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Center Staff

Antonia Schleicher
Executive Director

Laura McClellan
Assistant Director

Esther Ham
Director of Online Language Education

Maria Shardakova
Director of Assessment

Xiaojing Kou
Coordinator, Center for Language Technology
Overview

The 2014-2015 academic year marked the launch of the Center for Language Excellence (CLE) by the College of Arts and Sciences. This annual report consists of sections highlighting operations, workshops & presentations, community & outreach, and external relations & services during the academic year 2014-2015.

Mission Statement

The Center for Language Excellence promotes, supports, and enhances the learning and teaching of languages at Indiana University through the following activities:

1. **Proficiency-Based and Standards-Based Instruction**
   - promote the attainment of proficiency-based and standards-based instruction in all languages taught at the university
   - support proficiency-targeted outcomes at all language instruction levels
   - support learners in the process of life-long language learning
   - support and promote best practices in planning, techniques, and artifacts for language learning, including
     - supporting and promoting best practices in curriculum development for language learning and teaching
     - identifying and developing best practices in language teaching across university language programs and departments through observation, empirical research, and assessed outcomes
     - supporting the development of language learning materials based on sound pedagogical practices and approaches

2. **Professional Development and Research**
   - provide professional development workshops, institutes, seminars for all language instructors to incorporate effective language learning and teaching principles and strategies in their classroom activities
   - promote professionalization of language teaching staff through funded research, and curriculum and course development
   - provide support and training in best practices for evaluating language teaching faculty and staff
   - support language teaching and learning through lecture series, demonstrations, and model classrooms

3. **Assessment of Language Learning Outcomes**
   - identify and support the development and use of best tools to assess language learning outcomes
   - provide training for language faculty to use best assessment tools

4. **Online Language Education**
   - support the development and coordination of online language courses
• support online language learning, including the development of online and hybrid language courses and online language learning materials
• provide training for language instructors to teach online and to use online assessment tools
• support research in online language education

CLE supports efforts to streamline language related activities in language departments, programs, resource centers and the technology center on campus in the four categories above to make the best use of resources at IU.
Operations

The Center for Language Excellence (CLE) was launched on July 1, 2014 by the College of Arts and Sciences. The creation of CLE enhances the support for language instruction across all language programs and departments by providing activities that acknowledge and share best practices, sharpen existing strengths, and provide support to programs with limited capacity to offer a full spectrum of professional development opportunities for their language instructors.

The Center began its operations by calling a language coordinator’s meeting to discuss IU language programs’ needs as related to faculty professional development, associate instructor training, assessment, and online language education. This initial meeting was followed up by an electronic needs-assessment survey distributed both among language coordinators and individual language instructors. The received feedback helped to fine-tune the Center’s objectives and strategies for the first year of operation.

During its first year, the Center prioritized the development of a series of workshops and presentations aimed at language faculty and associate instructors’ professional development; aligning teaching practices with the national standards and proficiency-based goals; monitoring students’ progress through assessment; using various assessment techniques to expand the role and responsibilities of students as learners; developing online courses; and dissemination of classroom research.

Many of the CLE activities were aligned with its efforts to connect language programs with non-language departments, so as to promote language learning for specific purposes – e.g., business. CLE is currently collaborating with the Kelley School of Business to develop business communication curricular across languages.

The community building efforts further extended to establishing close relations with IU language centers and departments to pursue local and national funding and research opportunities, such as Title VI or Flagship opportunities.

The Center has also been working to coordinate and synchronize the efforts of language programs to train new associate directors.

The Center gives a great deal of attention to the promotion of IU language programs. To this end, a series of concerted actions were undertaken, such as developing promotional...
materials for incoming and prospective students, presenting IU language programs at IUB new student orientations, disseminating information about IU language programs at various state and national forums (e.g., Indiana Foreign Language Teachers Association, American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages, National Council of Less Commonly Taught Languages).

Other operating activities included creating the Center’s website (http://www.indiana.edu/~iucle/), holding monthly staff meetings, hiring student assistants, adding a social media presence, and opening a foundation account through the College Development team for a director’s general fund in which contributions can be made.

The Center became a member of SCOLA and Partners in Languages in the US (PLUS).

The Center held its Open House on October 29, 2014.
Workshops and Presentations

The Center for Language Excellence (CLE) is committed to quality language instruction and to the self-sustaining professional development of language faculty. The goal is to ensure that students learn to speak, listen, read, and write in ways that are essential to success in school, higher education, careers, and adult life. This ambitious goal means that teaching practices are grounded in evidence-based research on effective instructional and assessment techniques, and that instructors are on par with the latest achievements in pedagogy. With this goal in mind, CLE offered a series of workshops and presentations. These included proficiency-based and standards-based instruction, online language learning methods, assessment tools, and classroom research among others.

