
DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE

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Demand for Arabic teachers spurs MSU programs

A rising demand for teachers of Arabic in the state considered the capital of Arab America has led [Michigan State University](#) to launch new undergraduate and graduate programs. About 300,000 people in southeastern Michigan trace their roots to the Arab world, and the East Lansing university said the moves will help fill a shortage of those who can teach the language.

Oakton Elementary Goes GLOBAL: Students participate in pilot program that combines regular curricula with foreign language lessons

Many of Oakton's youngest residents are going to get an extra taste of Spanish in the coming months, thanks to a pilot program coming to [Oakton Elementary School](#) next month. Called [Global Language Benefiting All Learners \(GLOBAL\)](#), the program takes a new approach to language learning that enables students to develop basic communicative skills in one of three languages (Spanish, Korean or Chinese), while reinforcing the science, math and social studies curricula they're learning during regular school hours.

GOP introduces bill to make English Minnesota's official language

Among the first bills introduced in the Minnesota House this session is one aimed at establishing English as the official language of the state. Republican Reps. Steve Drazkowski of Mazeppa, David Hancock of Bemidji, Sondra Erickson of Princeton, and Roger Crawford of Mora introduced the bill on Monday. HF 64 would make English the official language of Minnesota: "No law, ordinance, order, program, or policy of this state or any of its political subdivisions, shall require the use of any language other than English for any documents, regulations, orders, transactions, proceedings, meetings, programs, or publications, except as provided in subdivision 3."

EVSC looking to expand foreign language instruction

The Evansville Vanderburgh School Corp. took a step Tuesday toward expanding foreign language instruction to more students, including those in elementary grades. Various EVSC middle and high schools currently have instruction in Spanish, German, French, Japanese and Latin. About 3,800 students now take those courses. Under a new contract between the school district and Rosetta Stone, a company that develops language-learning software, the EVSC will offer a pilot program for about 3,000 students.

Mandarin's gain can't offset lag in language classes

Despite budget cuts to foreign language programs at many U.S. schools, the study of Mandarin has jumped by almost 200 percent in three years, according to a recent study funded by the U.S. Department of Education. Still, the study also found that just 32 percent of students in grades 6 to 12 nationwide are enrolled in a foreign language program, leaving the U.S. behind many countries. (In the European Union, for example, 94 percent of secondary level students study a language other than their native tongue.)

PREVIOUS NEWS

NECC Leads the Way in Language and Culture Awareness Training

In response to the Secretary of Defense's Language Transformation Roadmap, the U.S. Navy began incorporating language and cultural awareness into the Fleet Response Training Plan in 2006. The goal was to align language skills, region expertise and cultural awareness with operational requirements to support joint and Navy missions. Navy Expeditionary Combat Command (NECC) implemented a

comprehensive training plan in January 2007, which executed the Chief of Naval Operations Language, Regional Expertise and Culture (LREC) Strategy, ensuring deployable combat forces receive regional and cultural awareness training that will enable effective interaction with native populations, local and government officials and coalition partners.

Languages Needed, but No Plans to Learn

Demand for U.S. workers who speak foreign languages—especially Spanish and Chinese—should continue to grow over the next decade, but very few workers plan to study them, according to a newly released study by the University of Phoenix Research Institute. The institute surveyed 511 workers and 419 employers last fall. Workers were asked what skills or degrees they already had or were planning to acquire; employers were asked what skills were in demand or would be in demand in 10 years. The result: 42% of employers expect business proficiency in Chinese to be in moderate or high demand in a decade; nearly 70% expect Spanish to be in demand.

Educators Lobby for Future of Foreign Language Studies

A group of foreign language scholars met in Hauppauge last Friday to discuss the future of foreign language education in New York State. The [Foreign Language Association of Chairpersons and Supervisors](#) (FLACS) drew attention in late November after its leaders said they [would work to create foreign language proficiency exams](#) after the state axed all middle school exams and several Regents exams at the high school level.

The exaggerated decline of foreign languages

The internationally-minded have long recognized the need for language instruction. Sprenger said that language is a key to understanding other cultures. Lew Cramer, president and CEO of World Trade Center Utah said that having language training is important for today's economy: "I just quote German poet Goethe: 'He who speaks only one language sees the world with only one eye.' In today's world we need all the eyes we can possibly have."

