

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

Name: Carol Severino

Department/Unit: Rhetoric

Conference Attended: Symposium on Second Language Writing, Tucson, AZ

Date of Conference: November 14-16, 2024

Award Amount: \$800

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.

The discussions after my research-based presentation on Heritage Spanish Learners' willingness to mix English and Spanish in their writing gave me a good idea of trends in higher education regarding bilingual writing classes. I met two instructors who teach composition at universities on the southern border. One instructor is part of a pilot study; she assigns most work in English, but two essays must be in Spanish, including a research essay. Two classes per semester must be totally in Spanish. She told me her university has a large grant for this program and plans to expand the pilot to multiple sections. The other instructor's course is taught via switching frequently and naturally between English and Spanish and encourages students to mix that way in writing. However, it is not very popular type of section; most students, the vast majority of whom are Hispanic, enroll in monolingual English composition. That outcome was as surprising as the results of our study, in which mixing languages in writing was not very popular either; only two students out of fourteen mixed throughout their writing. Before I attended this conference, I had no idea such courses exist.

I also attended many informative sessions on AI and multilingual writers, which have enabled me to guide multilingual tutors and writers in the Writing Center.

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

I am planning to share what I learned from the research I presented at the Symposium and from the feedback we received at a Spring Friday morning Rhetoric Colloquium. I have arranged it with my colleague in the Department who is the Colloquium Coordinator, but he hasn't assigned me a date yet because the semester just started, and he doesn't have the schedule set yet.