
DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE

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Never Lost in Translation

"Language and culture training is a critical enabler for mission success," confirmed Colonel Danial D. Pick, commandant of the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center in Monterey, Calif. "We operate in an international environment in which we need to build partnership capacity amongst coalition partners and allies, whether that be in Europe or Africa or in the Middle East or Asia, and building partnership capacity requires understanding the culture and speaking the language of the host nation force you're trying to work with." "As many of us remember, our high school and college language courses did not necessarily set high expectations, nor did they really establish opportunities to reach high levels of language learning," said Dr. Michael Nugent, director of the National Security Education Program in Arlington, Va. "This is not to say that there weren't those rare teachers who did this. The Language Flagship has built upon those remarkable innovators and has attempted to make that type of language instruction the norm, rather than the exception."

Female team prepares to engage with Afghanistan's women

Last week, twenty-two female Service personnel received training from the UK's Military Stabilisation Support Group (MSSG) and the Stabilisation Unit in preparation for deployment to Afghanistan as part of Female Engagement Teams (FETs).

More students taking world languages

Across the Connecticut State University System (CSUS), the number of students taking world language courses has increased by nearly 10 percent this year, the largest one-year increase on record. The increase between the 2009-10 and 2010-11 academic years is more than 300 students. CSUS includes Central, Eastern, Southern and Western Connecticut State Universities.

ASL bill not enough for Gov. McDonnell on first go-round

The bill, sponsored by Del. Richard "Dickie" Bell (R-20), would allow ASL to be used as a high school foreign language credit and be accepted at state colleges. A class of students and their teacher dreamt the legislation up at Loudoun Valley High School, as the Times-Mirror reported in March. But, according to Bell, HB 1435 is still in good shape, sent back to lawmakers for a veto session in order to enact small changes. "The changes were mostly language changes," Bell said. "That's not anything to be too concerned about. The intent [and] integrity of the bill were not changed."

Lango says Foreign Language Skills Crucial for Next Generation of Global Workforce

In 2008, 64 percent of business executives spoke two or more languages. People who are bilingual in Spanish and English are in particularly high demand for business executive positions in the U.S. due to the large Latino population across the country. To prepare the next generation for success in a globally-oriented marketplace, parents are exposing their children to foreign languages and cultures at an increasingly younger age. Lango, a [foreign language program for kids](#), has seen interest in its language classes grow dramatically in the last four years.

Want your child to learn a foreign language? Education experts say, 'The younger, the better'

This type of extracurricular foreign-language instruction is becoming more and more common in Quad-City area elementary schools, where teachers such as Navarro - from the Mississippi Bend Area Education Agency - and volunteer college students teach some of the schools' youngest students Spanish, French or German. Traditionally, most U.S. students don't get foreign language instruction as part of their school curriculum until high school. However, research shows learning a foreign language at a young age is much easier than waiting so long to start - and it's much better for brain development, said

Bret Lovejoy, executive director of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages in Alexandria, Va.

PREVIOUS NEWS

Being Bilingual May Boost Your Brain Power

The idea that children exposed to two languages from birth become confused or that they fall behind monolingual children is a common misconception, says Janet Werker, a psychologist at the University of British Columbia who studies language acquisition in bilingual babies. "Growing up bilingual is just as natural as growing up monolingual," said Werker, whose own research indicates babies of bilingual mothers can distinguish between languages even hours after birth.

Public schools woo foreign students to boost ranks

Northern Maine is 7,000 miles and a world away from China, but that's not stopping a school superintendent from recruiting Chinese students to attend public high school in this remote mill town. Faced with declining enrollments and shrinking revenues, public school districts from Maine to California are seeking out students from overseas, particularly China, to attend their high schools. At least two public schools in Maine have 10 tuition-paying Chinese students in classes this year, and the superintendent in Millinocket is the latest to set his sights on China. It's a growing trend: Other schools are doing the same in Arizona, Arkansas, California, Florida, Illinois, Massachusetts, Ohio, Virginia and Washington, according to a student recruitment agency in San Francisco.

Learning a language can translate into success

"Fluency in a foreign language involves a skill set that is now very important to many employers, especially those who require their employees to travel overseas," says Kathy Mahnke, director of the Center for World Languages and Cultures at the University of Denver. "Being able to communicate in a colleague's native tongue helps business negotiations, (and) social interactions with that colleague go much more smoothly than does working through a translator. There are just some cultural aspects of communication that do not translate well."

