
DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE

CURRENT NEWS 09 MARCH 2011

Global Learning Scales Up

Becoming more global is a familiar refrain for many a school administrator or curriculum developer wrestling with delivering 21st century skills. Over the past decade, districts have expanded their foreign language programs, added Mandarin Chinese to the mix, and in some cases launched language immersion classes in their elementary schools. Others have opened entire schools designed around international education.

Japan launches primary push to teach English

Compulsory foreign language lessons start next month for all 10- to 12-year-olds, raising hopes among educators and industry leaders of ending a decades-long 'English deficit'. The new curriculum is to be introduced after intense lobbying from the business community, amid fears that Japan's competitive edge could be blunted unless it takes English communication as seriously as China and South Korea.

Sweetwater's biliteracy effort is growing

A novel biliteracy program at the [Sweetwater Union High School District](#) is becoming more popular and is attracting the attention of a statewide education group that would like to see the effort expand elsewhere in [California](#). The Sweetwater district is the only one in the county and just one of 33 in the state to offer qualifying students the seal of biliteracy on their diploma. The distinction is meant to show mastery in more than one language.

Khalil Hall Dedication Ceremony

Congressman Sam Farr, DLIFLC Commandant Col. Danial Pick, and family members of the late Alfie Khalil were on hand March 4 at the Presidio of Monterey for the dedication and ribbon cutting ceremony of the DLIFLC's newest general instruction building, Khalil Hall. Khalil began as an Arabic instructor at the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center in 1979 and became the president of the American Federation of Government Employees from 1989 until his death in 2006.

The Consortium for Language Teaching and Learning

Links to language centers, national foreign language resource centers (Title VI), language consortia, and International Educational Exchange Organizations.

PREVIOUS NEWS

'Ga-Ga' for Daddy's Data

MIT Professor Deb Roy studied ways caregivers influence how babies learn to talk by bringing his work home. He wired his house with 11 cameras and 14 microphones so he could analyze hours of footage to learn how his son acquired language in real life.

Students bridge culture gaps over lunch

"Language and Lunch" is a program that pairs students with one another's language and provides them lunch and a comfortable environment for learning. This program is offered at Palomar College in San Marcos, California.

Language shouldn't be so foreign

The state of Georgia requires high school students to have just two years of a foreign language to graduate and this is typical of many other states. However, schools should be doing more, though. It is arguably more beneficial to start earlier in order to learn more than just the basics.

Yakety Yak Doesn't Look Back!

Yakety Yak Language Café in Edinburgh, Scotland started when the owner decided she would like to improve her own foreign language conversation skills over a cup of coffee or a glass of wine rather than in the formal atmosphere of a classroom. Over 150 people are now “yakking” in 7 different languages at the café.

Wheatley: For the Love of Language

What does a “Romance Language” major or any other language major from a liberal arts colleges sound like to an outsider? Are language majors worth the time and effort in the big picture of life and career? To get the author's opinion read the full article.

National Foreign Language Week

National Foreign Language Week is celebrated this week (March 7-13, 2011). The official theme this year is “Languages Make the World Go ‘Round”. NFLW was inaugurated in the spring of 1957 by the Alpha Mu Gamma Honor Society at Los Angeles City College for the purpose of making Americans aware of the need and importance of foreign language study.

Commanders Cite Unpredictable Future Threats

Navy ADM Eric Olson of USSOCOM and Marine Corps GEN James Mattis of USCENTCOM discussed the status of their commands and their priorities during a hearing on their FY2012 budget requests with the House Armed Services Committee. Potential solutions will include promoting language skills and micro-regional expertise as essential military requirements.

Iran urged to declare Azerbaijani an official language

A conference of ethnic Azerbaijanis in Norway has urged the Iranian government to make Turkish an official language of Iran.

The Army's Foreign Area Officer Program: To Wither or to Improve?

“The Army has come a long way in establishing a professional FAO program that supports service and joint requirements. It must refocus the program, however, and provide the guidance, assignments and resources to make the program more relevant to the ongoing operations in which our military is engaged.” This is quoted from a Small Wars Journal article by LTC Daniel Mouton.

4 Afghan women hope to break gender barriers

Four Afghan women are about to be the first to enter their service through officer candidate school. They will spend about 3 months improving their English at the Defense Language Institute at Lackland AFB, Texas before moving to the Army's Fort Rucker, AL for helicopter pilot training.

AfPak Hands Strive for Cultural Awareness

Since 2009 DoD has fast-tracked cultural expertise and language ability to places where they're needed the most. AfPak Hands trains military and civilian personnel from all services, mostly mid-career officers, to serve as a core cadre to build trust between the U.S. military and local populations in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

One voice connects two nations

Language barriers are common during training between two countries, and in the case of Iron Fist, the annual exercise to enhance amphibious capabilities and increase interoperability between the U.S. and Japan, Lance Cpl. Westley Contrata was the solution.

DLI Prepares Service Members for Language, Culture in Afghanistan, Pakistan

The Defense Language Institute provided 16 weeks of language training to recent graduates in the AfPak Hands program. This intense language training consists of six hours classroom training a day plus

homework five days a week. The Training Support Organization at Dam Neck was very supportive in getting this course underway in short order.

Cultural awareness key to success, Army official says

LTG Ken Keen notes the importance of being able to change gears on the fly. The military has to be culturally aware in order to respond to contingencies around the world. "Learning a language is opening a door to culture." Keen said.

The Best Undergraduate B-Schools of 2011

With U.S. job growth weak, business programs that top the latest Bloomberg Businessweek ranking are going global in a big way. Prospective students are looking for a "heavy emphasis" on international experience and universities are beginning to notice. Check out this article for examples of international programs and international experience requirements for different degree programs.

Afghan Hands bring unique skills to Afghan fight

Members of an innovative Afghan advising program known as Afghan Hands recently arrived in Afghanistan. These experts will come back to the same positions in another year and they will come back with all the experience they gained from their previous deployment.

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.