
DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE

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CIA Chief Leon Panetta, Federal Officials Urge Scholars To Help Improve Foreign Language Learning in U.S.

In order to make the United States more globally competitive and secure from foreign attacks, the nation must radically transform the way it teaches foreign language. That was the heart of the message that CIA Director Leon Panetta, U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan and other government leaders delivered Wednesday to more than 300 foreign language educators who gathered at the CIA Foreign Language Summit at the University of Maryland University College conference center.

CIA Director Urges Stronger Focus on Foreign Languages

At a national summit yesterday, Central Intelligence Agency Director Leon Panetta called for a strong national commitment to ensuring that Americans master foreign languages, saying the issue is vital to U.S. security and competitiveness. "A significant cultural change needs to occur," he said, according to a CIA [press release](#). "And that requires a transformation in attitude from everyone involved: individuals, government, schools and universities, and the private sector." U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan also spoke at the event, which was jointly hosted by the CIA and the University of Maryland's [Center for Advanced Study of Language](#). In his remarks, Duncan defended a plan to consolidate an existing federal foreign-language program into a broader, competitive fund.

Pakistan facing language 'crisis' in schools

Study of education system claims dominance of Urdu and English is a barrier to effective schooling for all but a linguistic elite and threatens to undermine social cohesion. Pakistan's commitment to using Urdu as the medium of instruction in its state schools and its ambition to widen access to English language teaching are creating barriers to effective education, limiting economic mobility and undermining social cohesion. These are the stark warnings made in a report on the current state of Pakistan's schools published last month by the [British Council](#) and debated by academics and policy makers in a series of public meetings across the country. The report, [Teaching and learning in Pakistan: the role of language in education](#), sets out proposals that, if implemented, would seek to raise the status of the country's main regional languages, lower barriers to higher-paid government jobs and help to strengthen ties between language groups at a time when political instability is straining national unity.

District Creates AP Language Alternative; FLES Program A Success

FLES consists of a two-year introduction to a foreign language focusing on listening, speaking, reading, writing skills as well as learning the country's culture that uses that language. Giacalone, who refers to the program as "my baby," said that it provides a "seamless transition" for students to move into higher level language programs. Giacalone showed a video of elementary school students answering questions in Spanish spoken to them in Spanish by their teacher, and pictures of the classes corresponding Halloween to [Dia de los Muertos](#), a similar holiday celebrated in Mexico. Giacalone said the district's FLES program is so strong that he is helping other, local districts to model their own FLES programs.

Government Agencies: A Glimpse at Positions at the CIA and NSA

"We're always looking for engineers, computer scientists and other technically qualified applicants who can advance our vital mission of keeping America safe," CIA spokeswoman Paula Weiss said. "Anyone with a scientific or technical background who would like to apply his or her skills to our intelligence mission should check out our Web site to see the wide range of opportunities we offer. It's helpful to have an interest in world affairs, overseas experience or language skills, but it's not necessary."

Oklahoma University Launches Groundbreaking Portable Technology, First Martti Express Deployment in the US

OU Medical Center signed a contract with Language Access Network (“LAN”) as its exclusive partner to provide its hospitals video language interpretation services. Addressing its growing need, OU believes integrating LAN into the language services program is critical for its Limited English Proficient and Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing patient populations. These services will be delivered via LAN’S dedicated HIPAA compliant high-speed broadband network and through its proprietary remote video interpretation equipment, the Martti™ Express. Martti (My Accessible Real Time Trusted Interpreter) offers immediate access with one button simplicity and full mobility throughout the hospital. "The Martti Express is an incredible advancement in video interpretation services," said Catherine Pierce, Associate Chief Nursing Officer. She continued, “It allows us to provide the right interpreter at the right place at the right time. It is light, compact and could not be easier to use.”

