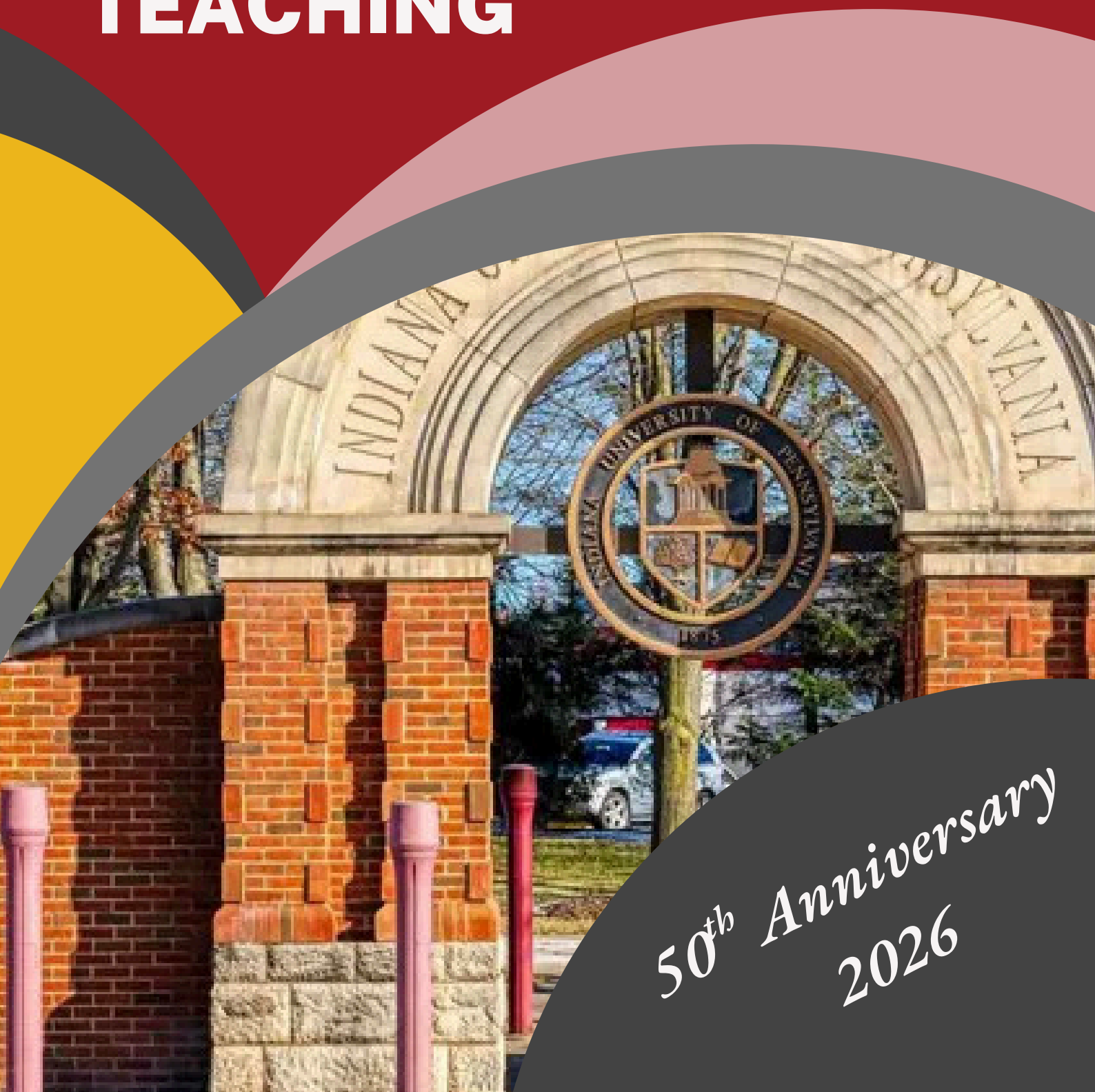


IUP SPRING METHODOLOGY CONFERENCE ON FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEACHING



*50th Anniversary
2026*



**“Empowering the Next
50 Years: Language
Learning in an
Interconnected World”**

9:00 - 10:00 am Keynote Speaker

Cherie Garrett

Our invited speaker is a 1990 IUP Spanish Education graduate, is a veteran world language educator and advocate with 35 years of experience teaching Spanish and more than 20 years leading initiatives in language education. She taught Spanish at Dallastown Area High School while also serving as adjunct faculty at Penn State York and the Regional Training Center.

Currently, she works as an ESL teacher, interpreter, translator, and substitute teacher and is the first VP of PSMLA. A leader in advocacy, Cherie helped develop Pennsylvania’s Seal of Biliteracy, founded the PSMLA Task Force, and coordinated the PA Language Summit. She is also a published author, presenter, and award-winning advocate who is dedicated to advancing language education in Pennsylvania and encouraging others to become advocates.

