
DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE

CURRENT NEWS 03 MARCH 2011

Virginia OKs sign language as foreign language for schools

Virginia Assembly passed legislation that would require all colleges and universities to accept ASL courses as a fulfillment for any foreign language requirement. Maryland is already one of 35 states that already recognize ASL as a language and grants credit for ASL courses as a general studies requirement.

FBI hosts foreign language job fair

With the expansion of the FBI's role of safeguarding American and its people, they are continuing to create many new opportunities for linguists. See this article for focused languages and pay scale ranges for the Chicago, Illinois office.

Summer Foreign Language Courses Assist Teens with Language and Confidence

A foreign language immersion program is a great opportunity for teenagers to develop a sense of independence and learn a second language.

An innovative scheme is helping primary teachers brush up their language skills

Studies show that more than half of the teachers in Great Britain that are delivering foreign language study in primary schools have limited knowledge and skills of the language they are teaching. To prepare teachers to meet the challenge the University of Worcester has launched a course to "up-skill" those with some limited knowledge.

Speaking two languages a golden opportunity

This is an editorial about the concern over the Hispanic population not immersing their children with the Spanish-language at home.

PREVIOUS NEWS

Foreign Language Pains

Foreign language courses are a colossal waste of time. Need to understand why Americans don't speak foreign languages? Just read this article by a student from the University of Missouri at Kansas City. "I can understand foreign language being a necessity if it's something you will need to use directly with your degree. Say, if you're majoring in a foreign language or something like that. Otherwise, a foreign language course is a waste of time, money and energy."

Foreign Language Education Caught in Silly War of Words

Like the article above? The Johnson County Republican Party executive committee adopted a resolution Tuesday condemning the Bush-era Arabic language and cultural studies lessons planned for a few schools in south Arlington and Mansfield. One blogger wrote, "One Nation, One Language, One Culture."

In one of final addresses to Army, Gates describes vision for military's future

The Secretary of Defense Robert Gates urged West Point cadets to take career risks by taking assignments that in the past might have been seen by their peers as career dead-ends. "I would encourage you to become a master of other languages and cultures, a priority of mine since taking this post," he said.

Changes to Wyoming Hathaway scholarship in trouble

The battle over foreign language requirements for scholarship eligibility continues in the state of Wyoming. The House wants to make foreign language optional in high school for all four levels of the state-funded Hathaway scholarship, while the Senate wants to keep foreign language mandatory for the top two scholarship levels that award the most money.

Baylor Sophomore Receives Critical Language Scholarship to China

A Baylor University sophomore has received the Critical Language Scholarship provided by the U.S. State Department to study in an immersion program in China this summer.

English in Schools Too Easy for Pupils

Young people in Finland speak English so well that many schools have decided to step up the level of teaching. According to the Finnish National Board of Education, a change in curriculum might be on the cards. Many Finnish pupils find that their English language curriculum has few challenges to offer. They encounter a lot of English outside of school, because it has gained an important place in the Finnish youth culture and on the internet.

Simple Guide to Speaking Foreign Languages

1. Have the right learning approach. 2. Stop learning the language, and start speaking it! 3. Don't wait to finish the course – take matters into your own hands! 4. You don't need to travel to speak the language. 5. A positive attitude is key.

Experiencing a revolution: West Point cadets witness history in Egypt

West Point cadets went to Egypt to study language but unwittingly became witnesses to history in the making. Eight members of the Class of 2012, Cadets Brett Schuck, Brendan Mahoney, Brendan Lopez, Patrick O'Shaughnessy, Matthew McGoffin, Kalan Snyder, Jason Steimelm and Bennett Holcomb, along with two U.S. Naval Academy midshipmen, arrived in Egypt Jan. 25, for a semester-long Study Abroad program at the American University in Cairo. "From the first day we flew into Cairo, despite the unpredictable situation, we all wanted to stay," Snyder said via e-mail. "It was electric. It wasn't the civil war we watched on the news. It was just an exciting time for the Egyptian people and we felt it was a rare privilege to be there, even when most Western reporters and others were afraid to come in."

ROTC Language Courses

Pentagon Channel clip focusing on the ROTC skill proficiency bonus with interviews from Ms. Nancy Weaver, DoD Senior Language Authority, and two Georgetown University cadets.

More officers headed for foreign liaison jobs

The Air Force is more than doubling its number of international jobs while at the same time ratcheting up standards for the career field. More than 1,050 officers will have foreign liaison assignments after the service adds 619 slots to its international affairs specialist program. Today, 531 officers serve abroad in outreach roles. "If we underestimate the significance of language, region and culture in our global endeavors, we do so at our own risk and to the detriment of our effectiveness," Schwartz told an audience last month at a Defense Department language and culture summit.

Reaching Afghanistan's hidden war widows in Helmand

After decades of conflict in Afghanistan, there are almost two million widows leading secluded, poverty-stricken lives. But now all-female army units are going into remote villages in an effort to integrate these women into wider society.

FETs communicate with Afghan women

"The female engagement team ... has been around for the past nine years, we are just starting to put a name on it now," said Lt. Col. Teresa Wolfgang, 404th Civil Affairs Battalion commander. "Fifty percent of the Afghan people are women; if you ignore 50 percent of the population, you're not going to get that much information. This is Afghan culture and we have to respect it, that's where the female engagement team comes into play."