
DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE

CURRENT NEWS 17 MARCH 2011

Government of Canada Invests in Research on Official Languages

Researchers at the University of Ottawa will compile a comprehensive history of the French language in North America by chronicling the accounts of families over the last 400 years and looking at how French has shaped Canadian communities, culture and our country. Royal Galipeau, Member of Parliament (Ottawa Orleans), on behalf of the Honourable Gary Goodyear, Minister of State (Science and Technology), made the announcement of funding today at the University of Ottawa. "Our government is investing in science and technology to create jobs, improve the quality of life of Canadians and strengthen our economy," said MP Galipeau. "This investment will help ensure that Canadians in francophone communities have the tools they need to prosper and develop their language and culture for future generations."

Push language choice? Nyet, nein, non, nope

For parents determined to convince their middle school student to study a particular foreign language, linguistics expert Nancy Rhodes offers a bit of advice: First, be grateful your child's middle school even offers a foreign language program. Then back off and let your child decide. "Frankly, it doesn't matter what foreign language a child selects, because once they go through the learning process, it makes it much easier to learn a second, third or even a fourth language," said Rhodes, director of foreign language education at the [Washington, D.C.](#)-based Center for Applied Linguistics.

Celebrating 50 Years of Peace Corps: Q & A with Madison and Chicago Peace Corps Representatives

The [Peace Corps](#) is a celebrated organization working to help people around the world, while promoting a better understanding of Americans and of other people on the part of American volunteers. UW-Madison is presently ranked as the number two, sending university with 2,906 returned volunteers and about 77 alumni currently serving. With the [African Studies Program](#) hosting "[Peace Corps and Africa: 50 Years](#)" on March 24-26, we took the opportunity to sit down with Kim Johnson, the Peace Corps campus representative, and Jeffery Rhodes, who works in the Chicago regional office, to discuss the unique experience that is the Peace Corps.

Educators from China to spend time in Munson, Concord townships

Three area Catholic schools are excited about a new collaboration on Chinese language and culture. Beginning with the 2011-12 academic year, the schools will host two teachers from China, who are expected to provide a comprehensive language and culture program for all grade levels. One teacher will be on staff at Notre Dame-Cathedral Latin in Munson Township and will begin teaching Chinese 1 to freshmen this fall, Principal Joseph Waler said. Once the teacher becomes accustomed to living and teaching in a different country, additional classes will be offered.

Foreign Languages for Kids Company Filling Gap Left by Budget Cuts

"¡Hola Niños!", "¿Cómo están?" is what kids hear weekly in classes across metro Atlanta when they attend Spanish class at their school. They greet Cosmo, the class mascot, like a long-lost friend. These kids are part of the Lango Foreign Languages for Kids program which provides on-site classes in daycares, play spaces, and elementary schools. The classes are providing what some schools used to provide as part of their curriculum; foreign language classes. But with budget cuts, many schools are opting to have an outside company provide classes for children, and have parents pay themselves.

Middle school to offer beginning Mandarin

Seventh-grade students will now be able to choose Mandarin as a foreign language option in addition to Spanish and French. The middle school plans to offer both foreign language and reading courses to all seventh- and eighth-grade students. Mandarin II, III and IV will be offered at the high school, as they are now.

Schools cutting foreign language programs

Along with the possible consolidation of schools, Burke County Public Schools will more than likely see foreign language programs cut from middle and high schools. Rexanna Lowman, the director of secondary education, said the high schools would revert to two foreign languages, Spanish and French, while the middle schools would lose all foreign language programs. Freedom High School would retain one German class, Lowman said. But the remaining high schools would lose their German programs and East Burke and Draughn also will lose their Latin programs.

PREVIOUS NEWS

Japan earthquake appeal for skilled Merseysiders to offer help

A request has been circulated among the linguistics community for speakers of Chinese, Korean, Spanish and Portuguese as well as Japanese and English. An organisation called Translators Without Frontiers is coordinating the appeal.

2011 Critical Language Scholarships, USA

A program of United States Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, the Critical Language Scholarship (CLS) Program will offer intensive summer language institutes overseas in thirteen critical need foreign languages for summer 2011. The selection process will be administered by the Council of American Overseas Research Centers (CAORC) with awards approved by the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. The CLS Program will be administered by CAORC and American Councils for International Education. Critical Language Scholarship (CLS) institutes provide fully-funded group-based intensive language instruction and structured cultural enrichment experiences for seven to ten weeks for U.S. citizen undergraduate, Master's and Ph.D. students.

