Beginning on Tuesday, May 26 and continuing through Friday, May 29, 2015, the Center for Language Excellence (CLE) hosted the ACTFL OPI Assessment Workshop. The presentations were led by on-site ACTFL trainers, Cynthia Martin and Martina Lindseth. Two sessions ran concurrently and had a total of 18 attendees each including language instructors from 12 different language programs/departments, servicing 13 different languages (Arabic, Chinese, Czech, French, Indonesian, Japanese, Kurdish, Mongolian, Portuguese, Russian, SLS, Spanish, and Swahili). Volunteers were recruited from IU language departments and the Bloomington community to be “interviewed” for their proficiency level in English by the attending instructors. Title VI Centers were offered the opportunity to invite two instructors.

This workshop was the 12th of a series of workshops offered by CLE.

This four-day workshop introduces the ACTFL rating scale, the structure of the Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI) and techniques of administering and rating the OPI Participants observe and conduct live practice interviews across all proficiency levels (Novice through Superior). They critique and discuss interview elicitation, structure, and rating. Participation in a Full OPI Assessment Workshop is the first step toward becoming an ACTFL Certified OPI Tester with Full Certification.

Prerequisite: Affiliation with an academic institution as defined by ACTFL, undergraduate degree in a related field, minimal proficiency level of Advanced in the language training.

Intended audience (All)
Targeted proficiency levels (All)
Number of Participants: 10 maximum per session

The post-workshop survey evaluation showed that overall the participants said the workshop was excellent! Below are what some of the participants had to say about the workshop:

**Martin Group**

“Excellent! It is well prepared and systematic. I like the step-by-step process.”

“I learned a great deal more than expected. There has been a shift in how I perceive oral proficiency/production as a language instructor. I can definitely apply a multitude of new ideas in my classroom and I feel that I could be a successful interviewer for the OPI.”

“Wonderful, interesting and engaging. Cindy has an impressive way of relaying a lot of information in an easy to understand manner. She is friendly, approachable, and great at facilitating discussions proving beneficial to all participants.”
“Thank you for making this available on campus and free of charge. This has been a wonderful opportunity and I gained much more than expected. I can definitely utilize what I’ve learned as an instructor and am thankful for the professional development opportunity.”

“I feel revitalized just having the opportunity to share teaching strategies with my colleagues. Also I have revised my expectations for students’ level of oral proficiency.”

“IT was a wonderful opportunity to participate in the workshop as a sponsored activity in my university. Without these conditions, I would not have had this opportunity. It was a great experience that will enhance my professional career and I think there should be more affordable opportunities like this for language teachers.

“I’m very thankful for this opportunity. I’ve longed to be trained in OPI testing for at least 4 years, and finally the trainers came all the way to IU! Thanks to CLE!”

“Cynthia is a great OPI trainer! I learned so much! She made the subject very interesting and the 4 days (long days) seemed very productive. Thanks to CLE for organizing this workshop!”

Lindseth Group

“Working with other language teachers was one of the best parts!”

“Very good. Obviously well prepared and not reading from a script.”

“Excellent. A perfect combination between lectures and practice.”

“Knowing the four phases of the interview will be very useful and applicable in the classroom!”

“Outstanding rapport and excellent way to explain and justify information.”

“Very good, knowledgeable, kind personality, approachable.”

“It’s useful and interesting to attend this workshop.”

“Can’t praise Martina highly enough! So professional and capable.”

“Everything was sequenced so well – all the theory/observation up front really prepared us for the live practice interviews.”

“I am thinking to make changes in my curriculum and teaching practices, make the syllabus more proficiency oriented and use some OPI techniques in my teaching and grading.”