

## **WELCOME to CHICAGO!**

Did you know that Chicago's nickname "the Windy City" was not created to describe the winds blowing in from Lake Michigan, but rather to demean the rhetoric of its early politicians? In March, there may be some of those east winds blowing and perhaps there may even be some political speeches happening, but there will be absolutely NO trivial "rhetoric" being spoken at CSCTFL 2017 in the Palmer House. "Performance + Proficiency = Possibilities" promises to be one of the best and most important professional development opportunities yet!

Come to join your world language colleagues from the heartland of the US not only to participate in CSC's 30+ workshops, 300+ sessions, the Delegate Assembly, its Leadership Program, the keynote address, and extensive exhibit hall; but also to visit one of the premier cities of the world....Chicago.

Chicago's history begins with the Potawatomi, Sauk, Fox and Miami tribes who named the area for the wild leeks that grew abundantly along the marshy banks of a river that provided a natural connective waterway all the way to the Mississippi. Early European explorers, Jacques Marquette and Louis Jolliet, used this area as a portage point in 1673 and later Robert de LaSalle stated, "This will be the gate of empire, this the seat of commerce."

How true were these words. Chicago now is a center of business, both nationally and internationally, headquartering 14 of the largest private U.S. companies and having subsidiaries of more than 1800 foreign-based companies. More than 100 international Chambers of Commerce and trade organizations have offices here, not to mention its 80 foreign Consulates and Consuls General. For international travel, Chicago is the 9<sup>th</sup> most visited in the U.S. due to its 1400 daily departures for more than 200 cities worldwide. What an appropriate city for the CSCTFL whose "aim is to promote the study of world languages."

While in Chicago, you will note its diverse architecture, from its modern skyscrapers like Willis Tower and Aqua Tower to its historic buildings like Holy Name Cathedral and the Wrigley Building. (Check out [www.architecture.org](http://www.architecture.org) for a complete list of tours offered by the Chicago Architecture Foundation.) We hope you have time to visit some of its wonderful museums, such as the Art Institute with its distinguished collection of Asian works dating to 400 BC and its renowned European Painting and Sculpture holdings, which include major Impressionist and Post-Impressionist works. There is the Field Museum with SUE the T. Rex and its re-creation of the 5000-year-old tomb of pharaoh's son Unis-Ankh. And, of special interest is the National Museum of Mexican Art.

No stay in Chicago is complete without seeing "the Bean" in Millennium Park or savoring a slice of Chicago-style pizza accompanied by Goose Island beer or taking a walk along the

Lake Front; all of which are within walking distance of our Conference hotel, the Palmer House. For those of you interested in plays and music, go to [www.theatreinchicago.com](http://www.theatreinchicago.com) or [www.timeout.com/chicago](http://www.timeout.com/chicago) to see what is available, for comedy there is The Second City, for classical music there is the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, for sports check to see if the Bulls or Blackhawks are in town, and for shopping there is The Magnificent Mile.

When you check in at CSCTFL 2017, be sure to stop by the Hospitality Table to see all kinds of information about restaurants and their menus, Chicago's many ethnic neighborhoods, maps of the Loop, how to get around the city and lists of interesting things to do apart from the conference. You can ask the Illinois Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ICTFL) members who will be staffing that table for their recommendations and any other help you may need. And finally, I have one piece of early advice for all, plan not to leave the Palmer House without having sampled Bertha Palmer's most famous recipe, her brownies which she first served there in 1893.

Both I and ICTFL welcome you to Chicago for a spectacular CSCTFL and invite you to enjoy all that this wonderful city has to offer!

---Susan C. Johnson  
Local Liaison