
DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE

CURRENT NEWS 30 MARCH 2011

Breaking Language Barriers

Recruiting workers with strong foreign language skills, especially in national security roles, is an ongoing struggle for federal agencies. But the National Security Education Program is providing some relief. Designed to build a broader and more qualified pool of candidates with foreign language and international skills, NSEP focuses on the cultures of Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, Latin America and the Middle East. The program is administered by the Defense Department and a 13-member advisory board chaired by Samuel D. Kleinman, deputy assistant secretary for readiness. Other members include senior officials from the Commerce, Education, Energy, Homeland Security and State departments.

Foreign Language & Cultural Integration Quarterly

This is the first issue of our newsletter for foreign language and cultural programs within the Intelligence Community (IC). The United States faces a complex and rapidly shifting international security landscape. We are facing a demanding period where language and cultural skills are a profound necessity to numerous intelligence missions. In August 2009, the Director of National Intelligence released the National Intelligence Strategy for the United States of America, stating that "foreign language skills, cultural understanding and regional expertise constitute essential core capabilities for the IC to defeat extremist groups, including terrorists at home and abroad; prevent and counter the spread of weapons of mass destruction; provide strategic warning; counter adversarial intelligence threats; enhance cyber security, and support diplomatic, military, and law enforcement engagements."

At Albany, Half a Loaf or Crumbs?

Late in the day on Thursday, the university announced that French and Russian would survive as minors, and that some instruction would continue in Italian. The French program currently extends to the doctoral level and the other language programs slated for elimination offer bachelor's degrees. Thursday's statement from the university said that "[t]hese actions will ensure that these program areas have a strong presence and expertise within the university," and that students would be able to study French and Russian as "focused secondary subjects." But faculty leaders said that they had little information on how the language programs would evolve.

John Hartmann: Citizen of the world

In 1975, John Hartmann, a young professor of Thai language and culture at NIU, received his first research grant to conduct linguistic fieldwork in, of all places, Iowa. With leftover grant money, he hired a graduate student to write a computer program converting the alpha-numeric field data into printable Tai Dam script, which previously could only be reproduced by hand with Chinese brush and ink. It wasn't long before the National Security Agency, which was trying to develop its own computer-aided instruction programs, contacted the young researchers, asking them to produce a much-needed font for standard Thai — an historic first.

Chinese students enrolling in U.S. colleges in record numbers

Of the 691,000 foreign students who enrolled in American universities in the 2009-2010 academic year, nearly 128,000 — or 18 percent — were Chinese. China exported more students to the United States than any other country last academic year and 30 percent more Chinese students than the previous year, according to the Institute for International Education's Open Doors 2010 report, published with support from the State Department.

Area students 'living' in foreign language at Austin College

Educators say the best way to learn the language of another country is to spend time among its people and culture. Austin College offers its language students the next best thing. Students of German, French, Spanish, Japanese, and Chinese may live in the college's language residence hall where they speak and learn languages day-to-day. The residents are exposed to daily, intensive practice in speaking the designated language and must speak it in all common areas of the residence.

PREVIOUS NEWS

FOIA Fridays: Army Audit Report on the Army's Foreign Language Program

The Project on Government Oversight posted a U.S. Army Audit Agency document obtained through the Freedom of Information Act. The website states there's ample room for improvement in the Army's foreign language program.

Fighting the Propaganda War in Afghanistan with New and Old Media

The war of words or an Information War is on in Afghanistan. In a nation where people get their news via old media outlets – tv and radio – the U.S. is turning up its mixed approach to fighting the Taliban.

Can you speak a foreign language?

An individual who is fluent in foreign languages always has a niche above the rest. Read an interview with Umita Melwanit, Co-Founder and Director of Institute of Foreign Language and Culture to know more about this growing culture.

Heritage speakers enroll in language classes

A constantly evolving group of students called heritage language learners are more often choosing to formally study their native language. Impending UNC-system budget cuts threaten foreign language course offerings but heritage speakers are driving up enrollment numbers and making the decision more difficult.

Fabio Capello's 100-word excuse

Just for you sports lovers out there --- The Head football (soccer) coach for England says he only needs a maximum of 100 words of English to speak with his players. His native language is Latin but he also claims to speak Spanish and French in addition to English.

