history.

- **Experiential Learning and Community Engagement**

Designed coursework enabling students to mentor younger peers, volunteer at local libraries and community agencies, and participate in international travel to deepen language and cultural knowledge.

- **Department Leadership**

Led the world language department in developing successful programs aligned with the school's vision, supporting both academic and cultural learning goals.

**Adjunct Spanish Instructor**  
**Tulsa Community College | Tulsa, Oklahoma**

**2000 - 2001**

- Provided Spanish Instruction at all levels.
- Collaborated on text selection and curriculum evaluation.

**Graduate Teaching Assistant (GTA)**  
**Millersville University | Millersville, PA**

**1997 - 1999**

- Provided conversational Spanish instruction to cohort members.
- Selected textbooks for instruction.
- Assisted with plays and other graduate academic activities.

**Middle School Spanish Teacher**  
**Wilson Middle School, Tulsa Public Schools | Tulsa, Oklahoma**

**1993 - 1998**

• **Spanish Language and Cultural Introduction**

Introduced Spanish language and culture through exploratory courses in 6th grade, as well as beginning Spanish Levels 1 and 2, providing foundational language skills and cultural awareness.

• **Vertical Articulation Enhancement**

Strengthened Spanish language program alignment between Wilson Middle School and Booker T. Washington High School. Ensured a cohesive progression in language learning across schools attended by my students.

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## **VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE**

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- **Baptist Spanish Publishing House Foundation** – Board Member (2024-2028)
- **Oklahoma Baptist University** - Student Recruitment Tulsa area (2024-Present)
- **Community Baptist Church (CBC) Coweta Visioning Team**– Volunteer, Mexico City, Mexico (2024)
- **CBC Coweta Missions**– English Schools Teacher Volunteer, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam (2024)
- **Oklahoma Baptist Hispanic Ministries' Advisory Council** – Member (2024-Present)
- **OFLTA** - Vice President (2024-2025)
- **Southern Baptist Convention (SBC): New Orleans & Indianapolis** – CBC Messenger (2023, 2024)
- **CBC Coweta Women's Missionary Union (WMU)** - Speaker (2023)
- **Angel & Nila Murillo Endowment Scholarship** – Founder (2023)
- **OFLTA** - Board Member (2020-2025)
- **CBC Coweta** – Missions' Committee Member (2022-2024)
- **American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese (AATSP) Oklahoma Chapter** - President (2020-2022)
- **Calvary Baptist Tulsa Missions / First Baptist Owasso Missions** - Bilingual Interpreter, Peru (2017, 2019)
- **Women's Leadership of: First Baptist Church Broken Arrow / CBC Coweta** - Outreach Coordinator (2016-2019)
- **North Central / COGNIA Accreditation Teams** – Leader and Participant (2010-2015)
- **Aaron's K. Stern Foundation** – Board Member (2013-2027)
- **Leadership Tulsa: Voices Program** – Member (2012-Present)
- **Advance Ed Quality Assurance Review** – Oklahoma Team Member (2012-2016)
- **University of Oklahoma Student Government** - College of Education Representative (2011-2015)
- **Oklahoma State Department of Education** - Support Team Member for Schools in Need of Improvement (2011-2012)
- **TPS** – translator / Interpreter, Materials Preparation (2006, 2009-2011)
- **TPS** - Teacher Recruitment: Puerto Rico, Texas, and Oklahoma (2005-2011)

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## EDUCATION

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**Ed. D. Curriculum and Instruction, with Honors**  
University of Oklahoma | Norman, OK

**M. A. Educational Leadership, School Administration, with Honors**  
Oklahoma State University | Stillwater, OK

**M. A. Spanish Art and Literature, with Honors**  
Millersville University | Lancaster, PA

**B. S. Business Administration, Marketing, with Honors**  
Cameron University | Lawton, OK

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## CERTIFICATIONS

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- School Superintendent
  - General School Administration
  - Secondary Education Administration (middle school / high school)
  - Elementary School Administration
  - Spanish Teacher (K - 12)
  - Lean/Six Sigma Green Belt
  - Relay Graduate School of Education
  - Court Interpreter for the Great State of Oklahoma
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## PROFESSIONAL GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT

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### Book Studies

- **Healthy Leadership for Thriving Organizations** by Dan Reiland (2024)
- **Teaching with AI: A Practical Guide to a New Era of Human Learning** by José Antonio Bowen and C. Edward Watson (2024)
- **How to Know a Person** by David Brooks (2024)
- **Make it Stick: The Science of Successful Learning** by Peter C. Brown, Henry L. Roediger III, and Mark A. McDaniel (Spring 2022)
- **Crazy Busy: A (Mercifully) Short Book about a (Really) Big Problem** by Kevin DeYoung (2019)
- **Perspectives on the World Christian Movement** by Ralph D. Winter and Steven C. Hawthorne (2017-2019)

### OBU Trainings

- **Go-Outreach Trainings** (2017-2022, 2024)
- **HOPE Training** (2021, 2022, 2023)
- **Multiply Training Sessions** (2021, 2022, 2023)
- **Writing Co-op** (2022, 2023)
- **Mortar Board National Conference** (2023)

### Engagement in Key Professional Conferences and Organizations

Actively participated in and presented at influential language education conferences, contributing to and gaining insights from cutting-edge practices and discussions in the field.

