

Cristina Sparks-Early, BA, MA

Cristina (Cris) P. Sparks-Early is an Asst. Professor of Spanish at Northern Virginia Community College in Manassas, Virginia. She is also the Asst. Division Dean for World Languages. Cris has been teaching Spanish for 24 years, 20 of those at NVCC. She has served as the Chair of the World Languages Cluster three times and serves on numerous committees on her campus, including chairing Hispanic Heritage Month, International Education Week and Multi-Cultural Week. Cris was born and raised in Madrid, Spain, and spent her childhood living in Spain, Italy and Germany before moving to the United States as an adolescent. Living now in Virginia, she continues to travel to numerous countries including the Dominican Republic, Mexico, Costa Rica and China. Her primary specialty is teaching Spanish, focusing on the theories of second-language acquisition. Imbedded in SLA is teaching the five skills of language, one of which is culture.

Additionally, Cris works as faculty consultant for Vista Higher Learning, a textbook publishing company in Spanish, French, German and Italian, and trains faculty around the country on these textbooks and the technology the books offer. She has also offered Professional Development to teachers, giving workshops and forums on topics such as assessment, collaboration and using music in the classroom.

- Recipient of Alumni Federation Outstanding Faculty Award 2000
- Recipient of Alumni Federation Outstanding Faculty Award 2006
- Recipient of Alumni Federation Outstanding Faculty Award 2015
- Member of Sigma Delta Pi, Spanish Honor Society