

FEATURED SPEAKERS



General Session Speaker

Connecting To Other Cultures Through Language

Myriam Met
Acting Director,
National Foreign Language Center, University of Maryland

Myriam Met has a long and distinguished career in our profession and serves as an exemplary leader in this “Year of Languages” from coordinating teacher and then supervisor of languages programs in the Cincinnati Public Schools to her present post, where she is responsible for K-12 language policy. She has developed instructional programs and curriculum, and been involved with teacher training at the K-12 and postsecondary levels, published in journals and professional books in the area of K-12 curriculum, instruction, and teacher development for foreign language, bilingual education, and ESL programs, and has also authored textbooks for elementary, middle and high school. She brings these provocative ideas and questions to us as the basis of her presentation—**Connecting to Other Cultures Through Language:**

- Now more than ever, understanding other cultures and using language so that we can communicate across cultures without distortion or misinterpretation are vital competencies. Intriguing questions face us as language educators, such as:
- Can you be bilingual without being bicultural?
- What does it mean to be bicultural? Multicultural?
- What do we mean when we say that you can't learn another language without learning its culture? What does that look like in our classrooms?

Conference Luncheon Speaker

Understanding Each Other's Culture Is to Respect Each Other

Wayne P. Lawson
Executive Director,
Ohio Arts Council

Wayne P. Lawson has been executive director of the Ohio Arts Council since May 1978. Under his direction the OAC has become one of the foremost state arts agencies in the nation in terms of funding, long-range planning and evaluation, support for individual artists and innovative services to constituents in all arts disciplines.



Lawson, who was born in Cleveland, studied Romance languages at The Ohio State University, earned a master's degree in European literature and a doctorate in theatre and comparative literature. He is an adjunct professor of art education at Ohio State. He has served on many panels for the National Endowment for the Arts, was chairman of the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies for three terms and completed three terms as chairman of Arts Midwest

He will address the topic of how **international collaborations promote mutual understanding and respect**. Wayne Lawson believes that an international network includes knowledge of foreign languages. This knowledge prevents us as individuals from becoming ignorant of the rest of the world. The knowledge and understanding of each other's languages helps us to not only

understand each other but also to respect each other's culture. We no longer live in isolation of each other, since globalization is here to stay.