**MARÍA I. BESSER**

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**EDUCATION**

**University of Minnesota - Twin Cities** | Minneapolis, MN, USA August 2024

Master of Education, in Arts in Education

***Universidad del Desarrollo*** | Concepción, Chile 2012

Bachelor in Education, *Summa Cum Laude*

Professional Degree of Teacher in Middle and High School Education

Major in Visual Arts Education

* Class Rank: 2nd/20 (Class of 2012)
* *“Vocación de Profesor”* Scholarship | Granted and funded by the State of Chile (Ministry of Education)
* Action – Research thesis: “Creation and Reflection: Enhancement of Skills Inherent to Visual Arts Through Cooperative Learning and Guided Discovery”. Advisor: Luz Patricia Silva Pérez

***Universidad de Concepción*** | Concepción, Chile 2008 – 2011

Bachelor's Degree in Visual Arts

**EXPERIENCE**

**University of Minnesota - Twin Cities** | Minneapolis, MN, USA August 2024 - Present

Department of Curriculum and Instruction,

College of Education and Human Development 2015-present

P & A in Arts in Education; Teaching Specialist

* *Improving Arts Programs in Schools*, CI 5065
* *Creating Identities: Learning In and Through the Arts,* CI 1032

***“Colegio República de Costa Rica”* Elementary and Middle School** | Santiago, Chile 2017 – 2023

*Visual Arts Teacher, Technology Teacher and Head Teacher.*

* Visual Arts Teacher from 5th grade to 8th grade and Technology Teacher from 5th to 8th grade.
* Head teacher tasks: meetings and interviews with parents, student and group counseling for six years.
* Lesson plannings based on national arts curriculum focused on creativity, critical thinking and art appreciation.
* Assistance in artistic extracurriculars, Robotics Club and Painting Club teacher.

**“Almondale San Pedro School” PK-12** | Concepción, Chile  2013 – 2016

*Visual Arts Teacher, Technology Teacher, and Head Teacher*

* Taught Visual Arts class to 1st - 8th grade students; and taught Technology class to 1st - 5th grade students.
* Head Techer to 6th grade class (2013), 5th grade class (2014), 8th grade class (2015), and 5th grade class (2016).
* Executed Head Teacher tasks (e.g., meetings and interviews with parents; student and group counseling; etc.).
* Prepared and executed lesson plans based on the national arts curriculum (focused on creativity, critical thinking, and art appreciation).
* Assisted in artistic extracurriculars, Painting Club for middle school and Art Club for elementary school.

**Workshop *“Arte Puro”*** | Concepción, Chile 2013 – 2016

*Oil and Acrylic Painting Teacher*

* Painting lessons for children and adults.

**“Almondale San Pedro School” PK-12** | Concepción, Chile March 2012 – December 2012

*Professional Internship: Student Teaching, Bachelor in Education and Teacher Professional Degree*

* Mentor: Carmen Vyhmeister (Visual Art Teacher)
* Action-research thesis applied to 7th-grade art class.

***Universidad de Concepción*** | Concepción, Chile 2010 – 2011

*Teaching Assistant, Bachelor in Visual Arts*

* Grading and student support for Painting Principles, Application Workshop II, and Visual Production Workshop II

**OTHER STUDIES**

**University of St. Thomas** | Minneapolis, MN, USA January – May 2022

*Native American Art Class, Auditing Student – Professor Jill Ahlberg Yohe*

* Final Research Paper: “Bilateral Symmetry and Format in the Work of Christi Belcourt and Mary Sully”

**CPEIP** | Santiago, Chile. July – December 2019

*Course: Computer Sciences Fundamentals for Elementary Teachers*

**CPEIP** | Santiago, Chile. October – December 2018

*Course: Create and Appreciate Visual Arts in Elementary Education*

**Spark Talents** | Santiago, Chile. July, 2018

*Robotics for Teachers, LEGO Mindstorms, Initial Intensive Course*

**CERTIFICATIONS**

***CPEIP (****Centro de Perfeccionamiento, Experimentación e Investigaciones Pedagógicas)*  2017

*Ministry of Education, Chile*

**Teacher’s Professional Development System (“*Tramo Sistema de Desarrollo Profesional Docente”)***

* Advanced Level

**LANGUAGES**

**Spanish** (Native)

**English** (Fluent)