

**The 2nd Northwest Conference on Japanese Pedagogy**

May 21-22, 2016

University of Washington

“How Can We Motivate Students?: The Present and Future of Japanese Language Education in North America”

**Liberal Arts Education in the Era of Globalization: Challenges and Opportunities for Japanese Language Programs**

Junko Mori, University of Wisconsin-Madison

The last decade has seen a growing number of public debates over the value of liberal arts education. In order to prepare students for the ever-changing world, what kinds of knowledge, skills, and dispositions should be instilled through higher education, and how can each academic program contribute to this end? With rapid transformation of social, economic and technological environments, colleges and universities are faced with the need to reevaluate their approaches for the education of the next generation and to strive for innovations that address issues of educational cost, workforce development, and changing student demographics, and beyond. This presentation reviews some competing discourses on liberal arts education and considers what kinds of challenges and opportunities these dynamically shifting contexts of higher education present for Japanese language educators.

Questions to be explored in this presentation include the following:

- What kinds of learning outcomes should a language program aim for? And how and to whom should they be communicated?
- In what ways has the recent influx of international students from Asia changed the nature of diversity seen in Japanese language classrooms? And how can language educators take advantage of the potential offered by this new student diversity to enhance students' global competence?
- How should language educators reevaluate their roles in developing students' language proficiency vis-à-vis abundant opportunities for language learning afforded by the advancement of technology?

The presenter will share her own research, teaching and administrative experiences to address these issues, while the audience will also be encouraged to exchange their ideas.