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## **DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE**

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### **CURRENT NEWS 21 MARCH 2011**

#### **Virtual schools teaching states valuable lessons**

A few years ago, when he was governor of West Virginia, Bob Wise attended a graduation ceremony at Pickens High School in Randolph County, a tiny school on top of a mountain where the graduating class consisted of only two students. As he was leaving, he asked the principal how the school was able to attract foreign language teachers. "He laughed and said, 'We have one of the best Spanish instructors in the country.' And I said, 'How could that be possible here on this mountain?' And he pointed to a satellite dish and he said, 'She comes in every day at 10 o'clock from San Antonio, Texas.' "That's when I learned the power of distance learning," said Wise, now the president of the Alliance for Excellent Education. Many states are increasingly learning the same lesson. A combination of higher proficiency standards and tighter budgets are prompting school officials to look more closely than ever at online education.

#### **Philippine DepEd offers HS students more foreign languages courses**

DepEd's Bureau of Secondary Education chief Director Lolita Andrada said the Special Program in Foreign Language is designed for schools whose students have demonstrated competence first in English before they start to learn another foreign language. "Studies have shown that facility in just one foreign language is now perceived as a disadvantage in a global market that is culturally and linguistically diverse," added Andrada.

#### **ECOLT Call for Papers**

With the support of the Center for Applied Linguistics (CAL), Second Language Testing, Inc. (SLTI), Georgetown University, and the National Capital Language Resource Center (NCLRC), the East Coast Organization of Language Testers (ECOLT) will hold its tenth annual conference on **October 28-29, 2011** in Washington, D.C.

#### **As Thomas Jefferson adds help for poor English skills, some Va. parents fume**

As Northern Virginia became home to more immigrant families in recent decades, Fairfax County officials say they started programs to teach English as a second language at every school — about 200 of them. Except one. The holdout was the region's hallowed magnet school, [Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology](#), where many assumed that steep admissions standards rendered such a program for English language learners unnecessary. But next year, at the behest of the school's teachers, Thomas Jefferson — often called TJ — plans to hire its first instructor to cater to a growing number of students who thrive in math and science classes but sometimes struggle with English.

#### **Institute fosters Chinese relations**

China will no longer seem 9,200 kilometres away from Saskatchewan, thanks to a new institute at the University of Regina. Vianne Timmons, U of R president, announced that a Confucius Institute will be established in Regina. The institute will help promote Chinese language and culture in the city, while strengthening Saskatchewan's relationship with China. "Canada-China relations are critical as we move forward in the future," Timmons said on Friday at a media conference to announce the establishment of the institute.

#### **Moscow plays host to Russian language contest**

The First International Russian Language Contest among foreign students has come to a close in Moscow, bringing together more than 300 kids from the far and near abroad who competed in Russian language skills for three weeks. The award ceremony took place at the Moscow Et Cetera Theatre.

### [Using a Foreign Language](#)

Back in Vietnamese classes again and meeting the age-old problems. The Asian teachers and [students](#) seem to be mired in a single [dictionary definition](#) for each English word, and they can't seem to accept that, in this situation, the translation is one thing, but in another situation, the same word needs to be translated differently.

### [Teacher recognized for excellence in her field](#)

Maria Schiele was awarded the Ohio Foreign Language Beginning Teacher Award last week by the Ohio Foreign Language Association. Schiele, who was nominated by a colleague in the world language department at the high school, will be recognized at the organization's state conference next month. "I felt truly honored, excited, and humbled to be selected for this award," Schiele, 27, said. "Maria was chosen for her leadership and innovation in delivering instruction in French," said Doreen Osmun, director of curriculum and instruction. "She immerses her students in the language and culture."

## [PREVIOUS NEWS](#)

### [Afghan pilots graduate aviation English course](#)

More than 80 Afghan Air Force pilots graduated from an aviation English course at a ceremony on the Afghan Air Force Base in here March 14. The course, split between varying levels of language proficiency ranging from elementary to intermediate, taught aviation-centric English meant to help the airmanship of Afghan pilots. English is the universal language for aviation, and by upgrading the understanding Afghan pilots have of English, the AAF will be able to improve safety measures and operability with regional and global partners, said Flight Lieutenant Henry Wilkinson, the air attaché for the British Embassy in Kabul.

### [Patz expands opportunities for people to build language skills](#)

Patz works on two initiatives to increase training in critical languages: the [Boren Scholarships and Fellowships](#) program and [Project Global Officers](#). Boren brings civilian students with regional experience and language skills into the federal government. Project Global Officer targets students with an interest in military service who may not have had language or study abroad experience. "Both are scholarship programs that provide funding for undergraduate and graduate students to study internationally; they focus on geographic areas, languages, and fields of study that are critical to U.S. national security, broadly defined, and underrepresented in study abroad," Patz says.

### [Education and Training: The Foreign Service's Challenge](#)

The American Foreign Service has long been known for its resistance to and disdain for systematic training, with the single notable exception of language training, a skill universally recognized as essential to the success of a diplomatic career. In recent months the American Academy of Diplomacy with the support of the Stimson Center carried out a [study of this problem](#) and made substantial recommendations to improve the quality of training and to reverse this anti-training attitude.

### [Can America Lead Without Learning Other Languages?](#)

It's no secret that these are troubled times for foreign language programs in the United States. Despite the historic high number of students taking languages other than English, some institutions are making choices to curtail or close programs, to take away opportunities to major in certain languages and, in the most benign version, to fail to invest in the structure necessary to sustain and grow languages as a field of study. Even with all the recent public rhetoric about globalization, some leaders on and off campus think that as a nation we can participate or even lead without having to learn the languages or know about the cultures of the rest of the world. It's enough, they say, to study the economics, politics and histories of other nations and peoples — all in English — to function well on the global stage.

## [MAKING LANGUAGE ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE MEANINGFUL: THE NEED FOR A FEDERAL HEALTH CARE INTERPRETERS' STATUTE](#)

In Miami, Florida, the misinterpretation of a word delays treatment for Willie Ramirez and results in the eighteen-year-old-year old living the rest of his life as a quadriplegic. At a doctor's office in Merced, California, Ker Moua's son, acting as the communication conduit between the doctor and his non-English speaking mother, mistranslates the doctor's instructions with respect to the prescription medication, and she overdoses. In Queens, New York, Moon Chul Sun, a Korean speaking patient, is unable to communicate with doctors for three days until an interpreter that "spoke little Korean" tells him, while he is being discharged, that the only course of treatment was to take Tylenol. He dies a month later. These cases illustrate a significant challenge facing a health care system that is unable to comply with federal regulations designed to address the needs of patients who are unable to communicate proficiently in English.

### **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.