

LYON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

*Staff Travel Report
to
School Board of Trustees*

Your recent request to travel has been approved. Within two weeks of the date of the conference, the following report is due in the office of the Deputy Superintendent via Margaret Heim.

Please Download & TYPE the following information.

Staff Member:	<u>Tzeitel Borbon</u>	School:	<u>Fernley High</u>
Conference:	<u>Southwest Conference on Language Teaching</u>	Staff Assignment	<u>Spanish Teacher</u>
Do not use acronyms			
Location of Conference:	<u>Phoenix, AZ</u>	Dates Attended:	<u>1/22/25-1/25/25</u>

General Overview: Do not use acronyms

I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to attend the Southwest Conference on Language Teaching in Chandler, AZ, from January 22-25, 2025. It was an honor to present alongside two colleagues from Nevada, where we led a successful World Language proficiency workshop that was both engaging and well-received. The interactive session included a creative activity where participants created a dance representing their names and incorporated gestures to reinforce vocabulary in German—an enjoyable and effective way to deepen learning. On Thursday, I had the privilege of attending a full-day workshop at two local Dual Language Institutes, where I was thoroughly impressed by their innovative programs. These programs not only focused on teaching a second language but also integrated a variety of academic disciplines, demonstrating their proven success in dual-language education. I had the opportunity to observe six Mandarin-English classes at Tarwater Elementary and four Spanish immersion classes at Kyrene del Norte Elementary. The experience provided invaluable insights into best practices for language immersion and the positive outcomes achieved in these environments. Throughout Friday and Saturday, I attended several workshops, including three that explored the use of AI, chatbots, and digital learning strategies in World Language classrooms. These sessions offered cutting-edge ideas to enhance teaching and learning through technology. Additionally, I appreciated the time dedicated to networking with World Language educators from across the globe, including participants from Guam. Conversations with fellow teachers, administrators, and Department of Education staff allowed for meaningful exchanges about the successes, challenges, and future directions of World Language education.

How will this impact student learning in a positive way?

One of the most inspiring aspects of my conference experience was visiting the Dual Language Institutes, as it aligns with my aspiration to support my Spanish-speaking students in reinforcing their core classroom learning through the use of their home language. By integrating Spanish into content instruction, I can help ensure that these students have greater access to the material, which will strengthen their understanding and academic success. The immersive and cross-disciplinary approaches I observed at these institutes reinforced the power of bilingual education in promoting both language acquisition and content mastery.

The workshop that had the greatest impact on me was focused on the use of chatbots as conversation partners. Many students experience anxiety or embarrassment when speaking a new language, especially at the beginning stages of learning. Chatbots offer a unique solution by providing a supportive, judgment-free platform where students can practice language skills without the pressure of time constraints or peer evaluation. This tool allows students to engage in written and oral conversations, receive immediate feedback, and build confidence in a low-stress environment. I am eager to explore how this technology can be incorporated into my own classroom to support students in developing their speaking skills in a more comfortable and effective way.

How will I implement what I learned and how will I share this information with my colleagues?

In my current teaching practice, I am excited to apply the new ideas and strategies I gained from the conference. The techniques, such as using chatbots for language practice and incorporating immersive, cross-disciplinary language approaches, will be immediately useful in enhancing my students' learning experiences. The tools and networks I've gained access to will allow me to create a more dynamic and supportive environment in my classroom. I look forward to incorporating these innovative practices into my lessons not only in the coming weeks but for years to come. Also, I am focused on building a program to support for the Spanish speakers at my school, in collaboration with the English Language Learners program. This initiative will be vital in supporting students who face language barriers, making it difficult to learn in core classes that are taught exclusively in English. By providing reinforcement of core content in Spanish, I hope to bridge the gap between the academic material and students' ability to access and understand it, ensuring that the language barrier does not impede their learning and success. Additionally, the connections I made with fellow educators at the conference have provided me with an invaluable network of teachers across the state and beyond. This network will be a great resource for collaboration, sharing ideas, and seeking guidance as I continue to grow professionally and strive to better support my students. As the Lyon County Representative for the Professional Language Association of Nevada, I am committed to ensuring that all World Language teachers in the county have access to the valuable resources and information I have gathered from my experience at the Southwest Conference on Language Teaching. The information database I have created will serve as a valuable tool for teachers to incorporate new strategies, technologies, and best practices into their classrooms. I look forward to continuing my role as a representative for Lyon County and Nevada in the field of World Languages and collaborating with educators across the state to promote effective language instruction and student success.

Other Comments:

Photo collage of my experience:

https://www.canva.com/design/DAGdV_BE7g0/fg3g3BwucPaPZCgBw5yR_Q/view?utm_content=DAGdV_BE7g0&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link2&utm_source=uniquelinks&utlId=haf94c12d29

Copy of presentation given at the language conference:

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1Qi4q2PR16WIC9I3ycmD4Y0SC-s-Lu8oRi6WWmo17pkU/edit?usp=sharing>

Copy of the conference program:

https://www.swcolt.org/_files/ugd/1c4a84_bf92ba90a77143a1b502503b5216c274.pdf?utm_campaign=e3591537-82bc-4273-a063-a36485101d10&utm_source=so&utm_medium=mail&cid=1034aa1c-b43a-4ef4-a7eb-89cdfc56b025

Video link to Dual Language Institutes tour:

https://www.youtube.com/shorts/uHNJ_UoObJU

Conference Certificate:

file:///C:/Users/tborbon/Downloads/PD%20hours%20for%20SWCOLT%20Conference%20Certificate%20for%20%20AZ%202025.pdf

Site Principal/Supervisor Approval

Deputy Superintendent Approval

1.27.25

Date

1-27-2025

Date