Workshop and Presentation Series:

10/8/14 - Peer Observation of FL Teaching
10/22/14 - Assessing Student Oral Proficiency
10/31/14 - Building an Online Language Program 101
12/5/14 - Hands-on Workshop Using Canvas to Create Weekly Online Activities (Plus Best Practices and Demonstration of Adobe Connect)
12/11/14 - Canvas is Your Friend: Creating Assessment Activities Using Canvas
1/30/15 - Keep It Simple and BYO: Basics for Online Language Courses
2/6/15 - Using Satellite Communications for Learning (SCOLA) Authentic Videos for Teaching Foreign Languages at Any Level of Language Instruction
2/20/15 - Pearson/Canvas and Online Courses Basics
2/27/15 - Connecting Teaching w/Research: Designing a Classroom Study
3/27/15 - Speaking Activities in an Online Course
5/1/15 - Socio-Cultural Competence Assessment
5/26-29/15 - CLE hosted two sessions (due to large response) of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI) Assessment Workshop at IU-Bloomington
Workshop Representation

Line Charts 1 and 2 illustrate fiscal year 2014-2015 demographic data collected from workshops and presentations.

Languages Represented at Workshops/Presentations (38)

Line Chart 1

Departments Represented at Workshops/Presentations (22)

Line Chart 2
Community and Outreach

The Center for Language Excellence (CLE) completed many outreach opportunities with language departments on campus.

On September 17, CLE met with Language Coordinators to bring together ideas and suggestions where CLE can help.

The CLE Local Advisory Committee met on January 16, 2015 to review the mission and goals as to review what CLE had achieved. They had created a timeline for CLE activities to be completed in the first and second year, and CLE has already gone beyond those expectations.

CLE attended the orientation to the Office of Advancement on January 22 to understand the gift agreement and donations process. They will offer information to development officers to promote donating to the center as a resource for all world languages, and will inquire with the Indiana University Foundation on adding a “Give Now” button to the new CLE website.

Title VI Centers meetings were held in January, February and April to discuss where there could be opportunities/activities for Title VI center funding.

An Online Education meeting was held on Feb 17 and attended by Dean Lucaites, Tine Lindemann, Scott Feickert, Esther Ham, and Antonia Schleicher.

Meetings were held with the Language Flagships and separately with the Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning (CITL) both on Feb 18 to discuss opportunities where CLE might be able to help and/or work together.

On February 24, CLE met with the Center for International Business Education and Research (CIBER) to discuss a business language project that would incorporate business concepts in the regular foreign language classes.

CLE supported the School of Global and International Studies (SGIS) Direct Admit Day on March 28 by providing brochures, while on the same day they provided a booth to promote all IU languages at the Groups Scholars Resource Fair.

A meeting was held with the Committee on Institutional Cooperation (CIC) “CourseShare” program on April 2 to discuss which courses IU is hosting and receiving. This meeting led to discussions on bringing this program to CLE to oversee this fall, with the guidance of the College Graduate Office, and a presentation of how to organize online courses for all Germanic studies coordinators.

On April 29, CLE met with Tine Lindemann and Mark Hurley regarding the promotion of all IU languages during the summer. This meeting lead to CLE attending to the resource table at the New Student Orientation on various dates beginning June 11 through July 21, 2015. The CLE brochures are being shared with students and parents to promote language learning at IU.

This outreach also included supporting others’ IU conferences and events, such as the Chinese Language Symposium, the 13th Generative Approaches to Second Language Acquisition (GASLA) Conference, and IU Second/Foreign Language Share Fair (both fall and spring).
External Relations and Service

The Center for Language Excellence (CLE) promoted all IU world language programs at local, state, and national educational forums that included exhibiting and providing presentations.

This included the following:

- **American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL)**
  - Presentation on CLE – November 2014
- **Indiana Foreign Language Teachers Association (IFLTA) Conference**
  - Exhibition – November 7-9, 2014
- **National Council of Less Commonly Taught Languages (NCOLTCL) Planning Meeting**
  - February 12, 2015
- **Heritage Language Learners and Instructors Workshop, Wisconsin**
  - March 2015
  - Presentation on CLE
- **American Association of Applied Linguistics (AAAL) Conference, Toronto, Canada**
  - March 2015
  - Presentation on CLE
- **National Council of Less Commonly Taught Languages (NCOLCTL) Conference, Washington, D.C.**
  - April 20-26, 2015
  - Esther Ham presented sessions on Online Language Education
Future Plans

- Workshop and Presentation Series (Year 2) - Fall 2015/Spring 2016
- Groups Resource Fair Exhibit - July 30, 2015
- College Advisors Meeting - August 11, 2015
- Orientation for all new foreign language instructors/AIs/FLTAs - August 18-21, 2015
- Support of the World Language Festival - October 24, 2015
- Exhibit at the IFLTA conference - November 6-8, 2015
- CLE video project for learning foreign/second language at IU
- Foreign Language Curriculum development project in collaboration with CIBER at Kelley School of Business and NALRC
Conclusion

Based on this report, CLE has gone beyond the expectations of the Local Advisory Committee’s timeline of priorities/goals for both the first and second year (in its first year). This included:

Year-1 Priorities/Goals set by Local Advisory Committee (and Completed)
1. Hire an Associate Director for CLE and a student hourly to assist in the activities of the Center.
2. Conduct a needs assessment by coordinating with other departments and various language-related entities for intellectual engagement and to create a community.

Year-2 Priorities/Goals set by Local Advisory Committee (and Completed)
1. Based on the results of the needs assessment of Year 1, develop a plan of operation and pilot some projects and new methodologies.
2. Work with programs and departments for dissemination of best practices on campus and at conferences, such as ACTFL and NCOLCTL.