Workshop Descriptions

Topic 1 • CBHL Schools in the USA: Content-Based Language Learning for All Proficiencies

Maria Carreira, Ph.D., Co-Director of the National Heritage Language Resource Center at UCLA

After a long time working independently and even unnoticed in professional circles, community-based heritage language schools of many languages start to work together, inspire each other, and begin to draw the attention of mainstream education and relevant organizations. This workshop will give a short view into the landscape of the community-based heritage language (CBHL) schools. It will prominently show best practices in heritage language education that support proficiency development, engagement and academic achievement and influences curriculum considerations of these schools.

■ Topic 2 • Common Grounds for German at All Levels: New AATG Initiatives

Dr. Michael Shaughnessy, Executive Director, American Association of Teachers of German

AATG offers programs and services for German at all levels. This talk will outline new initiatives from AATG including an update on the revised National German Exam, a new fund for professional development, summer study programs, and efforts of the organization to work closely with partners in the US and the German speaking world. Dr. Shaughnessy will be glad to field questions during the talk and throughout the GLSC conference.

■ Topic 3 • Connecting with Sprachschulen: Understanding the Role of the State Supervisor and District Supervisor in Supporting German Language Education in the USA

Patrick Wallace, President, National Council for State Supervisors of Foreign Language (NCSSFL)

Did you know that 29 states have state designated employees who support world language education and/or dual language immersion education in the United States? Additionally, in larger population centers in all states, there are often system level district administrators, who also support language learning and related programs. This presentation will provide attendees with an overview of the governmental structures and positions at the state and local/district level that support language learning and related programs and how heritage language schools can engage with these entities to support their students, connect their students and parents with state led programs, such as the Seal of Biliteracy, and initiate further dialogues on related issues and potential partnerships.

Topic 4 • Extending the Focus: Cooperating with the Fernschule for All Levels

Muriel Plag, Co-Founder, German School Brooklyn, Head of Education Schulexpert GmbH/Deutsche Fernschule In every dark cloud there is a silver lining. Covid has closed many local schools but opened a large window to electronically look into the various educational institutions and activities of language instruction globally. This workshop invites teachers to familiarize themselves with the Fernschule, a language teaching program that is used in many countries. Helping to supplement the local teaching schedule and with its main focus on the range from Kindergarten to Middle School, this workshop will give an overview of teaching the various aspects and skills of German in a creative and even individual way. It will also show different ways of how to motivate students by changing teaching routines, using rituals, or by teaching topics in small units. Distance is no longer a barrier to cooperation.