Foreign language teachers have been lacking an open web platform in support of learning and collaboration. This interactive session introduces participants to NEXOS, a web language portal for teachers and learners of Spanish. It will be facilitated by a Spanish professor and an instructional resource expert, who will familiarize the audience with the main features of NEXOS as well as its pedagogical and technological aspects.

The main goal of NEXOS is to promote learning exchanges among university students, teachers, and community members in the US and abroad through shared cultural information and resources. Traditionally, schools, colleges and universities have been offering Spanish teaching and learning in a top-down fashion to the student or to the community. Only recently have Spanish teachers begun to re-evaluate the focus of teaching and to explore collaborative learning formats using technology. The key features of NEXOS—a database-driven platform and multiple communication and collaboration channels—will dramatically enhance technology-enhanced collaborations. It is designed for the sharing of a variety of resources among users and contributors around the globe, specifically for the education community.

The NEXOS portal supports three types of resources within its data banks: images, audio/video and general resources. The latter consists of links to information that can be found in the community and on the web, as well as information posted by NEXOS members on a variety of categories and types including: Events, Organizations, Teacher / Student Resources and much more. In addition, it allows for Real Video and web-based graphics. Members of NEXOS can communicate with other members of this portal via its Webboard or through topic-specific mailing lists.

Both design and usage of NEXOS support numerous learning outcomes, which aim at:
1. enhancing student learning about cultural products, perspectives and traditions
2. engaging campus and off-campus groups in mutual collaborations
3. promoting learning and professional collaborations among students and teachers
4. increasing access to technology
5. establishing electronic communication as a viable form for university and community collaborations.

The project will be made available to the membership of The American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese in November for evaluation including a request for possible modifications.