

## *Minnesota Welcomes the Central State Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages*

“Minnesota Nice” is a description not just of the people living here, but also what is available for you to do, see, and experience while in Minneapolis. Central States Conference is known as the “Friendly Conference.” Including the Minnesota Council on the Teaching of Languages and Cultures, this is a perfect partnership. Welcome to Minnesota!



Prepare to meet colleagues from Minnesota and many states. Develop networks with colleagues with whom you will enjoy support and find ideas for your own classroom. Enjoy learning about what Minnesota teachers are doing. Share with us what is going on in your state and practice. With over 250 sessions and workshops, CSCTFL is an excellent opportunity for personal professional development. A “nice” win-win partnership!

In addition to the conference, there are a myriad opportunities for whatever interests you. Downtown Minneapolis, including the Nicollet Mall one block from the hotel, is interconnected by more than eight miles of enclosed skyways, including the one that runs through the hotel. No need to go outside. Downtown Minneapolis offers hundreds of restaurants, a wide range of cuisine, music, cinema, theater, museums, art and shopping. Within a short distance lie many world famous venues including the Guthrie Theater, Minnesota Orchestra Hall, the “Broadway of the Midwest,” Walker Art Center, Minneapolis Institute of Arts, and three professional sports arenas.



A ten minute walk from the hotel via the skyway will get you to the light rail trains going to the famous Mall of America, the Minneapolis St Paul Airport, downtown St. Paul and many interesting places in between.

Volunteers at the CSCTFL Hospitality Booth will have maps of downtown businesses, Nicollet Mall and the skyway system as well as information of other places of interest and shopping areas. They will have information about restaurants and be able to make dining reservations for you.



If you prefer to find your information electronically, check out the official visitors’ websites: [www.MeetMinneapolis.com](http://www.MeetMinneapolis.com) or [www.visitsaintpaul.com](http://www.visitsaintpaul.com) or view the “Visitors’ Guide to Minneapolis” posted on the Central States website: [www.csctfl.org](http://www.csctfl.org).

On Friday evening join us for the *CSCTFL 2015 International Dance Party* right at the hotel for a great night of music, dancing and socializing. A DJ will be spinning a variety of tunes and staff from the Concordia Language Villages will teach line dances as well as traditional dances from various cultures. Enjoy your colleagues and meet new ones.



The theme of the Central States Conference 2015 is *Learn Languages, Explore Cultures, Transform Lives*. Although we tend to understand this with a view to the future, it also describes the



experience of the emigrants to our states from the earliest times. For Minnesota's Sesquicentennial in 2008, we named a project, "*Many Languages, Many Voices, One State: Their Legacy Past and Present*". Minnesota today is home to many vibrant emigrant and Indigenous communities who call Minnesota home.

The Central States Conference theme reminds us of the legacy we are all building on. The theme is also especially relevant today for our increasingly diverse classrooms, and the promise of the classroom when the school environment encourages all students to learn and appreciate the languages and cultures of each other. We all know how important this theme is for the preparation of our students and society to meet the challenges and potential of our global future. Come and partner with us as we continue the legacy of our forbearers, meet the demands of today and prepare for our common exciting future.

Anita Ratwik  
Local Liaison

