Tennessee Foreign Language Teaching Association
West Regional Mini –Conference

Saturday, April 14th, 2018
Hutchison School
Labry Hall
TFLTA thanks

All presenters who, on top of the excellent work they do at their schools, have offered their time to share their expertise today.

Hutchison School for hosting this year’s mini-conference

Tracey Ford. Director of Hutchison Center for Excellence and Alejandra Lejwa, Hutchison World Languages Department Chair for organizing the event.

Special thanks from organizers to:

Daniel Paolicchi. TFLTA President

Francille Bergquist. TFLTA Treasurer

Ryan Seller, TFLTA Webmaster

Your feedback is important to us! Please use this QR Code to access the conference evaluation.
Day at a glance

8:00 am – 8:55 am  Registration and Breakfast – Outside Sanders Lecture Hall
9:00 am – 9:50 am  Plenary Session – Sanders Lecture Hall
10:00 am – 10:50 am  Concurrent Sessions I – World Languages Hall
10:50 am – 11:10 am  Coffee Break – Atrium
11:10 am - 12:00 pm  Concurrent Sessions II – World Languages Hall
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm  Lunch and Networking – Welsh Dining Hall
1:00 pm – 1:50 pm  Concurrent Sessions III – World Languages Hall

Sessions at a glance

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8:00 am – 8:55 am
Registration and Breakfast
Outside Sanders Lecture Hall

9:00 am – 9:50 am
Plenary Session
Sanders Lecture Hall

Welcome and announcements
Alejandra Lejwa
World Languages Department Chair
Hutchison School

Keynote Address
Alyssa Villarreal
World Language Advisor for Shelby County Schools
President & Founder of AdvanceLearning

Developing a Can Do Mindset

Alyssa Villarreal is a fiercely passionate, visionary, educator focused on growth and development. Her work is grounded in a strong belief that people set out to be the best of version of themselves. With this mindset driving her practice, she currently serves as World Language Advisor for Shelby County Schools in Tennessee. Alyssa shares her time as president of AdvanceLearning, a newly founded non-profit organization focused on identifying teacher effectiveness in non-core subject areas and empowering educators to become more effective. In addition to her work in the district, she has helped schools, governments, and industry leaders improve the quality of education through strategic planning, envisioning and increasing teacher and program effectiveness.

Connect with Alyssa at:
Alyssa.Villarreal@gmail.com
Leveluplanguage.weebly.com
@villarreal6585

More information about Alyssa can be found at the end of this program.
10:00 am – 10:50 am
Concurrent Sessions I

- **Community-Integrated Language Teaching: Building International and Local Skills**
  Eric Henager
  Rhodes College
  Rm. 116

  After an overview of three community-integrated approaches employed in the Spanish Program at Rhodes College, this session brings into focus current professional discourse on community-integrated learning. The session wraps up with discussion on opportunities and challenges related to integrating local resources into language learning. Course-based examples are from Spanish but the larger discussion is appropriate for teachers of all languages.

  Language Focus: General

- **Tech Tools to Increase Proficiency and Engagement**
  Julian Guzman
  St. George’s Independent School
  Rm. 118

  Are you looking for ways to engage your digital native students in class and at home while also increasing their proficiency? This session offers some solutions to this question by introducing technological tools such as Google Suite, FlipGrid, EcoPod, SoundCloud, and many more. These tools allow teachers to design authentic tasks that foster collaborative learning. Participants will leave with specific examples of digital homework assignments, class activities, and projects.

  Language Focus: General

- **Mindfulness and Latin Composition**
  David Sick
  Rhodes College
  Rm. 119

  This session reviews some methods from ancient and modern mindfulness as an organizing principle for a course in Latin prose and oral composition. Readings in Stoicism are used both as grammatical examples and meditative mantrae.

  Language Focus: Latin
Improving Oral Communication in the Classroom
Cesar Salazar and Glenda Akers
Hutchison School
Rm. 121

Oral communication enhances the students’ ability and comfort, promoting effective communication and increased listening comprehension. This session will empower participants by providing ready-to-use activities to implement in class. These activities focus on timed presentations, and peer and small group tasks to increase proficiency in interpersonal communication. The presenters will provide handouts with ways to evaluate oral participation and share their experience with the Modified Oral Proficiency Interviews at the middle school level.