How to learn a language

So you want to learn another language, but you aren't sure what method to use. We'll look at how to make a language learning notebook so that you can structure your time and attack grammar, vocabulary, and transcription. This is my simplified version of a Russian guide someone on the How to Learn Any Language forums translated into English. Even busy people can use this method. Do you have 30 minutes a day? If so, you can do this. And I guarantee everyone reading this has at least 90 minutes a day they can spare. If not, you should probably rethink your life a little bit. There are a lot of places where there is an opportunity to study we unfortunately do not take advantage of. Do you have a lunch break at work? Use some of that time. Waiting in line for 4 hours at the Department of Motor Vehicles? Use some of that time. Long bus ride? Dive into a grammar book.

Tiga Talk! Returns With More Tools For Teaching Aboriginal Languages To Kids

Tiga Talk! entertains kids while teaching both Aboriginal and English language skills during the preschool years – an integral stage in development. By watching the series, children can learn how to make language sounds more easily, and have fun doing it! The addition of an interactive website and iPhone application provide even greater learning opportunities, offering games, crafts and videos that give children and their families the chance to explore and learn together.

PREVIOUS NEWS

Women-led U.S. Teams Work With Afghan Women

Following the counterinsurgency tenet of supporting civilians, the Army and Marines have deployed women-focused teams to gain insight into Afghanistan’s mostly silent female population. Female engagement teams are deployed to support battlefield operations and meet with Afghan women to gain understanding and insight into the country’s culture, Army Col. Chadwick W. Clark, director of the Counterinsurgency Training Center-Afghanistan, said during a Dec. 7 “DoDLive” bloggers roundtable. Team members are trained “to conduct female engagements in a culturally respectful manner,” Clark said. They bring to the war effort comprehensive understanding of the operational environment and contribute to civil-military operations, medical visits, and educational programs, he said.

All-female U.S. Marine team in Afghanistan

Here is a selection from the photo essay by Getty Images photojournalist Paula Bronstein that Getty moved this morning. Photographed last month, the images depict the women deployed as the second Female Engagement team in Afghanistan. Getty reports that the women gain access where men cannot and train for any possible situation, including learning Afghan customs and basic Pashtun language. View the full slideshow [HERE](#).

Foreign language courses growing on campuses

A growing number of college students are studying foreign languages, a trend propelled by greater interest in Arabic, a broader palette of languages being taught and more crowded language classes at community colleges, a new study finds. The latest figures from the Modern Language Association, released Wednesday, show that enrollment in foreign language courses grew 6.6 percent between 2006 and 2009, achieving a high mark since the study began in 1960. "This is a vulnerable time for language

study," said Rosemary Feal, the association's executive director and a Spanish professor at the University of Buffalo. "While interest in language study remains strong and students are increasingly interested in studying a wide range of languages, opportunities to study languages may be threatened by program cuts at many colleges and universities."

Educational exchange between China and Eastern Greene School helped by work of student interpreter

One of the busiest people around Eastern Greene schools this past week was junior exchange student Yangyang Ya, who's from Shanghai, China. Yangyang served as the interpreter for a group of 10 students and six teachers and administrators that visited her Indiana school. She smiled often and assisted in the task of bridging the language gap between the folks from her homeland and the Indiana students, teachers, and administrators. Yangyang also helped with the Greene County Daily World's interview with Bai Gang, Director of Foreign Affairs for the Anshan City Bureau of Education and Secretary General for the Anshan City Educational Association for International Exchange. Gang said, "The purpose of this trip is mainly is just to be able to partner and to maintain the friendship between the three schools." He continued, "This is the return visit from when Mr. Lewis visited six schools in Anshan in the year 2008. Another important part of this visit is the signing of the partnership agreement."

\$150,000 grant from Alden Trust supports Hedge-Bill renovations

Expanding from about 27,300 square feet to more than 34,000, the hall will house the departments of German and Russian studies and of romance languages and literatures; the Program in Asian Studies; the Language Resource Center; and the Off-Campus Study Office.

