**ACTFL proposal 2017**

Title: Proficiency: How can I possibly pull this off?

Type: Session

Applicable language: non-language specific/Spanish

Language of presentation: English

Presenter: Lead – Sarah Finley Co- Jennifer Campbell

Keywords: Teacher preparation

Audience level: 6-12

Program Guide description: This hands on session aims to give insight into a proficiency based classroom. Many are skeptical about proficiency in terms of student buy-in, teacher roles, and outcomes. Presenters will share their experience in creating this curriculum for the first time, and participants will be able to create activities based on their specific curriculum.

Content & Purpose: I was a skeptic when it came to proficiency. I just couldn’t see it all working in one of my classes. How will they buy in to this? How will they stay engaged? Are the just going to tune me out? Is this just more work for me? Will kids REALLY learn more, do more and enjoy it? Well, I have jumped in the deep end and am now a proficiency believer. I was never sure how to create a proficiency lesson, much less a whole curriculum, but I learned more by actually doing it than any professional development could tell me. Focusing on teacher buy in, we will outline the steps we used to create our new proficiency based curriculum for a High School level 3 classroom. Our strategies included: using student input, authentic resources, scaffolding tasks and consistency in rubrics for assessments.

 Outcomes: Participants will be able to apply a level of proficiency to their existing curriculum by creating actual proficiency-based assignments that day. They will be able to scaffold input activities to ensure student success. Ultimately, they will be able to see a flexible curriculum that still digs into the AP themes and ACTFL standards.

Strategies for Engagement: The information in the session will be presented as an outline of what we experienced, from throwing out our non-proficiency based materials to vetting authentic resources and creating assessments. We will use (and allow time to experience) different technology resources that allowed us to keep our students engaged, such as Kahoot!, Quizlet Live, and This is Language, to name a few. Our goal is to inform while modeling teaching tools so teachers can leave with activities and resources to use right away. We will use anonymous question asking tools to allow participants to pose their problems/questions/roadblocks when it comes to a proficiency based curriculum. They will use some of the time to create a choice board to use with their classes that focuses on proficiency, using a template that we give. This will not be a lecture; rather an interactive experience that pushes collaboration and communication, just like in our classrooms.