

Message from the Conference Chair

Message de la présidente du comité de planification



Active Learning / L'Apprentissage Actif

A growing body of research confirms that when it comes to learning, one size doesn't fit all. No two children are alike, nor do they learn in exactly the same way. Hence, **differentiated instruction and student engagement in the language classroom / La différenciation pédagogique et l'engagement des étudiants dans la classe de langue** is the theme of the 2010 Spring Conference. As educators, we are constantly using different ways to facilitate language learning which ensure understanding and an ability to apply the concepts learned in a wide variety of contexts.

La différenciation pédagogique est une méthodologie qui permet d'ajuster l'enseignement et l'apprentissage pour atteindre tous nos apprenants, en tenant compte de leur diversité dans notre enseignement et miser sur les forces de cette dernière. C'est le savoir, le savoir-faire et le savoir-être.

How does an educator begin to gain an understanding of differentiated instruction (DI) and its implications for program planning? How is it possible to engage every student in our classroom? How do we effectively adapt our instruction in order to reach students with different learning styles, ability levels, a wide range of interests and challenges as well as varied levels of commitment to language learning in particular and to learning in general? How do we encourage students to be self-motivated and think independently? How do we deal with the continually evolving nature of our profession? To that end, we have invited **Karen Hume**, a Canadian educator, author and leader in DI to address student readiness and engagement in the context of her experience and research in this field.

It is also highly useful to turn to our colleagues to ask each other these questions and become aware of best practices both within our province and the wider world. Such opportunities often lead us to realize that most of us already practice the principles of DI without necessarily being aware of it. To this end, there will be a wide array of engaging and inspiring workshops to support your professional practice.

As usual, exhibitors will be out in full force, providing teachers, consultants and administrators with wonderful resources and ideas to enhance language teaching. Be sure to use the passport in your welcome package in order to accumulate points towards prizes provided by our exhibitors!

Finally, please plan on bringing friends to the fun at the Friday night wine-and-cheese reception, *Le Cabaret Culturel*. Different cultural groups will perform, providing you with exciting cultural ideas to take back to your classroom.

We hope the 2010 Spring Conference will offer something for everyone. We look forward to seeing you there!

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Conference Chair

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