

COUNCIL ON TEACHING
Follow-Up Report for
Teaching in Higher Education Conference Award

Name: Giovanni Zimotti

Department/Unit: Spanish and Portuguese

Conference Attended: The Central States Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages

Date of Conference: March 9-11, 2023

Award Amount: \$1,500

Briefly summarize how your attendance at the conference enhanced your professional development and allowed you to gain a better understanding of teaching in your discipline or trends in higher education in general.

Attending the CSCTFL helped me stay up to date with current trends in the teaching of languages in the U.S. I attended many sessions that provided engaging discussions, including some about current issues in language learning, others offering innovative strategies to integrate grammar instruction with real-world language usage and how to effectively motivate our students.

One valuable talk was about how to effectively evaluate the quality and content of learning resources available online. It proposed different ways to do so and various categorization for that type of content. This would be very helpful to share with all the instructors teaching in my program.

While at the conference, I also had the opportunity to talk about an article we published on the journal of this conference about the role empathy as on language learning. I also presented about an app we developed at the University of Iowa that will be beneficial for many language instructors and students around the country.

To conclude, the opportunity to interact with K-12 language educators provided me with a unique perspective on the teaching approaches employed at different educational levels. Per my job, I barely interact with me, so spending time talking and engaging with them was extremely valuable for me. This comparative outlook has broadened my understanding of the education landscape.

How have you been able to share what you learned about teaching with your department, the University of Iowa, and/or beyond?

Not officially, as of right now, I only had some informal conversations with some colleagues of my division. During the next 6 months I will have a few opportunities to share what I learned with my colleagues. First, I will be using some of the teaching strategies I learned during the Fall orientation for Spanish instructors. Additionally, we will be organizing a workshop that will include a few valuable insights I gained during this experience.