



11th Annual ISNA Education Forum

Arabic Workshop: "Personalize Your Teaching, Watch Your Students Soar"

About the Arabic Workshop

The workshop titled “Personalize Your Teaching, Watch Your Students Soar”—will introduce participants to the core methods and principles of Teaching Proficiency through Reading and Storytelling (TPRS). In the morning, participants will learn German, debrief their experience, and learn how to immediately use TPRS practices in their own classes. In the afternoon, participants will create and practice-teach TPRS lessons of their own, either to teach languages other than Arabic, or to see just how much Arabic they can teach the workshop leader and other non-native speakers of Arabic!

The benefits of using TPRS are manifold: TPRS students acquire language and develop fluency by collaborating with their teacher to create fully comprehensible stories that are extremely personalized and interesting. The stories are built around core essential vocabulary and structures that are presented in radically small doses, and then used so frequently that the students cannot help but acquire them. TPRS succeeds through personalization, playfulness, and a purposeful focus on language that is immediately useful to students. We find that students who complete TPRS classes speak with confidence, read with fluency, have rapport with their teachers, and come back for more.

In a one day workshop, we are only sampling some of the activities that TPRS teachers use. TPRS is a suite of practices with various components used throughout the week, semester and course of a language learning career. Nonetheless, in the workshop, participants will work on core principles and practices of TPRS that are useful any time and at any level of language instruction.

About the workshop Leader

Byron Despres-Berry teaches German for the Appleton Area School District in Appleton, Wisconsin. Byron began his language teaching career at the Concordia Language Villages, where he worked on their summer staff since 1985, most recently as a teacher trainer for Star Talk and Critical Language Fellow programs. In the summer of 2008 and 2009, Byron gave workshops on TPRS to teachers of Arabic participating in the Arabic STARTALK seminar at Concordia Language Villages. The Concordia Language Villages offer residential language immersion programs in 14 languages, including Arabic, and Byron was both a participant and teacher there, learning immersion practices first-hand. Since 2001, Byron has been integrating techniques and philosophies from TPRS with both immersion and standards based language instructional practices.

Registration for the Workshop

This workshop is only available to the education forum attendees. Registration for the workshop can be made online as part of the education forum registration with additional fees of \$ 75. Register at <https://www.instantreg.com/registration/register.aspx?id=d531cc3908de5e7f> or call (317) 839 8157 ext 129