

## **Staying at the Conference Hotel**

The 2014 Central States Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (CSCTFL) will be held in St. Louis, MO, March 20 - 22, 2014. The conference hotel is the Hilton at the Ballpark located in downtown St. Louis.

### ***Why should I book at the conference hotel?***

The hotel rates that CSCTFL has negotiated include many benefits for you and for CSCTFL. Based on the number of rooms in the block of rooms, the hotel provides complimentary meeting room space, exhibit space, staff accommodations, and reduced food and beverage charges—savings that are passed on to attendees through CSCTFL's registration rates. If the Central States Conference is unable to meet its room-block commitment because attendees are making reservations at other hotels, the hotel charges CSCTFL an attrition fee to make up the hotel's lost revenue. If this became a trend, CSCTFL would be forced to increase the registration fee and cut services.

### ***Is it important for me to let the reservations agent know that I'm associated with the Central States Conference?***

Yes. It is only by registrants telling the hotel they are attending the Central States Conference that CSCTFL receives credit for the individual. Please ensure that whoever is making your reservation tells the agent that you are attending CSCTCL.

### ***Why does CSCTFL reserve a large block of rooms?***

By reserving a block of rooms, CSCTFL knows its attendees will be able to have a hotel room. If CSCTFL didn't reserve a block of rooms, it would be subject to room rental fees and full food and beverage costs—greatly increasing the cost of holding the convention.

### ***What other benefits are there to reserving a room at a CSCTFL hotel?***

CSCTFL usually picks hotels that are self-contained conference facilities. By staying at the conference hotel, you don't worry about cab fares, bad weather, or forgetting something in your room. Once you factor in such considerations, you may find that the great rate you found at another hotel isn't all that great.

***What is CSCTFL doing to reduce these attrition fees and still keep the conference affordable?***

CSCTFL tracks sleeping room reservations and cancellations at each conference so that it can more accurately block a number of rooms that will be filled by attendees. However, every discount we receive at a hotel is based on the number of room nights we block, so as we reduce our block, we are consequently paying more for other services at the hotel. Reducing the block means that attendees will either have to pay a higher registration fee or services will have to be cut.

***Please stay at the Central States Conference hotel!***