

Our Mission is to Advance the Teaching of World Languages and Cultures in Minnesota



2019 Fall Conference Updates

Fall Conference Registration is OPEN! All registration details are available at mctlc.org. Early bird registration through September 21.

Fall Conference Registration includes TWO DAYS of Professional Development!

Friday Workshops

Friday, October 25 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

Saturday Sessions

Saturday, October 26 7:30 am - 5:05 pm

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What's new?

- Friday Workshops (Included in registration)
- Keynote and Sessions Saturday
- Location: **Crowne Plaza** ----->
- Friday Evening Networking Reception

Stay on location at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. Make a weekend out of #MCTLC19! Use our reservation link to get the MCTLC group rate.



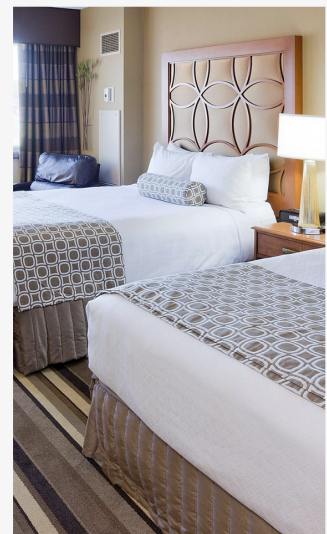
HOTEL GROUP RATE

\$112 + 7.525% TAX

*Offer Valid Until
October 4, 2019*

Online reservation link:
<https://book.passkey.com/e/49954663>

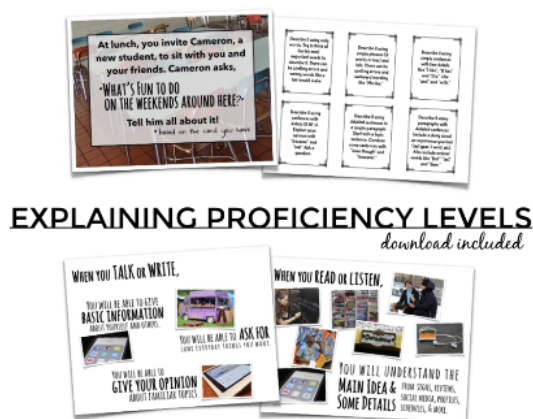
PEAK PRACTICE
PEAK PROFICIENCY
FOR ALL



Back To School Activities

We reached out to some of our presenters for #MCTLC19 to provide you with FREE RESOURCES for Back To School 2019-2020. Martina Bex, Kara Parker, Annabelle Williamson, and Valerie Shull share their expertise on communicative activities to start out the school year.

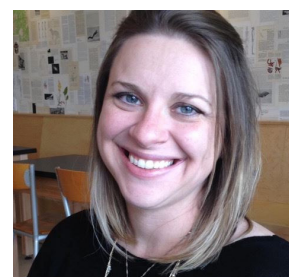
Teach & Display Proficiency Levels



This interactive activity will clearly explain proficiency levels to your students.

I generally use this during the first week of school and it really sets the tone for the goals of the class.

It is all about what you CAN do in the language!



Kara Parker, Creative Language Class

[Follow @CLC_Teachers](#)

If you like this activity, you might like a classroom-sized version of the proficiency rubric! Find it [here](#).

Icebreaker/Brain Break



Annabelle Williamson, La Maestra Loca

[Follow @lamaestraloca](#)



This is one of my favorite "games"/ice breakers/ brain breaks to use at the beginning of the year. It helps us use names and it can be done in the most safe "novice" of ways, or you can make it require more language for students who've been in class before. Click the link below or access the blog post for more details [here](#).

Brain Breaks Part 16: Hachi Pachi

This Brain Break has SO many names but in the last couple of months I've learned that Hachi Pac...

[La Maestra Loca](#) / Jun 7

Establish Class Routines



Valerie Shull, Proficiency
from the Start

 Follow @windycitysenora

When we start off the year in our K-8 classes, my colleague and I work to establish class routines - especially those that help the students to use the TL with us and each other. That involves providing a lot of support with visuals and phrase lists like the ones on my blog post about TL use in elementary [here](#), while offering lots of opportunity to practice - particularly transactional language we use in class every day (Please pass me a _____, Would you help me? What are we doing?).

The list of phrases is created by the students during the first couple of classes. For me, scaffolding Interpersonal communication in elementary includes offering lots of choices of phrases, words and rejoinders that students can refer to on the white board, a power point slide, laminated sheets on the tables or posted on the walls to help them select language they want to use during interactions.

Interpretive Listening- MovieTalk

The term “communicative activity” is often associated with interpersonal speaking, but students don’t need to be speaking to each other for an activity to be communicative. Interpretation is an important part of communication—especially in the early stages of language acquisition. If you are a Level 1 teacher, look for communicative activities that are centered on interpretive listening.

