

# David Lopez

## Professor of Education

*Teaching is more than just a job for David Lopez, Professor of Teacher Education. "It's my existence!" he says. "Education offers many positive situations that make you feel like you're contributing to the growth of other human beings."*

*Finding meaning in what he does is important to Lopez. He works closely with upper division education students and guides them through the challenges and rewards of becoming effective teachers. "In addition to informative education classes, one of the most important aspects of the teacher preparation program is the student-teacher's experience in a real classroom," he explains. "I love working with students because they are so vibrant and their enthusiasm rubs off on me."*

*Lopez, a native of Albuquerque, New Mexico, came to CSU, Fresno after completing his doctorate at New Mexico State University in Las Cruces. In addition to his professorial responsibilities, Lopez has done research relating to the special needs of bilingual children.*

**Q: When did you decide to pursue a career in education?**

**A:** It was a very natural process for me. When I was in high school, I coached basketball and baseball for seven and eight-year-olds. I really enjoyed situations that enabled me to help others learn new things. In college, I was very fortunate to encounter some extremely knowledgeable, well prepared individuals who greatly influenced my life. I decided that I would like to be the type of person who shared information and ideas with young enthusiastic students, and I became interested in the teaching profession.

**Q: Are you happy with your decision?**

**A:** I'm sure every profession has its ups and downs. There are days when I



leave the classroom and question what I accomplished. Good teachers are constantly reflecting on their teaching and learning from their mistakes. You must be very optimistic and take a positive approach. You may look back and cringe over a bad moment, but you pick yourself up and vow to do better next time. Also, in teaching you don't

always have the opportunity to see the immediate results of your work. Sometimes the only feedback you receive is a smile, or a sparkle in someone's eye. But I've found that students are very honest and sincere. They will let you know when you're doing a good job.