

Welcome from the Program Chair

Fostering Connections, Empowering Communities, Celebrating the World

It is an exciting time to be a language educator in an era where “anytime, anywhere” learning is increasingly the norm. As technology breaks down previous borders of time and space, we are armed with unprecedented amounts of information and the tools to connect with language and culture within and outside the language classroom and across the curriculum. We are able to collaborate with one another in multiple spaces and create amazing and personalized professional development opportunities even while continuing to benefit from the particularly invigorating opportunities to come together for face-to-face interaction at the annual conferences of our professional organizations. The support of organizations such as CSCTFL and OFLA fosters connections and confidence that empower communities everywhere.

We invite you to join your colleagues from the 16-state region and beyond for the 48th annual Central States Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (CSCTFL), held this year in conjunction with the annual conference of the Ohio Foreign Language Association (OFLA) in Columbus, Ohio. The conference will take place March 10-12, 2016, at the Hilton Downtown Columbus. You will have the opportunity to choose from nearly 40 workshops and more than 250 sessions presented by colleagues sharing their passion and expertise. You will reconnect with long-time friends and make new ones throughout the conference. You will celebrate the wonderful world of languages and language education with a diverse yet like-minded group of colleagues. This is professional development at its best!

Conference Events on Thursday, March 10, 2016:

- **The Conference Workshop/Extension Workshop (CW/EW)** provides professional development outreach. Participants apply in advance, are trained on this year's topic, “**Preparing Our Students for Success: Designing and Implementing Standards-based Thematic Instruction**”, at a conference workshop (CW). Then, participants are trained to extend that learning by presenting this topic back in their home states and districts (EW) during the following year. For more information, [click here](#).
- **Leadership Program:** The Central States Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (CSCTFL) has developed a program that will broaden leadership potential in the 16 state region. Participants apply in advance to attend this daylong workshop. For more information, [click here](#).
- **Workshops:** Both half and full day workshops are offered covering various topics ranging from activities and strategies, culture, assessment, technology, and 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. Please [click here](#) to submit the information about the delegates

from your state and to check the information currently listed for your state organization for accuracy.

- 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 Gala** provides 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 11, 2016:

- **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 a preview of the conference schedule, [click here](#).
- **The Awards Ceremony** preceding the Keynote address will honor the [CSCTFL 2016 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 OFLA Awards will also be presented.
- The [Keynote Speaker](#) will be the ever-popular John De Mado. He will help us acquire the word tracks necessary to argue our position as a critical element of the Literacy movement in the United States. Be prepared to laugh heartily and to reflect profoundly.
- **The CSCTFL Report Authors' Luncheon** honors presenters whose articles are chosen for publication in the [2016 CSCTFL Report](#).
- **On Friday evening** enjoy a leisurely dinner on your own, then come help us celebrate the world with an [International Dance Party](#). There will be lessons and practice in Salsa, Polka and more by Professional Dance Instructor Joseph Rittenhouse. Socialize and have fun with colleagues and friends in a relaxed, casual environment. A cash bar will be available.

Conference Events on Saturday, March 12, 2016:

- **NNELL/FLES Networking Breakfast** highlights elementary ideas and resources and is a fantastic time to network with other FLES teachers.
- 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 offerings are packed every hour to maximize opportunities for those who have difficulties joining CSCTFL on weekdays.

Highlights of the 2016 conference:

- 8 sessions/workshops from CSCTFL 2015 were designated as "[ALL STAR](#)" [sessions](#) for their outstanding quality and execution and will be featured at CSCTFL/OFLA 2016 in Columbus.
- Many of our 16 Central States will be presenting a session or workshop that their state organizations have designated as "[Best of](#)" [sessions](#). We hope you take advantage to learn from the best of our states!
- There will be over 250 sessions on a wide variety of topics (and presented in diverse languages) on Friday and Saturday. To preview a list of sessions by theme, [click here](#). To preview a list of sessions by language, [click here](#).
- Several exhibitors will offer workshops or sessions. [Click here](#) for a preview.
- There are nearly 40 workshops available to attendees. Workshops offer a more in-depth exploration of a topic. Please see the workshop descriptions and get excited to attend one or more of these outstanding offerings throughout the conference. To see a preview list, please [click here](#).

We are so pleased and excited that CSCTFL is returning to Columbus in 2016 for a joint conference with the Ohio Foreign Language Association. The program is full of wonderful sessions, workshops and networking opportunities that guarantee an outstanding professional experience and a fun time for all. We look forward to seeing everyone and to “Fostering Connections, Empowering Communities, Celebrating the World”.

Program Committee Members: Sarah Shackelford, Program Chair, Finneytown High School, Cincinnati, OH; Martha Halemba, Assistant Program Chair, Hudson City Schools, Hudson, OH; Jane Rauschenberg, Logan-Hocking Schools, Logan, OH