



Lisa Pietropola
'09 MA SPAN

Lisa Magnelli Pietropola graduated from The Pennsylvania State University in 2004 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Secondary Education/Spanish. She went on to receive her Masters of Spanish degree from Saint Louis University, Madrid, Spain in 2009. She holds certifications in Spanish and English as a Second Language (K-12).

Lisa spent 15 years teaching Spanish in the public-school system in Pennsylvania. She designed and implemented the first-ever College Board advanced placement Spanish course in the Northern York County School District. During her time in the public schools, her high school students wrote children's books in Spanish; they read these student-produced books to the elementary students in the district. This endeavor sparked mentorships and "buddy-pairing" within the district. Due to the success of this authentic classroom project, Lisa partnered with Owl Publishing House to professionally publish her students' work. In 2017, Lisa began Creo en Ti Media, an imprint of Owl Publishing House and she serves as the Creative Director. Creo en Ti Media has published 12 bilingual children's books in the Spanish, French and English languages- all produced by high school students. The project includes partnering student-authors with student-illustrators from the school district; this is a true cross-curricular partnership. Each student who gets the opportunity to be published receives a professional publishing contract with the prospect of receiving royalties. They each have a copyright and ISBN number from the Library of Congress.

These books are being used as literacy outreach tools throughout the world. Shippensburg University in Pennsylvania used their bilingual books on a mission trip to the Dominican Republic; the non-profit medical organization, Hearts in Motion, used the books during a medical mission to Guatemala; the French books have been sent to Haiti; and, the books have been used in refugee schools within the United States. The program continues to grow. In 2020, the imprint partnered with a local financial institution to donate 500 of their bilingual books to community school districts that have been impacted by the Coronavirus. The mission of Creo en Ti Media is to empower students through bilingual literacy. It has plans to expand and continue to leave a positive global footprint through authentic language opportunities.

In 2018, Lisa joined the prestigious Milton Hershey School in Hershey, Pennsylvania. Milton Hershey School provides students with best in-class care using a whole child approach that allows students to overcome the obstacles that stem from poverty and live out their dreams. The school provides medical, dental, psychological, behavioral, and social work services, as well as clothing for students at no cost to their families. While providing health and wellness services, staff teach students healthy eating and exercise habits, as well as social and emotional well-being techniques so they can maintain their personal health after their time on campus.

Lisa received the Outstanding Teacher of the Year Award from Shippensburg University in 2017. In 2020, Creo en Ti Media presented at the Philadelphia Writing Project conference: Educating for Justice in the Digital Age. She currently lives in Hershey, Pennsylvania with her husband and two daughters.