



## 2023 Collegiate Educator of the Year

*Carolina Cruz*

Carolina was raised in México and has lived in the USA since 1991. She earned her associate degree in Elementary Education from South Texas College. Later, she obtained both her bachelor's degree in Spanish as well as her master's degree in Hispanic Literature from the University of South Carolina, in Columbia. A strong believer of the technological world, she has also been certified for Online Instruction and is consistently engaged in technological training. Prior to coming to Sumter, Carolina started her path in education in 1996 while working in private schools and at the University of Texas Pan American in Edinburg, Texas. She has also taught at Midlands Technical College, Columbia College, and continues teaching as adjunct faculty for the main USC campus in Columbia, and as a full time Senior Instructor of Spanish at USC Sumter.

Carolina's classes include beginning, elementary, basic proficiency, and intermediate Spanish and beginning Hispanic Literature, as well as Language and Cultures. She has taught for the International MBA program at the Darla Moore School of Business, which is still ranked number 1 in the nation.

Carolina's inquisitive mind has no limits, and as an eternal optimist, she would like to pass down her love for learning to every student who crosses her path.