

Steven T. Brown

New Orleans, Louisiana, US

Dear Sir / Ma'am:

Thank you for this opportunity to introduce myself. I am a secondary and post-secondary educator who has taught, worked as administrator / staff developer, and for the last fifteen years done the work of high school redesign. With this outreach, it is my intention to offer certain student centered services to my Dutch friends and colleagues, with particular interest in those schools who have chosen bilingual education as part of their journey to excellence.

My teaching career began many years ago within the context of alternative and clinical schools, relying upon instructional strategies that would improve learning for a diverse student population; many of my students were both gifted, as well as experiencing emotional or behavioral challenges. I dedicated myself to alternative forms of secondary learning, which has been the focus of my professional life. In 1989 I traveled to Japan, to teach as a Special Educator and Social Studies teacher on a US Air Force Base, just outside Tokyo, for three years. Upon returning to the States, my work centered around research and implementation of models for improving student outcomes, so that our youth could be successful in a 21st century world. Two models I have worked with are the career academy model (see www.naf.org), and the International Baccalaureate programs. Following the devastation of Hurricane Katrina of 2005, I worked for Louisiana to reopen high schools in our state; this had me working at the forefront of charter schooling in the US. I continued model implementation work in New Orleans and throughout the Gulf Coast region for some years, first by way of a \$2,5 million federal grant for Smaller Learning Communities, followed by a Gates Foundation high school redesign grant.

Why the Netherlands? During 2014, I decided to make some career changes, taking sabbatical time for study and reflection. This summer, I will visit the Netherlands for travel and exploration, with the hope I may share my passion for helping teachers increase their effectiveness in generating increased student achievement. Since I am only embarking on this journey, I wish to learn as much from you as I can bring to the table myself; therefore, I would like to offer you any first activity (facilitated teacher learning, workshop, etc.) free of charge.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Steven T. Brown". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the "Sincerely," text.

Steven Brown