

# Tia Neas-Gass

4004 Wiggins Rd SE Unit 3  
Olympia, WA 98501

## PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Environmental educator and outreach professional with two years of experience working at a local aquarium and in the field. Additional experience working with K-12 and adult ELL students in Turkey and the United States.

## EDUCATION

**Saint Martin's University**, Lacey, WA, 4.0  
*Master of Education, Higher Education and Student Affairs*  
Graduated MAY 2021

**Georgia State University**, Atlanta, GA, 3.7  
*Master of Arts, Applied Linguistics*  
Graduated MAY 2017

**Agnes Scott College**, Decatur, GA  
*Bachelor of Arts, Spanish*  
Graduated MAY 2013

## EXPERIENCE

**Capitol Childcare Center, Olympia, WA**  
*Pre-K Teacher*  
AUGUST 2023-PRESENT

- Implement the Pre-K curriculum in a way that is consistent with the unique needs of each child
- Create a safe, nurturing environment where children can play and learn.
- Partner and connect with parents, with a shared desire to provide the best care and education for their children.

**Puget Sound Estuarium, Olympia, WA**  
*Lead Interpreter*  
FEBRUARY 2023-PRESENT

- Facilitate aquarium tours and interactive activities such as animal feeding, touch tank experiences and marine-themed crafts for the general public.
- Organize and implement programming such as "Tiny Tides" (The Estuarium's children's program) and Sensory Hour (outreach program for neurodivergent youth).
- Educate aquarium visitors on the biology and ecology of estuaries of the Pacific Northwest.
- Train new aquarium volunteers on interpretive techniques and skills.
- Educate and supervise college interns from The Evergreen State College and Saint Martin's University. This role includes writing recommendations for interns once they complete the program and assisting with graduate school and job applications.
- Educate and supervise high school interns that are enrolled in internship programs through their school's science department. This role includes writing recommendations for interns once they complete the program and assisting with senior year projects and college applications.
- Act as the backup Communications and Development Coordinator when the main lead is unable to attend outreach events. These events are held at various locations throughout Thurston, Mason and Pacific counties.
- Input intern and volunteer data into the Vlogistics page to ensure that interns and volunteers get credit for their work.
- Create and maintain relevant pages for Tiny Tides and Sensory Hour with Constant Contact and Eventbrite Organizer.
- Operate the aquarium's POS system to facilitate the sale of entry tickets and ocean-themed merchandise.

**Cadence Academy Preschool, Olympia, WA**  
*Pre-K Teacher*  
FEBRUARY 2023-AUGUST 2023

- Manage a class of fifteen to twenty pre-K students between the ages of four and five and track their academic and socioemotional learning.
- Ensure that the students are thriving within the learning environment and inform parents if any issues

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## LANGUAGE SKILLS

**Spanish**

*Professional Working Proficiency*

**Turkish**

*Limited Working Proficiency*

- arise.
- De-escalate students when they experience social and emotional challenges.

### **Puget Sound Estuarium, Olympia, WA**

*Contract Educator*

**APRIL 2022-FEBRUARY 2023**

- Facilitate educational activities for local K-12 schools and extracurricular programs.
- Design and implement innovative marine/environmental science curricula.
- Prepare interactive activities and games to foster an interdisciplinary understanding of the mechanics of the estuary.

### **Saint Martin's University, Lacey, WA**

*Writing Center Graduate Assistant*

**SEPTEMBER 2020-MAY 2021**

- Designed curricula and training materials for undergraduate writing center tutors.
- Created ESL materials for undergraduate and graduate students.
- Created STEM writing materials for undergraduate and graduate students.
- Course tutored for Social Work 240 (Research Methods) and Social Work 499 (Senior Seminar). This included substitute teaching for both of those courses when the professor could not attend class.
- Lead structured tutoring sessions with groups of graduate students from MAC 518: Group Counseling.
- Assisted students at every stage of the writing process, from brainstorming for essay ideas to polishing final drafts, both face-to-face and online.

### **Georgia State University Office of International Education, Atlanta, GA**

*Study Abroad Graduate Research Assistant*

**AUGUST 2016 - MAY 2017**

- Facilitated study abroad outreach sessions and classroom campaigns.
- Planned events related to international education and multicultural awareness.

### **Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA**

*Intensive English Program Tutor*

**MAY 2016 - AUGUST 2016**

- Tutored GSU students and visiting scholars in English language pronunciation, public speaking, and grammar.
- Guided students through the preparation for the Graduate Record Examinations (GRE) and assisted with medical and law school applications.

### **English Time Mecidiyekoy, Istanbul, Turkey**

*ESL Instructor*

**AUGUST 2013 - AUGUST 2015**

- Taught English as a Second Language classes to young adult students of varying skill levels.
- Lead test preparation courses for the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) and Standardized Aptitude Test (SAT).
- Mentored English as a Foreign Language (EFL) students under the age of 14 through the English Time Junior academic program.

### **PUBLICATIONS**

**Gass, Tia. (2018) "Using Text Lex Compare to Examine the Language of Political Speeches." *Corpus Linguistics for English Teachers: New Tools, Online Resources, and Classroom Activities*, by Eric Friginal, Routledge, pp. 305-314.**

### **PUBLICATION MENTIONS**

**Webb, D. (2021) "Metastimuli for Human Learning via Machine Learning and Principle Component Analysis of Personal Information Graphs."**

### **PROFESSIONAL SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS**

**TESOL 2017 International Convention and English Language Expo, MARCH 2017**

**GSU Conference on Digital Literacy, FEBRUARY 2017**

### **AWARDS**

**Mary Elizabeth Boyle Scholarship (2019)**

**FEBRUARY 2020**

**Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society (2021)**

**MAY 2021**

