

## ICMEE eWorkshop:

### What is Language? (Grades K-12)

**Essential Question:** How does my understanding of what language is and how it functions guide me to be a more effective teacher for all students but especially for bilingual students who are in the developmental stages of learning English?

#### Guiding Questions:

- **Unit 1:** What are ways to think about language when it is not or is in addition to English?
- **Unit 2:** What are the possibilities for the forms, sounds, and functions of language? How do they work?
- **Unit 3:** How does language function for learning in the classroom?
- **Unit 4:** What is the role of English in schools and classrooms when it is not the only or not the first language of many of the students?
- **Unit 5:** What ways of using languages can lead to success in my content area classroom?
- **Unit 6:** Answer the Essential Question.

#### What is an eWorkshop?

Our eWorkshops are innovative online multi-media resources available free of cost to professional learning communities of educators who wish to collaboratively inquire into and improve their practice with bi/multilingual learners.

eWorkshops are inquiry oriented and are guided by an essential question and a guiding question for each of the six units in an eWorkshop. Each unit follows the same three-part learning cycle that we call *Explore*, *Make-It-Work*, and *Share*. In *Explore* participants spend 30-60 minutes exploring new ideas, content, concepts or perspectives. In *Make-It-Work*, participants are offered a minimum of two designed and completely supported options of how to make the new learning from *Explore* work in an actual classroom context. *Make-It-Work* takes around one hour of a participant’s time and always has a “You Make-It-Work” option, which gives participants the flexibility to design their own approach or tweak one of the options we offered. Finally, participants *Share* their learning either in our online space (a threaded discussion) or Face-toFace. Share usually takes 30-60 minutes of a participant’s time meaning that completing the three-part learning cycle of each unit takes about three hours. eWorkshop participants who complete all six units can receive a certificate of completion as well as use their work towards a course that will earn them one graduate level credit at the University of Nebraska Lincoln. To learn more about our eWorkshops, please visit: <https://cehs.unl.edu/icmee/>

