**TYCA-West Conference, Oct 2 – 3, 2015, Salt Lake City, Utah**

1. *Learning in Place, Building New Spaces*

Key note speaker Sarah Z. Johnson advocated for better teacher preparation and greater access to professional development. It is always a good idea to research best practices and identify model programs. However, onsite training is very effective, i.e., the most important teacher preparation must happen in place. Mentors could and should be part of this preparation. Johnson shared the idea of the architectural charrette as a model of collaboration, problem-solving, and transformation. This model is about intensive problem-solving with the meeting of the main stake holders.

2. *Places of Creative Invention: The Second Best Exotic Grammar Workshop*

This interesting workshop made grammar lessons come alive through interactive activities. This was aimed above the ESL level, however, and would need to be adapted. I did see the playing with poems activity as having some use for syntax.

3. *Sawubona – I See You! Teaching Students from Developing Countries*

We have an increasing number of students from developing countries in our classes, especially ESL and developmental classes. This creates a number of challenges for teachers. This presentation underscored some of these challenges and encouraged us as professionals to make the effort to understand our students and especially be aware of cultural differences and sensitivities.