



Mrs. Zelaya, EHS teacher of the Year, chosen as the district's high school representative

Mrs. María Eugenia Zelaya, IB Spanish teacher, was selected to represent the district high schools at the Alachua County Teacher of the Year Program. She was first selected teacher of the year here at EHS, and subsequently won the district nomination.

She will be at the 27th annual Robert W. Hughes Teacher of the Year Program, which will be held January 24th, 2019. This event brings together community and business leaders to recognize the contributions of our amazing Alachua County Public School teachers. Mrs. Zelaya will be recognized as the outstanding teacher from our district high schools, and perhaps named the 2019 Alachua County Teacher of the Year!

Mrs. Zelaya has been teacher at EHS for about 10 years, and she says “My goal as an educator is to provide my students opportunities to investigate the world beyond their immediate environment, recognize their own and others perspectives in a diverse range of topics, communicate their ideas effectively in Spanish using a variety of technological tools and to formulate ideas to take action to improve conditions in their communities. My class is more than just a regular world language class; it is a global issues, social justice and peace building class using Spanish as a communication tool”.

A graduate from Gainesville High School and the University of Florida, Mrs. Zelaya is originally from Venezuela. She has taught at UF, Santa Fe College, Gilchrist and Alachua county schools in the areas of Spanish, American Government and Economics, International Relations and Comparative Politics. In addition, she is a *Teachers for Global Classroom Fellow* (2015-2016), which is a program of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the U.S. Department of State. After that, she participated in the United States Peace Institute Teachers Program 2017-2018 Cohort. She brings to her Spanish classes her knowledge of Latin American Studies and

Political Science, providing students with a rich cultural and political lens in their language acquisition process.

Mrs. Zelaya has presented at several conferences in topics ranging from Global Education and Citizenship to Social Justice, both in the United States and abroad.

Mrs. Zelaya has volunteered her time in several organizations and sponsored multiple clubs at EHS, such as Making Strides Against Breast Cancer, Spanish Honor Society, Model United Nations, Children Beyond Our Border and Link Crew. She is currently a SAC member at EHS.

Congratulations to Mrs. Zelaya for this well-deserved recognition!