CIA Director Calls for a National Commitment to Language Proficiency at Foreign Language Summit

Speakers at the summit included Central Intelligence Agency Director Leon Panetta, U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, Under Secretary of State for Management Patrick Kennedy, Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness Clifford Stanley, and U.S. Representative Rush Holt of New Jersey. The event, which was held at the University of Maryland/University College Marriott Inn and Conference Center in Hyattsville, was cosponsored by the CIA and the University of Maryland's Center for Advanced Study of Language. More than 300 foreign language experts and educators from the public and private sectors attended.

Secretary Clinton to Address 2010 Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistants on Thursday, December 9

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton will address the 2010 Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistants (FLTA) on Thursday, December 9th at 3:00 p.m. in the Dean Acheson Auditorium of the Department of State. The FLTA Program brings young English teachers to the United States to serve as native language teaching resources in American classrooms, and is a key element in the U.S. government's effort to strengthen both English language teaching abroad and foreign language instruction at U.S. colleges and universities. This academic year, 418 Fulbright FLTA participants from 49 countries are teaching a total of 31 languages on U.S. campuses in 48 states and the District of Columbia.

What do employers value when hiring new graduates?

In the Commission's view, understanding better what employers need will help to shape European education and employment policies. The new initiatives put forward by the European Commission, Youth on the Move and New Skills and Jobs, are focused on this objective and aim at helping Europeans to identify and gain the qualifications and skills required in the job market. Almost 50% of companies with considerable international business identified knowledge of foreign languages as the most important skill for the future. Besides, the survey also found that over a quarter (28%) of employers have recruited graduates from other European countries and 18% has done so from outside Europe. 41% of respondents said that they hired employees from abroad because they wanted the best talent available. Among companies with considerable international dealings, 48% stated that foreign language skills are the most important skills for the future.

'Language is a major stimulant in grooming better scientists'

It is the sheer feeling power of language, acquired through writing poetry which is among the major factors in grooming a better scientist since concentration plays a key role in making one a better thinker, said Nobel laureate in chemistry [Prof Roald Hoffmann](#). He spoke to TOI during his visit to the [Science Conclave](#) which began at the [Indian Institute of Information Technology](#) on Wednesday.

Female Engagement Teams Winning Hearts and Minds in Afghanistan

The many cultures in Afghanistan have one thing in common: They shelter their women from the outside world. In order to reach the "hidden" 50 percent of the Afghan population, NATO and U.S. forces in that country have adopted a strategy used successfully in Iraq, the female engagement team (FET). The Marine version of the program was called "[Lioness](#)" training. The concept is simple: Use women from the allied militaries to interact with Afghan women, search them, provide medical treatment and just listen to their problems. I was part of an [interview](#) held Dec. 7, 2010, with U.S. Army Col. Chadwick W. Clark, director of the COIN Training Center - Afghanistan, NATO Training Mission - Afghanistan (NTM-A) / Combined Security Transition Command - Afghanistan (CSTC-A) on the topic of the FET. Joining him was Marine Colonel Sheila Scanlon as the subject matter expert.

Bridging the Language Gap: Thematic Study Abroad

Today's shrinking world and emerging global village indicate that really clear international communication has become one of our most pressing needs. Foreign languages seem to be the barriers for communication that really ought to be broken. The only way to break them is to learn them, and then they are no longer barriers, but bridges. Today those who settle for the knowledge of only one language tend to be left behind in a kind of darkness. It is rather like closing windows or losing the senses of sight or hearing as far as your knowledge of others outside your own circle is concerned.

Foreign language courses growing on US college campuses despite threats of budget cuts

The latest figures from the Modern Language Association, released Wednesday, show that enrolment in foreign language courses grew 6.6 per cent between 2006 and 2009, achieving a high mark since the study began in 1960. While advocates of language study say any growth is good, things have slowed down since the group's previous report, which showed 12.9 per cent growth between 2002 and 2006. "This is a vulnerable time for language study," said Rosemary Feal, the association's executive director and a Spanish professor at the University of Buffalo. "While interest in language study remains strong and students are increasingly interested in studying a wide range of languages, opportunities to study languages may be threatened by program cuts at many colleges and universities."