DLIFLC produces Japanese LSKs in record time

Just three days after the devastating March 11 Japanese earthquake and tsunami, the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center (DLIFLC) made available Japanese Language Survival Kits, small pocket sized guides with audio recordings, covering three topics: Japanese Basic, Japanese Aircrew, and Japanese Medical.

CHINA: Overseas education - Changes and policies

Overseas education in China has also become more diversified. International students enrolled in non-formal programmes usually take Chinese-language training or short-term study, not for the purpose of earning a degree. The proportion of international students enrolled in formal programmes has increased yearly, while the proportion enrolled in non-formal programmes has declined.

Students seeking flexibility find it in cyber schools

Matt Arkin, head of school, said parents are attracted to GCA because their kids can work at their own pace. This fall, Advanced Placement courses and classes in foreign language, music and art will be added to the curriculum.

Chinese class producing trilingual students

Nà shì shénme?" means "what is that?" in Chinese. The students eagerly raise their hands to answer Childers' questions, and patiently wait to hear his or Abers' pronunciation and willingly give the difficult

words a try. Childers said the students are like "sponges" and love learning. He learned Chinese when he was a Chinese linguist in the Air Force. He spent 57 weeks at the Defense Language Institute in California, learning the language. He said the young children pick up the language very fast. He and Abers have not found a suitable textbook, and are now considering developing one for future classes.

Senior finds love for Japanese culture after teaching herself the language

While most high school students are struggling to wake up, senior Nikki Prenevost sits in her living room before school catching up on her favorite Japanese drama, Itazura Na Kiss. Later that day, when most students use Facebook as a way to procrastinate, Nikki flips through a Seventeen magazine in Japanese as a break between her studies. While most students rush to finish their homework before their favorite college team plays on ESPN, Nikki rushes to Johnson County Community College to spend three hours learning the Japanese language. What might seem foreign to some students seems perfectly at home to Nikki.

Pilot program gives Spokane eight-graders a jump-start on learning a foreign language – and on high school credits

Bienvenidos, estudiantes. Esto es la clase de español para el grado ocho. Until this year, that phrase – "Welcome, students. This is eighth-grade Spanish" – was foreign to Spokane Public Schools' middle school students. But with the success of a pilot program at Sacajawea Middle School, it will likely become more commonplace. Spokane Public Schools plans to make Spanish available to the district's eighth-graders this fall, and those who successfully pass the yearlong course will receive high school credit.

Wallington schools may cut French

Students might have to say "au revoir" to French class if the school board goes ahead with a budget that would make Spanish the only foreign language offering, Superintendent Albert Pecora said. The elimination of the high school French and elementary art programs is necessary to prevent spending for next school year from exceeding a state-imposed cap, he said.

Grant will enhance language offerings to the professions

Christopher Lupke, associate professor of Chinese, and W. Puck Brecher, assistant professor of Japanese, will use a two-year, \$200,000 grant to expand offerings in Chinese and Japanese at Washington State University. The grant is from the U.S. Department of Education's Undergraduate International Studies and Foreign Language Program (UISFLP). It will allow WSU's Department of Foreign Languages and Cultures to create Chinese and Japanese language courses for the professions.

Growing Diversity Fuels Chinese School

San Francisco's Chinese American International School has long had a reputation for strong academics, but it has grown more popular as a rising number of non-Chinese parents bank on Chinese-language skills for their children's future.

Turkey May Hire 40,000 Native English Speakers, Vatan Reports

Turkey's Education Minister may hire 40,000 native English-speakers over the next four years as part of a bid to improve language skills, Vatan newspaper reported. Prime Minister [Recep Tayyip Erdogan](#) has complained that English is poorly taught in many schools and ordered a review, the Istanbul-based newspaper said. The ministry is considering supplementing its 48,000 English teachers with 40,000 foreigners who'll teach and hold weekend and summer English courses, as well as run conversational "English Cafe" classes, the newspaper said.

Possible budget cuts opposed

At a public hearing on the 2011-12 school budget last week, parents, teachers and other community members asked the Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools Board of Education not to make proposed cuts to foreign language, media assistants and areas that would directly affect the classroom.