

**Tenth Annual Hawaii International Conference on Arts & Humanities
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**Promoting Innovation in World Language Instruction:
Issues, Examples, Action**

topic areas: languages, literature, second language studies

presentation format: panel session

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A full generation of world language/ literature teachers has been in place since the near-revolution in pedagogy that accompanied the ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines. Yet much remains to be accomplished. Best thought and practice in language teaching has yet to be implemented on a large scale. Grammar-translation remains the default pedagogy, teacher-centered learning the common classroom environment, and conventional literature the customary subject area. Technology is underexploited, or at least pedagogically smart use of technology is uncommon. Alternate approaches – content-based instruction, team-based learning, community-based learning (to name just a few) – are still underrepresented in the curriculum. Even in conventional programs coherent curricular thought is a rarity, as is careful articulation of courses and levels. Aside from leading to less than ideal language teaching and learning, the weakness in implementing innovation has contributed to endangering the existence of almost all languages, including some (German, French) that have been mainstays of language programs. Capping it all – a symptom and a cause of the problems – is the rarity of thorough, systematic teacher ed courses and programs.

The panel will present a half dozen or more *brief* examples of innovation in world language courses and programs. Presenters will bring hands-on resources (course descriptions, learning activities, assessments, bibliographies) for all attendees. The second half of the session, to be followed no doubt by more discussion elsewhere at the conference, will be a group discussion of shortcomings and solutions, ranging from specific learning activities to strategies for influencing entire curricula and programs. The culminating activity will be a position paper to present to the larger profession, probably through the newsletters of professional associations, and brainstorming for similar sessions at other conferences, including – it is to be hoped – a followup session at next year's Hawaii Conference, just as last year's Hawaii Conference inspired this year's session.