IB Teacher Relies on Puppets, Immersion in Spanish Language | TheLedger.com

A teacher in the school's International Baccalaureate program, Ramirez teaches in language immersion fashion. The students hear the words from her before they see them written. That way, they learn proper pronunciation. The course not only immerses the students in Spanish, it accelerates the pace of learning. Her students get three years of instruction in their first two years. Then, as juniors, they are in fourth-year Spanish and by the time they are seniors, they are in their fifth year.

Czechs should learn several languages — even Mandarin

Experts from the government's National Economic Council (NERV) have submitted a proposal to Minister of Education Josef Dobeš (Public Affairs, VV) that only English should be compulsory for school children. According to NERV, Czech students should be able to get by in life if they are fluent in English. Instead of studying another compulsory foreign language, for example, German or French, they could concentrate on law, finance and IT. A second foreign language would be voluntary.

Through Charter School, English Language Learners In The Spotlight

In the city of Boston, nearly 30 percent of students don't speak English well. The government calls them English Language Learners. As a group, they are doing poorly in the city's public schools. Only about half of them graduate and they have poor test scores. The U.S. Department of Justice found the school system was not providing adequate services to thousands of these students. Alan Safran runs MATCH Public Charter School. It's considered one of the best schools in the city. When MATCH got permission to open a new school, it designed its entire program around children learning English as a second language.

"We have Spanish, Cape Verdean Creole, Haitian Creole, Chinese, Somali, Vietnamese and Portuguese," Safran said.

South Korean Students Learn English from Robot Teacher

Many South Korean families spend thousands of dollars a year on English language education for their children. Students attend private academies often until late at night every day. Most such schools hire teachers from abroad, but a team of engineers has created a robot that they hope will eventually replace foreign instructors.

IUPUI Receives Simon Award for Comprehensive Internationalization

Association of International Educators announced today the five winners of the Simon Award for Comprehensive Internationalization, as well as the three institutions being recognized with the Senator Paul Simon Spotlight Award. Named for the late Senator Paul Simon, (D-Ill.), these awards recognize outstanding and innovative efforts in campus internationalization. Sen. Simon was well known as a strong supporter of international education and foreign language learning. His leadership in these areas was especially evident in his robust support for the creation of the National Security Education Program, which addresses critical national security deficiencies in language and cultural expertise, and in his vision of a national program to greatly expand U.S. citizens' knowledge of the world, which was the inspiration behind the Senator Paul Simon Study Abroad Foundation Act.

Does the United States Need a Language Policy?

Some nations include a language policy in their constitution. For example, France declared French as its official language in amending its constitution before it joined the European Community in 1992, and many Arab countries combine a statement about Arabic as their national language alongside their proclamation of Islam as their official religion. More than half of national constitutions include one or more language clauses establishing national or official languages (Jones, 2001). Sixty-three countries name one official language; in addition, there are seven former Soviet republics that establish a single state language and another eight states with one official language and one or more national languages.

Bilinguals See the World in a Different Way, Study Suggests

Learning a foreign language literally changes the way we see the world, according to new research. Panos Athanasopoulos, of Newcastle University, has found that bilingual speakers think differently to those who only use one language. "As well as learning vocabulary and grammar you're also unconsciously learning a whole new way of seeing the world," said Dr Athanasopoulos. "There's an inextricable link between language, culture and cognition."

Cherokee language classes help keep tradition alive

Preserving native languages and evolutionary knowledge are intertwined. The work of preservation is pursued on Tuesday nights in Lybarger's church in East Peoria with a little flute music, storytelling and word repetition. Lybarger teaches Tsalagi, Cherokee language classes. He learned the language as a child from his great uncle. Because first languages were oral, without a written record, thousands of years of knowledge depended on a rich storytelling tradition passed from one generation to the next.

Foreign doctors bridge language gap

Going to the doctor can be hard enough as is. So imagine how difficult it would be if a visit to the doctor's office was as much about jumping language barriers as it was about receiving medical care. That's the problem that a student-run program at the University of Rochester Medical Center (URMC) is trying to fix. As part of the medical school's certificate program for students interested in serving Latino communities, future doctors are practicing mock patient visits entirely in Spanish.

Language Expert Publishes 'Think and Grow Fluent'

"This small [language learning book](#) will help anyone to shave thousands of hours of tedious learning time from whatever language they choose to learn," says Frobose, "I highly recommend reading it before beginning your study of any language." According to Frobose, once you've programmed your mind to enjoy the [language learning process](#), you will grow to love language learning so much that a language learner's new problem won't be finding the discipline to study a new language.

Where Minds Meet: FET bridges gap between Western, Afghan culture

The FET Marines aren't meant to be interchangeable with infantry regulars; rather, they complement the coalition counterinsurgency strategy by reaching out to Afghan communities in a culturally sensitive way. They help amplify the voice of Afghan women.