Keynote Workshop 10:30 am - 11:30 am

Susquehanna Room

From Lesson Prep to Language Proficiency — AI as Your Teaching Partner

Step into the next era of language education with this dynamic, hands-on session that explores how artificial intelligence can elevate your teaching practice — today and for decades to come. Discover practical, classroom-tested ways to harness AI tools that save time, spark creativity, and deepen student engagement. Learn how to streamline lesson planning, design culturally rich and communicative activities, differentiate instruction, assess with precision, and deliver impactful feedback — all with AI as your trusted partner. Leave with ready-to-use strategies and resources that empower you to teach smarter, foster lasting proficiency, and shape the future of language learning.

TENTATIVE PROGRAM

8:00 am - 8:30 am: Registration and coffee

8:30 am - 9:00 am: Welcome/Remarks

9:00 am - 10:00 am: Keynote Speaker

10:00 am -- 10:30 am: Coffee Break/Networking

Session 1: 10:30 - 11:30 am



Monongahela Room

AI Meets Imagination: Storytelling Through Student-Created Characters

Amy Kirchner

Indian Hill Elementary School

This session demonstrates how World Language teachers can leverage student input, gathered through Building Thinking Classrooms strategies, to co-create a class character in the target language. Participants will learn how to gather student input, integrate AI tools, and design student-driven stories that boost engagement and deepen language acquisition.



Allegheny Room

Power to Persuade

Dr. Junko Yamamoto

Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania

This session models how forming opinions can help build proficiency. Participants will explore opinion development using graphic organizers to help students engage in speaking tasks. Strategies support critical thinking, structured discourse, and the development of persuasive communication across proficiency levels

Buffet Lunch: Ohio Room 11:45 - 12:45

SESSION 2: 1:00 - 2:00 pm

Susquehanna Room

Putting HLTPs Into Practice: A Cycle of Enactment

Dr. Eileen Glisan and Dr. Richard Donato

Indiana University of Pennsylvania and University of Pittsburgh

This session will provide an overview of high-leverage teaching practices (HLTPs) and an instructional model that can be implemented in a cyclical fashion to learn how to enact the practices. Focus will be on planning, rehearsal/coaching, and assessment phases as they apply to instructors across the career continuum and teacher educators.

Allegheny Room

Building Literacy in the World Language Classroom

Mrs. Brynn Wingard

Larry A. Ryle High School (Union, KY)

Literacy challenges increasingly affect student performance and are visible in the world language classroom. This session invites participants to identify learners' literacy needs, review methods from a student perspective, evaluate current practices, and brainstorm how to incorporate research-informed strategies into their existing curriculum.

Conemaugh Room

The Written Voice: Exploring Writing Pedagogy in WL Education

Joseline Burgos

Slippery Rock University

This presentation examines innovative approaches to writing pedagogy within foreign language education, with particular emphasis on voice, identity, and cultural perspective. Participants will identify key learning outcomes, investigate structured instructional strategies, and analyze techniques aligned with varying proficiency levels. Attendees will then apply a selected writing strategy to their own instructional context.

Monangahela Room

Bringing Universal Design for Learning to World Language Classrooms

Mrs. Kathleen Foster

Bethel Park School District

The Universal Design for Learning framework has been promoted by school districts in recent years. In this session, participants will understand how this framework can be applied to a World Language classroom. Templates of activities fitting into the UDL pillars will be provided so that participants can use them in their own classrooms.

Coffee Break / Networking Break

SESSION 3: 2:15 - 3:15 pm

Susquehanna Room

Creating a Classroom Culture of Target Language Use

Michael Bogdan
PSEA

The 90% target language goal is not just for teachers—it's for students too. How can we encourage learners to speak in the target language? Explore practical strategies to incentivize student use, foster a classroom culture of communication, and make target language use the norm rather than the exception.

Allegheny Room

Student-Managed Websites as a Proficiency Portfolio and Social Media Platform

Mr. Brian Henninger, Mr. James Dykun and Ms. Kayla Geletka
Indiana Area Senior High School

Empower students to take ownership of language learning by using self-managed websites as digital proficiency portfolios. This session showcases student-created sites in Spanish, French, and German, highlighting how learners document growth and engage with target cultures. Participants will examine key platform features and design a template suited to their language program/students.

Conemaugh Room

¿Se dice? The Place of Sociolinguistics in the Language Classroom

Dr. Cynthia Ducar
Bowling Green State University

Languages live beyond the standard language typically taught in classes and textbooks. This interactive session explores how bilingual varieties shape real-world communication and why teachers must embrace them. Using Critical Language Awareness and Translanguaging, we will reframe bilingual practices as assets and share strategies to empower both heritage and L2 learners.

Monangahela Room

How Knowledgeable Are You About Proficiency?

Mr. Jesse Carnevali
Franklin Regional School District

Participants will work together to explore how knowledge and proficiency differ in the language classroom. ACTFL's proficiency guidelines will be analyzed and deconstructed to aid in comprehension and interpretation. Meaningful proficiency-based activities will be designed at various levels. Participants will distinguish knowledge and proficiency, consider ACTFL guidelines, and design proficiency-based instruction.