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## **DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE**

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### **CURRENT NEWS 7 OCTOBER 2010**

#### **Afghan Air Force learn English in Kandahar**

Afghanistan air force airmen at the Kandahar Air Wing are taking part in a program to improve their English as part of their training to better communicate with coalition forces. The Department of Defense Education Activity is a civilian agency that provides education to more than 84,000 eligible military and civilians in 194 schools around the world. Tom Wiglesworth, an English teacher from the DoDEA, teaches English to Afghan airmen of the Kandahar Air Wing. Wiglesworth said he has been teaching since 1982. He is here with four other teachers to assist the U.S. Air Force stand up the Kandahar Air Wing. "We are teachers of the soldiers; we are teachers of your children," Wiglesworth said proudly, "We came from Germany and Japan. I came in from Guam."

#### **Equal Justice for Non-English Speakers**

Is the inability to speak English preventing "equal justice" for some Tennesseans? Many experts say "yes". But, it would appear that money and the law are butting heads over the issue. A federal law, Title Six, says interpreters have to be provided for non-English speakers in court. But, there's still the question of how to find enough of them—and how to pay them. Memphis lawyer, Rehim Babaoglu, told Eyewitness News, "If the individual can't understand the consequences of his guilty plea—let's say it's a criminal matter, then I don't see how they can take a plea from an individual who doesn't speak English and understand our concepts of law."

#### **Language barrier keeps some Tennesseans from getting justice**

The families luckily found an attorney to help, and that puts them among the fortunate few in a state where the civil legal needs of non-English speakers and other vulnerable populations are vastly underserved, in violation of federal law. The Tennessee Supreme Court's Access to Justice Commission, which is working to fix inequities in the civil courts, has created a committee tasked with improving the system for people with language barriers and people with disabilities.

#### **Interpreters and Translators**

About 26 percent of interpreters and translators are self-employed; many freelance and work in this occupation only sporadically. In addition to needing fluency in at least two languages, many interpreters and translators need a bachelor's degree. Employment is expected to grow much faster than average. Job prospects vary by specialty and language. *Interpreters and translators* facilitate the cross-cultural communication necessary in today's society by converting one language into another. However, these language specialists do more than simply translate words—they relay concepts and ideas between languages. They must thoroughly understand the subject matter in which they work in order to accurately convey information from one language into another. In addition, they must be sensitive to the cultures associated with their languages of expertise.

#### **Wofford launches language academy**

Wofford College today plans to announce the launch of a world-class foreign language academy next summer that is expected to draw some of the brightest middle school and high school students in the Southeast as well as top-notch teachers from around the globe.

#### **ESL students surpass state goals for learning English**

English is a foreign language for hundreds of children in the Burke County public schools. Many grew up speaking Spanish or Hmong, but there are students whose native language is French or Vietnamese, Nigeria's Urhobo, India's Gujarati, Central America's Guatemalan dialects Quichean, Kanjobal,

Aguacateco and Mayan — 18 different languages, in fact, according to Lannie Simpson, the school district's ESL (English as a Second Language) coordinator. In 2009-10, those students performed in school like never before. According to a new report from the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, they met or surpassed all of the national and state goals for Burke County students with limited English proficiency.

### **Defeat of SWL school levy would eliminate AP, foreign language class options**

Advanced placement courses are not the only courses on the proverbial chopping block at Southwest Licking. The district also is poised to eliminate two-and-a-half foreign language teachers. That move also could impact prospective college students because most colleges want students to take two to three years of a foreign language in high school, Wiard said.

## **PREVIOUS NEWS**

### **Program Bolsters Department's Language Capabilities**

"Language and culture are essential to the fight," she [Ms. Nancy Weaver] said during a recent interview. All servicemembers deploying to the Centcom area of operations should receive at least an introduction to language and culture in their training, she said, noting that language is key to understanding a culture. "There are clues to a culture that are hidden in the language," she explained. "That learning process is continual. It doesn't stop when you leave the classroom. You've got to interact with the local population in order to better understand what their concerns are and to get the information you need to keep your people safe." The need for language skills in a counterinsurgency fight is understood, but other military operations also require the capability, Weaver said. "After the earthquake in Haiti, we needed personnel who could speak Creole," she noted. "We were able to get many native and heritage speakers there quickly."

### **Eight Afghans Head To U.S. For Pilot Training**

Eight young Afghan eagles from the Afghan Air Force English language immersion class will soon depart for 18 months of training in the United States. They will return as pilots when training is complete. The eight lieutenants signed their seven-year service commitments before a small gathering of family and their NATO advisors. This intimate ceremony was followed by dinner with family, friends and supporters. "You are the future of Afghanistan and what a bright future Afghanistan has," said Col. Creig Rice. First, they head to the Defense Language Institute in San Antonio, Texas, for approximately six months of training. After living in the Thunder Lab, the NATO Air Training Command-Afghanistan immersion course, and speaking English for the last five months, they are expected to take less time than their predecessors to move on to pilot training.

### **Rare Find: a New Language**

In the foothills of the Himalayas, two field linguists have uncovered a find as rare as any endangered species—a language completely new to science. The researchers encountered it for the first time along the western ridges of Arunachal Pradesh, India's northeastern-most state, where more than 120 languages are spoken. There, isolated by craggy slopes and rushing rivers, the hunters and subsistence farmers who speak this rare tongue live in a dozen or so villages of bamboo houses built on stilts. The language—called Koro—was identified during a 2008 expedition conducted as part of National Geographic's Enduring Voices project. The researchers announced their discovery Tuesday in Washington, D.C. So many languages have vanished world-wide in recent decades that the naming of a new one commanded scientific attention. Their language is quite distinct on every level—the sound, the words, the sentence structure," said Gregory Anderson, director of the nonprofit Living Tongues Institute for Endangered Languages, who directs the project's research.