- **Lamppost Conference**  
Participated in this OBU Language & Literature Division initiative, sharing insights on *El Quixote* by Cervantes. This emerging conference invites educators and students to engage collaboratively with the “great books,” promoting enriched teaching and learning in classic literature. (2021-Present)
- **Christian Association of World Languages (CAWL)**  
Contributed to discussions on faith-based language education and collaborated with educators to enhance language programs in a Christian framework. (2019, 2023)
- **Southwest Conference on Language Teaching (SWCOLT)**  
Engaged in this regional conference supporting language educators through professional development, advocacy, and networking across the southwestern U.S. (2022)
- **American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL)**  
Participated in national conferences aimed at enhancing language teaching and learning at all levels. (2019, 2021, 2022)
- **Study Abroad Experience, Quito, Ecuador**  
Participated in a program facilitated by Living and Learning International to fulfill a professional goal of developing language and cultural immersion opportunities for students. This experience laid the groundwork for future excursions, ultimately bringing two honors groups to explore Quito, the Galápagos Islands, and Peru, including Cuzco, Machu Picchu, and Rainbow Mountain, over the following two years. (Spring 2020)
- **University of Arkansas Spanish Symposium**  
Engaged in this annual event focusing on Spanish language, Hispanic cultures, and language pedagogy, with workshops and presentations by experts in linguistics, literature, and cultural studies. (Fall 2018 & 2019)
- **Study Abroad Experience, Salamanca, Spain**  
Engaged in an immersive study abroad experience facilitated by Travel & Education that included a three-day journey along *El Camino de Santiago*, a bicycle tour of Salamanca inspired by *El Lazarillo de Tormes*, and a living museum presentation on the life of Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra. Additionally, collaborated with colleagues and learned from a master instructor, enhancing pedagogical strategies for teaching Spanish literature and culture. (Summer 2018)
- **OFLTA**  
Active member of this state-level organization dedicated to advancing foreign language education in Oklahoma. (1993-Present)
- **Leadership Tulsa**  
Engaged in Leadership Tulsa's mission to cultivate diverse leaders committed to strengthening the Tulsa community. Through this organization, connected with professionals across sectors to address local challenges and opportunities, contributing meaningfully to civic initiatives and impactful projects.
- **Phi Kappa Phi**  
As a member of Phi Kappa Phi, I am part of the nation's oldest multidisciplinary honor society, which recognizes academic excellence across all fields. The society invites only the top 10% of students and esteemed faculty, promoting a lifelong commitment to learning and service through scholarships, grants, and professional connections.

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## PUBLICATIONS, PAPERS, & WORKS IN PROGRESS

- **Olubunmi, E.** (2021). *Think Clean...Think Green with Ms. Green The Recycle Queen!* (Translation by L. Wilbur). Olubunmi Film & Foto, LLC. (Originally published 2021).

- **Paper Presentation**

Conducted research, authored, and presented a paper at the CAWL Conference (2019) for a proposed study on the influence of relational support (RS) on students in higher education, with a specific focus on students studying a world language other than English.

- **Doctoral Dissertation**

*Autonomy Support, Competence Support, and Relational Support in Fostering Self-Efficacy for Self-Regulated Learning in Urban Schools*. Dissertation submitted in partial fulfillment of the Doctor of Education degree requirements. (2014)

- **Publications in *Nuestra Tarea***

Published quarterly by the Woman's Missionary Union, *Nuestra Tarea* provides Spanish-speaking women with mission-related information, ideas, and inspiration to deepen their involvement in the Great Commission.

**"El Programa Cooperativo en Florida"**, *Nuestra Tarea*, September 1999

**"¿Contesta Dios Nuestras Oraciones?"**, *Nuestra Tarea*, September 1997

**"La Gran Comisión y la Alianza Bautista Mundial"**, *Nuestra Tarea*, August 1997

**"La Gran Comisión"**, *Nuestra Tarea*, June 1997

**"¡Qué Dios bendiga a los niños!"**, *Nuestra Tarea*, May 1997

- **Works in Progress**

**Vestidas en Su Esencia** (book manuscript in progress). A work focused on exploring themes of identity, spirituality, and personal growth the Christian Faith.

**El Tesoro Escondido** (book manuscript in progress). Reflective exploration of deeper meanings and values within hidden aspects of life, death, and faith.

**Nacidos para Triunfar** (book manuscript in progress). A motivational work aimed at empowering readers to embrace resilience and purpose in pursuit of success.