

# Welcome from the Program Chair

## Learn Languages, Explore Cultures, Transform Lives

As world language teachers we spend years learning languages, exploring cultures and transforming lives, beginning with our own and spreading to the students we are privileged to teach. One of the ways in which we continue this journey of learning, exploration and transformation is through professional development opportunities. We invite you to join your colleagues from the region for the very best of these opportunities, the 47<sup>th</sup> annual Central States Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (CSCTFL) in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The conference will be held March 12-14, 2015, at the beautiful Hilton Minneapolis. The CSCTFL is known as “the friendly conference” and you will easily see why when you reconnect with dear friends and make new ones throughout the conference. You will have the opportunity to choose from over 30 workshops and 190 sessions presented by colleagues sharing their passion and expertise. Come prepared to learn, to share stories, to explore new ideas, and to leave transformed by the experience.

### *Conference Events on Thursday, March 12, 2015*

- **The Conference Workshop/Extension Workshop (CW/EW)** provides professional development outreach. Participants apply in advance, are trained on this year's topic, "Integrating Proficiency Based Assessment", at a conference workshop (CW). Then, participants are trained to extend that learning by presenting that topic back in their home states and districts (EW) during the following year. For more information, [click here](#).
- **Workshops:** Both half and full day workshops are offered covering various topics ranging from language immersion, culture, assessment, technology, and so much more. For a preliminary listing, [click here](#).
- The **Delegate Assembly** provides leaders in the various state organizations the opportunity to network, discuss policies, procedures and challenges and learn about the current status of world language education in our 16-state region and throughout the nation. State organizations are asked to send representatives to this afternoon event.
- You are invited to join the **CSCTFL Advisory Council**, which provides you with the opportunity to attend the **Advisory Council Reception and Business Meeting** early Thursday evening as well as enjoy a gratis conference registration. Becoming a member of the Advisory Council is a great way to get more involved in the CSCTFL. Find more information [here](#).
- The **Exhibit Hall Opening and Wine and Cheese Gala** provide a first peek at the exhibits and the first chance to visit with vendors. This is also a fantastic

opportunity to connect with colleagues from around the region, make new connections and explore the exhibit hall in a leisurely environment.

### **Conference Events on Friday, March 13, 2015**

- **The Exhibit Hall** will be open all day from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. There are designated breaks to visit with exhibitors however you may feel you want to spend time during your lunch break or between sessions as well. For the full conference schedule, [click here](#).
- **The Awards Ceremony** preceding the Keynote address will honor the [2015 Teacher of the Year](#) and the other Teacher of the Year candidates and the [Paul Simon Award](#), the [Founders Award](#) and the [Scholarship](#) recipients.
- The [Keynote speaker](#) will be Tove Dahl, Professor in the Department of Psychology at UiT The Arctic University of Norway in Tromsø, Norway and dean of Skogfjorden, Concordia Language Villages' Norwegian village.
- **The CSCTFL Report Authors' Luncheon** honors presenters whose articles are chosen for publication in the [2015 CSCTFL Report](#).
- Friday evening join us for the **International Dance Party** with international music and dance instruction led by staff members from several of the Concordia Language Villages. This will be a great time to explore culture as well as to visit with colleagues in a relaxed, social environment.

### **Conference Events on Saturday, March 14, 2015**

- **NELL/FLES Swapshop Breakfast** highlights elementary ideas and resources. Be prepared to share an idea prior to arriving at the conference. Look for more detailed information elsewhere in this Conference Preview.
- At the **NADSFL/NCSSFL Luncheon**, district and state world language supervisors meet to enjoy lunch and network. If you are a district supervisor, world language department chair, or state supervisor and you don't know about these two groups, this is a great way to get acquainted with them while enjoying a nice lunch.
- Our Saturday session and workshop offerings are packed every hour to maximize opportunities for those who have difficulties joining CSCTFL on Thursday or Friday.

### **Highlights of the 2015 conference**

- 20 sessions/workshops from the 2014 CSCTFL were designated as "**ALL STAR**" sessions for their outstanding quality and execution and will be featured at the 2015 CSCTFL in Minneapolis.

- Many of our states will be presenting a session or workshop that their state organizations have designated as "**Best of**". We hope you take advantage to learn from the best of our states!
- There are more than **30 great workshops** available to attendees. Workshops offer attendees a more in-depth exploration of a topic. The CSCTFL is pleased to offer this in-depth exploration on a wide variety of topics throughout the conference. Please see the workshop descriptions for details.

We are so pleased that the CSCTFL will be back in Minneapolis in 2015. We are excited to team with the Minnesota Council on the Teaching of Language and Culture (MCTLC) and with Concordia Language Villages to bring you an outstanding conference. The program is full of wonderful sessions and workshops for you and your colleagues. We will also have a lot of fun in Minneapolis. We look forward to seeing you and to helping you "Learn Languages, Explore Cultures, Transform Lives".

**Program Committee Members:** Kerisa Baedke, Program Chair, Prairieview School, Waukee, IA; Sarah Shackelford, Assistant Program Chair, Finneytown High School, Cincinnati, OH; Kathryn Falvey, Prairieview School, Waukee, IA; Loni O'Grady, Prairieview School, Waukee, IA; Christine McCormick, Prairieview School, Waukee, IA; Susanne M. Wagner, University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, MN;