### **In Tight Races For Congressional Seats, Language Could Make A Difference**

With dozens of U.S. Congressional seats at risk of changing hands in the upcoming November elections, candidates from both parties intend to coax each and every voter to head to the polls and cast a ballot in

their favor. But will those potential voters actually be able to understand the candidates' positions? According to the latest American Community Survey, approximately one in every five residents of the United States (19.7%) speaks a language other than English at home, a testament to the country's long history - and current state - of ethnic and linguistic diversity. Here is a breakdown of the percentage of individuals who speak a foreign language in their residences within each state

### **Parents Pick Up the Tab for Foreign Language Instruction at Elementary Schools**

For many parents in the Katonah Lewisboro schools, the district-wide savings achieved from eliminating the Foreign Language in the Elementary School (FLES) program from this year's school budget were negated by paying out-of-pocket fees for classes. FLES had been in place at the elementary schools for the last two years before it was nixed by the school board in order to save approximately \$250,000 per year. Now over 200 families are paying more than \$70,000 for their children to study Spanish and other languages.

### **Forsyth Co. language programs attracting state attention**

Two first-of-the-kind in Georgia foreign language programs in Forsyth County schools are getting the attention of state education officials. The Workplace Spanish class and integrated MJROTC Russian program are seen as models for other school systems in Georgia. Each targets high-demand areas in the medical and legal professions and the military, respectively. "We are thrilled that North Forsyth is working with the community's individual needs and for the potential benefits of the student," said Jon Valentine, Program Specialist of Foreign Language and International Education for the Georgia Department of Education.

### **Speaking Their Language**

Tom Adams wants executives and businessmen to learn a foreign language. It's a natural desire, considering that he is the CEO of Arlington, Virginia-based language education software firm [Rosetta Stone](#). Adams says that America "risks falling behind in the global economy if we do not strive to be a multilingual society." He cites recent data such as the [World Economic Forum's Global Competitiveness Report](#)—which shows the U.S. [losing its competitive edge](#) to countries like Switzerland, Sweden, and Singapore—and the May 2010 speech by [Arne Duncan, U.S. Secretary of Education](#), saying that the lack of foreign language fluency "affects our ability to compete and collaborate on the world stage."

### **Growing Need for Court Interpreters**

This weekend bilingual residents looking for something to do with their language skills can see if they have what it takes to be a court interpreter. The state court system is hosting an interpreter training session, one of several held each year. WUWM's Ann-Elise Henzl reports. If you don't speak English fluently in Wisconsin, and you're headed to court, the state is required to provide an interpreter in your native language. That goes for defendants on trial, as well as victims and witnesses to crimes.

### **What we must do to move education into the fast lane**

A key is to build up links with industry during this year. Let's give even more students the opportunity to enter the workplace and gain some experience at the coalface. This is also a year where students have a unique opportunity to build up foreign language skills through immersion and other programmes. We could also use this year to forge links with European and Asian schools through online learning or exchange programmes.

### **Letters: Early intervention essential**

We know early intervention is the only way to help children with speech and language needs improve their educational attainment and reach their full potential. We know communication disadvantage is repeated from one generation to the next. On average, a toddler from a family receiving benefits will hear around 600 words per hour. A child from a professional family will hear more than 2,000 words. At the age of six, there is only a gap of a few months between the reading age of a child with good oral language skills at age five and those with poor language skills. This gap will increase to five years' difference at 14.

### **Area and International Studies: Linguistics**

In most of the world, 'you are what you speak,' because national identity is often aligned with linguistic identity. Geopolitical regions are partially defined in terms of language, and the subject matter of area and international studies is embedded in local languages. Despite the importance of linguistic expertise for understanding the peoples of a region and accessing primary material, linguistics is typically regarded as a peripheral discipline for area and international studies, relative to 'core' disciplines such as political science, history, economics, anthropology, sociology, and geography. This peripheral status results from (largely correct) perceptions that linguistics is highly technical and impenetrable, that linguistics is theoretically fractured, and that most linguists in the US are not interested in topics relevant to area and international studies. However there is evidence of renewed linguistic interest in issues of language in the contexts of geography, politics, history, and culture, as well as a commitment to be accessible to other disciplines and language learners.

### **Bilateral Affairs Officer: Eyes and ears for Guard partnerships**

Wayt, the adjutant general of the Ohio National Guard, is midway through a visit to the state's partners in the almost 20-year-old, 62-nation National Guard State Partnership Program: the adjoining nations of Serbia and Hungary. The two officers are bilateral affairs officers. Selected by the state and confirmed by the National Guard Bureau and the combatant command, a BAO is the liaison between a host nation and its National Guard state, first point of contact for either partner. The adjutants general need someone they can trust and rely on who understands the country team, who can be part of the embassies ... to facilitate the close working relationships between the state and the country, to plan those training events that are most worthwhile and to understand the budgetary limitations of the program," Air Force Gen. Craig McKinley, the chief of the National Guard Bureau, said as he returned from Germany in August from meetings with U.S. Africa Command and National Guard leaders about the SPP.

### **Robertson Foundation for Government Pledges \$450,000 to Fund UC San Diego Graduate Students Committed to Federal Government Careers**

The new Robertson Fellows Program, which begins with the current 2010-2011 academic year, is being funded by the Robertson Foundation for Government, which has pledged \$450,000 over the next four years. The program will cover expenses for outstanding students to complete their master's degrees at UC San Diego's School of International Relations and Pacific Studies. Robertson Fellows must have a proficiency in a foreign language upon graduation, and are required to work for the federal government for at least three of the first five years after graduation.