



Spring 2025

Yulia Mikheeva (SLAT)

Conference Summary

I traveled to Chicago to the NCOLCTL (National Council of Less Commonly Taught Languages) conference that was held from 24th to 27th April. This was my first time presenting at a larger conference, and I was thrilled to share my ideas with other educators and researchers in the field of less commonly taught languages.

The general atmosphere at the conference was amazing – everyone was so friendly and supportive, and since it is not a huge conference (I think there were around 50-70 people), it felt very comfortable presenting and sharing ideas knowing that you would get constructive and valuable feedback without any judgement.

I presented a poster on a topic that I am planning on developing for my dissertation next academic year. My plan was to get feedback from professionals not only in my language field, but also from other language programs. A lot of conference participants stopped by my poster, listened to my project ideas and their implementation, and asked questions that helped me see both positive sides and drawbacks of it. They also shared their insights and thoughts on which way I could take my project in the future and what might or might not work well with it.

Apart from presenting my own work, I attended as many presentations as I could. I especially appreciated the practical nature of the conference as I see myself as an educational material\curriculum developer, and I really value practical application and real experiences in an educational environment that other educators share. I also met several professors I already knew as well as made some important connections.

I am really grateful that you could award me the travel grant as it would have been extremely difficult for me to afford such an expensive trip myself. I was absolutely delighted to be a part of the conference, share my ideas as well as build new connections and listen to other educators' ideas and thoughts.

Thank you!

Kind regards,

Yulia Mikheeva