Salinas students aim to receive Seal of Biliteracy

Wynona Bucu and Nayeli Bravo are in front of the classroom, trying to overcome squirms and giggles to perform a scene from "The Little Prince." "S'il vous pla't, dessine-moi un mouton," Nayeli reads from a notecard with a good French accent and a soft voice. Draw me a sheep. They are in the French class of Leslie Long, who has taught at Everett Alvarez High School since 1996. Like many of her colleagues who teach language, Long is glad to see the Salinas Unified School District has found a way to reward bilingual — in some cases, multilingual — students. A statewide program making its way into Monterey County is aiming to honor as many of the bilingual students as possible.

Multi-Language Capabilities Help Manage K-12 Demographic Shift

Unprecedented [demographic shifts](#) in the U.S. are creating a communications gap between teachers, principals, and the students and families they serve. According to the [U.S. Census Bureau](#), minorities will become the majority of children under 18 by 2023. All these trends will require profound changes in parent engagement and school communication.

American Sign Language as a Foreign Language

In recent years, a number of states have passed legislation recognizing American Sign Language (ASL) as a foreign language and permitting high schools and universities to accept it in fulfillment of foreign language requirements for hearing as well as deaf students. As of July 1997, 28 states had passed such legislation, and several community colleges and universities (including Brown, Georgetown, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Purdue, and the University of Washington) accept ASL as a foreign language for academic or elective credit.

Marjah district governor meets with female elected officials, Marines

The district governor of Marjah, Abdul Mutalib, met with three female members of Helmand's Provincial Council and a member of the Department of Women's Affairs, April 2, to discuss ways local government can help the women of Marjah. Razia Baluch, Malika Helmandi and Karima, all elected officials with the Provincial Council serving four-year terms, and Sharifa, an employee with the Department of Women's Affairs, flew to Marjah from Lashkar Gah alongside Marines from the Female Engagement Team 11-1, II Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters Group (Forward).

CIA Director Panetta Honors Excellence in Foreign Language

In a ceremony held last week at CIA Headquarters, Director Leon E. Panetta presented the Foreign Language Excellence Award to an undercover senior officer who used his near-native fluency in three languages to run operations overseas in the past year. Established in 2008, the award recognizes the exceptional use of languages by Agency officers and reflects the CIA's emphasis on increasing the foreign language skills of its workforce.

Love of languages, cultures guided new UI director

Growing up, Russell Ganim's parents spoke Spanish whenever they wanted to keep a secret from their children. That spurred Ganim to study the language, which in turn developed into a love for other languages and cultures. Ganim, 50, now speaks Spanish and French, and after spending the last 18 years as a French professor at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, he will become the director of the University of Iowa's newly merged Division of World Languages, Literatures and Cultures on July 1. He will oversee a unit that will include all 16 languages offered at UI.

CSUS reports increase in foreign language study

The Connecticut State University System says the number of students taking foreign language classes has jumped nearly 10 percent. The university system says the number of courses offered in Chinese has doubled in recent years and classes have also been added in Japanese, Arabic, Portuguese, Hebrew, and Russian.

Native American Language Fair

This morning more than 600 students showcased their Native American language skills in the largest language fair in the nation. The two day event at the Sam Noble Museum in Norman brings together as many as 25 different tribes and 23 native languages. Students compete in a variety of categories including spoken word, song, book, poster and more modern power point and film video categories. The language fair brings students from Pre-K through 12th grade and from across the state of Oklahoma and other states.

UAE Army trains its soldiers to speak Farsi

The UAE Army is training a new cadre of soldiers to speak Farsi in hopes their language program will continue the process of smoothing relations between the UAE and Iran. The desire is for the students to understand the language and culture of the biggest country in the Middle East to reduce the chance for conflict with Iran.

Urdu enters the digital age

Computer scientists and the University of Buffalo and at Janya Inc. have developed the first software system that will allow for computational processing of documents in Urdu, Pakistan's national language and one of the world's five most-spoken languages.

Language and Culture Go Together

Be patient with immigrants to the U.S. who are trying to assimilate and learn the English language and American culture. Instead of impatience we should show respect for the person's efforts to become more fluent.