The Midwest regional CIES conference took place at the W.W. Wright School of Education at Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana on October 10 and 11 and was a great success! The conference theme was Reimagining Internationalization: Critical Dialogues on Global Dimensions of Education. About 175 people were in attendance, including many students, faculty members, pre- and in-service teachers, and other community members from all over the world. Dr. Frances Vavrus (University of Minnesota), keynote speaker, spoke on moving from theory to practice through “critical internationalization.” Other highlighted speakers included Dr. Shabana Mir (Millikin University) and Dr. Merry M. Merryfield.

Conference staff organized three half-day methodology workshops for those attendees who desired to attend. Dr. Frances Vavrus (University of Minnesota) led a workshop on vertical case studies; Dr. Barbara Dennis (Indiana University, Bloomington) led a workshop on critical collaborative cross-cultural approaches to international and comparative research; and Dr. Leslie Rutkowski, Justin Wild, and Yan Zhou (Indiana University, Bloomington) led a workshop on analyzing large-scale assessment data. All were well attended and appreciated.

Conference staff also worked with several Indiana University centers to put on a daylong workshop for pre- and in-service teachers in the region. This workshop included an interactive presentation from Indiana University's Center for the Study of Global Change on internationalizing curriculum; a roundtable session with several recipients of the Fulbright Distinguished Awards in Teaching Program; a presentation by Indiana University's Global Gateway for Teachers program; and a special talk by conference highlighted speaker, Dr. Merry M. Merryfield. Again, this workshop was highly successful at bridging the gap between “researchers” and “practitioners,” which was one of the conference organizers’ main goals. The Fulbright Distinguished Awards in Teaching Program roundtable was made possible by a center on campus: the Center for International Education, Development and Research.

Click here to view the conference photo album.