Language Focus: General with Spanish examples.

10:50 am – 11:10 am - Coffee Break – Atrium
11:10 am – 12:00 am
Concurrent Sessions II

Engaging Students
Séverine McClellan, Houston High School (French)
Doreen Penrod, Houston High School (German)
Rm. 116

In this session, we will share our ACTFL conf. takeaway with a focus on Interpersonal Speaking. We will present a variety of activities and tools to engage students to use the target language. Open to all languages.

Language Focus: General with examples in English, French and German

Practice What You Teach
Paul Jennemann
Treadwell Elementary
Rm. 118

This session will focus on the core practice of target language usage of teachers and students in the world language classroom. As teachers are using the target language, they can also use authentic texts, which enhance the students' input, then strategic prompts to provide output. This is in preparation for a performance-based assessment. All of this lesson preparation and implementation is in the target language from elementary through university.

Language Focus: General with Spanish examples.
Modeling Sentence Analysis for Translation
Elizabeth Cross
White Station High School
Rm. 119

The presenter will discuss several methods for Latin sentence analysis which she models in the classroom. Approaches include the whole-language model used to teach children to read in their first language, and discrete grammar analysis through Latin sentence diagramming. The end of the session will include a short roundtable discussion of other methods that teachers employ to aid student comprehension. Language of presentation: English with Latin examples. Open to all languages.

Language Focus: Latin

They are talking, now what? Accuracy at the Intermediate Level
María Teresa Evans
Hutchison School
Rm. 121

In Levels I and II we focus on providing our students with the basics so they may speak, write, and understand the target language. At the intermediate level we find ourselves working with students who are now ready to strengthen and refine their communicate skills. This is when we start asking ourselves questions such as: How can I help my students communicate more accurately? What areas need to be addressed? How much input do I give? How do I provide feedback? How do I get students involved in their own journey towards accuracy? This session will focus on ways to help students speak and write more accurately. We will review assessment tools, rubrics, checklists, feedback, and situational scenarios that provide opportunities for students to speak and write more accurately and proficiently.

Language Focus: General with Spanish examples

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm – Lunch – Welsh Dining Hall

1:00 pm – 1:50 pm
Concurrent Sessions III

Making Participation Count
Rosa Carter
Hutchison School
Rm. 116

In the world language classroom participation is a key element in the development of the students’ language skills. It also adds some challenges like: Should classroom
participation be graded? And if It should, how should it be graded? Do students and/or parents complain about subjectivity when grading classroom participation?

In this session, presenters will share steps they took to create a rubric for oral participation and activities they use to support 90% participation in the target language. Activities shared will be in Spanish but can be adapted to any language. This will be a hands-on session where you can start working on your own oral participation rubric and activities that will support it.

Language Focus: General with Spanish examples.

- **Integrating Languages for Specific Purposes (LSP; i.e., law, healthcare, commerce, etc.) into the World Language Curriculum: A World Café Workshop on Innovative LSP Lesson Planning and Assessment.**

  Diana Ruggiero
  The University of Memphis

  Collaborating Graduate Students from the University of Memphis:
  Rosa Mena
  Maritza Baer
  Miriam Polly
  Jennifer Lastra
  Lindsay Dailey
  DeAnna Wallace
  Miria Biller Hendrickson
  Halle Wright

  Rm. 118

Languages for specific purposes (LSP) is an area of research and teaching known to provide students with the appropriate language and cultural competence needed for success in today’s global economy. As such, integrating LSP into the world language curriculum is becoming an increasing priority among language educators and program directors. Yet given the specialized nature of LSP topics (i.e., law, healthcare, commerce, etc.), doing so can be a daunting challenge. Lack of work experience or training in a specific profession, however, need not be a stumbling block. Indeed, teachers at all levels of education can begin integrating LSP content and enhance their existing curriculum through LSP even today. In this engaging World Café style workshop, participants will work alongside University of Memphis graduate students in Spanish 7895--Spanish for specific purposes (SSP) pedagogy--to create innovative lesson plans in LSP. Included among the many issues to be addressed will be the following: learning objectives, teaching methods and resources, community-based education, and assessment. By the end of the workshop, participants will be able to identify common challenges in the teaching of LSP, design an LSP lesson plan based on existing teacher and student strengths and knowledge, and apply best practices in LSP teaching and assessment. Furthermore, participants will walk away with sample lesson plans designed by students in Spanish 7895. This presentation will be given in English. No prior background or experience in LSP or SSP is necessary for participation in this
workshop, and teachers at all levels of education and of all languages are welcome. Removing the perceived stumbling blocks inhibiting language educators from incorporating LSP into the classroom is vital to ensuring the continued growth, vitality, and relevance of world language programs in the twenty-first century. Students are eager to learn applicable skills they can transfer to their workplace and LSP offers them that opportunity.

