On Tuesday, November 10, 2015, the Center for Language Excellence (CLE) presented the workshop entitled “Intercultural Competence Assessment”. The workshop had 13 attendees including three CLE staff and language instructors from eight different departments, servicing seven different languages (Chinese, Dutch, English, German, Spanish, Thai, and Yoruba). Another attendee was from the Kelley School of Business. The presentation was led by Maria Shardakova, Director of Language Assessment for the Center for Language Excellence.

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

The presentation began with a systematic discussion of the treatment of culture in our classrooms. Attendees learned from each other and shared best practices that will help optimize our teaching and ensure that our students develop the unprejudiced attitudes essential for living in a globalized world.

Attendees then surveyed the treatment of culture in selected current foreign language textbooks, outlined a tentative culture curriculum, and demonstrated assessment instruments for intercultural development.

The post-workshop survey evaluation showed that overall the participants said the workshop was very helpful.

Below are what some of the participants had to say about the workshop:

“Thinking about rubrics for assessing competence. The concrete examples from Russian studies were very helpful.”

“The examples are very helpful for me to understand the concept and think how to apply it in my class.”

“I learned to define the four assessment rubrics (skills, knowledge, attitudes, behaviors).”

“The most helpful thing was explaining how to incorporate culture with language pedagogy and how to assess for culture competence.”

“Excellent workshop.”