MovieTalk is a great activity for early in the school year, and my favorite easy-to-keep-it-comprehensible short film to start the year with is “Wildebeest” by BirdBox Studio. Another great one to check out is “Rock Paper Scissors” by Android! Learn more about MovieTalk at the link below.



Martina Bex, The
Comprehensible Classroom

 Follow @martinabex



MovieTalk

MovieTalk is a technique for language learning developed by Dr. Ashley Hastings as part of the FO-CAL skills program used to teach ESL at the uni...

 The Comprehensible Classroom / Martina Bex

An interview with Kara Parker, Co-Creator of Creative Language Class

Heather Cholat - Editor, MCTLC

Kara Parker (Kara pronounced with a long “a” ...I asked!) taught Spanish and ESL for 12 years in Louisville, KY. She is now co-creator of the Creative Language Class (CLC) website which promotes proficiency-based language instruction. Kara began to transition into the world of blogging and presenting in order to fill gaps that she realized were needed when she was a full-time teacher.



Kara currently resides in Minneapolis and is very much looking forward to being part of our fall conference.

HC: *Welcome to the great state of Minnesota!*

KP: Thank you! I moved to Minneapolis last July so it has been just over a year now. I'm loving the weather (coming from the south, the low humidity is a wonderful change) and I find that Minneapolis has so many unique, cool things to see and do. It has been a great move!

HC: *How did you make the switch from teaching to full-time consulting, blogging and presenting?*

KP: Megan Smith, whom I met in Louisville, KY in 2006, and I were already blogging about our mutual passion and belief in the proficiency language movement. When we would attend proficiency-based trainings, we were getting the message to “throw away the textbook,” but what did a lesson look like? In 2008, we started blogging about our changes. It took me a few years to completely make that shift away from the textbook, so I hope our Creative Language Class and AdiósTextbook sites make that transition smoother and faster for others. When my husband and I moved to Colorado for my husband's new job, there wasn't enough time to find a full-time job, so I started long-term subbing. During that time, schools began asking us to present what we had been sharing on the websites. Since I had more flexibility in my schedule, it was possible to do these workshops.

HC: *When you were teaching, which grade level did you teach?*

KP: 9-12 mostly, but also a little bit of middle school.

HC: *Do you miss having your own class of students? Why or why not?*

KP: I do miss having my own classroom because I loved seeing them get excited about learning languages. Also it allows you to see the effectiveness of various ideas, lesson plans, curriculum, etc. I'm also enjoying my new project - creating curriculum and lessons on AdiósTextbook. I love knowing that this is making teachers' lives a little easier, and that students are enjoying the lessons.

HC: *Through all of your presenting and consulting, is there an aspect of teaching second languages that lots of people still don't get? Something that lots of teachers tend to get stuck on even though they may know better?*

KP: I see this same tendency, that I myself faced, with simply getting stuck because you don't even know what proficiency-based teaching looks like. You know you like the idea of it, but how do you truly implement it? For those who are able to attend my all-day workshop (along with German teacher, Karen Nickel) at the MCTLC fall conference, you will leave with a lot of strategies and activities that you can implement immediately. Our workshop (which will target middle to high school grades...but will still have useful ideas for elementary) will help to show it's more about proficiency and improving accuracy as they progress (not immediately). We'll show you how to replace the "drill and kill" methods to instead find ways to make the target language relevant and engaging.

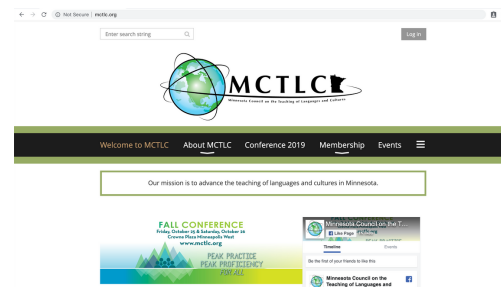
HC: *What's your next professional goal?*

KP: Megan and I are busy launching a new phase with AdiósTextbook (think Netflix, but with lesson plans for teachers... and it's a membership-based site) by expanding it to include Arabic. Currently we offer our curriculum in Spanish, French, German. We are really proud of the communicative curriculum this provides busy teachers who want to implement proficiency-based methods, but don't have the time to create it themselves.

Kara will be at #MCTLC19 presenting two 3.5-hour workshops on Friday, October 25th and a session on Saturday, October 26th. Hope to see you there! To keep in touch with Kara and Creative Language Class, follow her on Twitter [@CLC_Teachers](#) or visit [creativelanguageclass.com](#).

New Website Design

Our website has an updated design that is easy to navigate and compatible with mobile viewing. It includes all the information it has always had. We hope you like the new look!



Follow MCTLC on Instagram

In addition to website updates, MCTLC is now on Instagram. Be sure to follow along [@MCTLC19](#) for conference updates, behind the scenes, sneak peeks, & more!