Language Focus: General with Spanish examples.

- **Effective Cooperative Grouping in the Latin Classroom**
  Abigail Simone - Houston High School
  Reagan Ryder - T-Stem Academy East High School

  Rm. 119

  Do you wish that group activities were more effective in your classroom? Or are you looking for new ideas for how to design productive group activities? This session will examine the benefits of heterogeneous and homogenous group activities in the Latin classroom. Participants will be equipped with research-tested grouping strategies that will foster skill-building, reading strategies, and comprehension tactics as well as facilitate student-student feedback and group accountability.

  Language Focus: General

- **Creating a Safe Zone in the LGBTQI Classroom**
  Dustin Williams
  Southwest Tennessee Community College

  Rm. 121

  This presentation is designed to assist faculty in understanding the needs of LGBTQI students in the Foreign Language classroom and also in the broader academic setting. At the end of the workshop, faculty members will leave with strategies and ideas on creating a safe space classroom and earn a Safe Zone Trained sticker to display in their classroom.

  Language Focus: General
Alyssa thrives on confirming and challenging educators’ thoughts about what’s possible in world language teaching and learning. More than anything, she is a teacher at heart, with a wealth of experience teaching learners of all ages.

Alyssa Villarreal is a fiercely passionate, visionary, educator focused on growth and development. Her work is grounded in a strong belief that people set out to be the best of version of themselves. With this mindset driving her practice, she currently serves as World Language Advisor for Shelby County Schools in Tennessee. Alyssa shares her time as president of AdvanceLearning, a newly founded non-profit organization focused on identifying teacher effectiveness in non-core subject areas and empowering educators to become more effective. She began her career teaching a variety of subjects across grade levels in a residential detention center in Lakeland, TN before becoming a certified Spanish teacher in Memphis. In addition to her work in the district, she has helped schools, governments, and industry leaders improve the quality of education through strategic planning, envisioning and increasing teacher and program effectiveness.

“Alyssa takes the fear out of changing your teaching approach by making proficiency real and tied to strategies you’re already implementing in the classroom. She shows you how to tweak what is already working in your class in order to get the most out of your students. With her guidance, curricular change becomes fun and inspiring, rather than frightening and forced.”

Ashley Stephens,
WV Virtual Spanish Teacher

Audiences enjoy Alyssa’s candor and wit as she pushes the boundaries of how to improve teaching and learning. Her areas of expertise include curriculum and assessment planning, teacher development, new program design, community building and leadership development. She has delivered keynotes and workshops in a variety of states, as well as internationally. At the heart of her work, Alyssa enjoys her time working and coaching teachers in classrooms across the country.

Alyssa has directed a variety of state and federal grants, most recently as program director for several successful STARTALK student and teacher programs and a multi-year Foreign Language Assistance Program (FLAP) grant. She recently completed a two-year term as President of the National Association of District Supervisors of Foreign Languages (NADSFL). In 2012 Alyssa was named National Supervisor of the Year by NADSFL. Some of Alyssa’s most influential work has come as being one of the authors of a national framework publication, which impacts today’s world language classrooms: the Teacher Effectiveness for Language Learning (TELL) Project.

Alyssa continues to work with teachers and supervisors to push boundaries by envisioning and implementing programs that yield student results otherwise thought improbable or even impossible.
TFLTA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Friday, November 2 and Saturday, November 3, 2018
Franklin Marriott Cool Springs - Franklin, TN

"Paving the Path to Proficiency: Investigate, Innovate, Integrate"
http://www.tflta.org/annual-conference.html

TFLTA is now accepting session proposals for the 2018 conference.
http://www.tflta.org/session-proposal.html
The submission deadline is May 1, 2018