Parents push for foreign language in elementary schools

School officials tout the district as a deciding factor for home buyers, but for some parents who "shopped around," the district might fall short of expectations. For Karen Christiansen, a Darien mother leading the charge to get foreign language incorporated into the elementary curriculum for four years, being bilingual is a must in today's global economy. "I've had every job I've had because I speak Italian," Christiansen, who taught at an international school in Italy and worked as director of international divisions for Tommy Hilfiger, Liz Claiborne and Donna Karan, said.

Why Chinese Mothers Are Superior

Despite our squeamishness about cultural stereotypes, there are tons of studies out there showing marked and quantifiable differences between Chinese and Westerners when it comes to parenting. In one study of 50 Western American mothers and 48 Chinese immigrant mothers, almost 70% of the Western mothers said either that "stressing academic success is not good for children" or that "parents need to foster the idea that learning is fun." By contrast, roughly 0% of the Chinese mothers felt the same way. Instead, the vast majority of the Chinese mothers said that they believe their children can be "the best" students, that "academic achievement reflects successful parenting," and that if children did not excel at school then there was "a problem" and parents "were not doing their job." Other studies indicate that compared to Western parents, Chinese parents spend approximately 10 times as long every day drilling academic activities with their children. By contrast, Western kids are more likely to participate in sports teams.

Many employers 'seeking cultural and language skills'

Employee skills relating to language and culture are both being sought by a number of firms at the moment, an expert has highlighted. According to Teresa Tinsley, director of planning, delivery and communications at CILT, the National Centre for Languages, job candidates might be able to single themselves out with the aid of language skills. She stated: "There is evidence that more and more employers want languages and cultural skills, and the international savvy that language learning brings."

[Need a Job? Learn a Language](#)

An increase in global communications is driving the demand for linguist and interpreters. There are many reasons a job seeker should learn a foreign language. It immediately makes you more attractive to those industries that rely on bilingual capabilities as well as opening up employment possibilities in another country. Now there's an even greater reason. There is a growing need world-wide for linguists and interpreters. The multinational interpreting and translation company, Thebigword.com, plans to create up to 3,000 more jobs for linguists this year to meet a growing need. In a [press release](#), the translation company said governments use interpreters to save lives in healthcare, deliver justice, and police borders, among other vital services, so quality can't be compromised.

[Senators Say Military Cyber Ops Not Disclosed](#)

The exchanges between Vickers, nominee for Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence, and the Senate panel also cover a wide range of other intelligence issues. If confirmed, Vickers said, his big challenge would be the continuing struggle to meet the military's "unmet demand" for intelligence as the U.S. fights two wars and works to dismantle terrorist networks, including those in Yemen and Somalia. Asked whether the intelligence community has devoted enough counterterrorism resources to Yemen and Somalia, Vickers said the military needs more intelligence and special operations forces with language and cultural expertise.

[Crucial training prepares flag officers for deployment](#)

The former head of Air Command and Staff College, Brig. Gen. Anthony Rock, prepared in part by attending the Air Force Culture and Language Center's General Officer Pre-Deployment Acculturation Course, or GOPAC, where experts in language and culture helped to familiarize him with what he can expect to encounter. "It's not just language. It truly is culture and language," General Rock said. "The culture training was more than just how to shake hands, how to drink tea."

[DOD Teachers Take on Mission in Afghanistan](#)

Judy Ryan has taught English as a second language in five countries over the past 15 years, but this is her first year teaching in a war zone. Ryan, a Department of Defense Education Activity teacher, is on a one-year deployment to Afghanistan to teach English to Afghans. She's stationed on Camp Morehead in eastern Afghanistan, surrounded by an Afghan commando training base, from which she draws many of her students. The DODEA teachers work on a mobile training team alongside nine teachers from the Defense Language Institute in San Antonio, augmented by about 50 Afghan English teachers.

[Phone app aims to bridge language gap for US troops in Afghanistan](#)

A smartphone app is being touted as the potential solution to the yawning linguistic gulf between US soldiers in [Afghanistan](#) and the Pashtun villagers they are trying to win over. After a decade of relying on interpreters, the [US military](#) is testing a simultaneous translation programme that runs on an ordinary smartphone. Developed by US defence department scientists, it can translate from English into Dari and Pashto, the two main languages of Afghanistan, and back again. Transtac (short for "translation system for tactical use") is being tested by members of the 101st Airborne Division in the eastern province of Paktika.