
DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE

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UNI to host conference on state of K-12 foreign language programs

Growing concerns about the future of foreign language programs in public schools, colleges and universities will be the topic of a conference April 9 at the University of Northern Iowa. The program, entitled "The State of Language Education in K-12 Schools in Iowa," is hosted by the university's Department of Modern Language.

New degrees offered to include Arabic language and culture

The Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education approved on Thursday three new degrees for the 2011-12 academic year -- including a bachelor of arts degree in Arabic language and culture, which will be taught by faculty at California University of Pennsylvania and offered online to students at all 14 state-owned universities.

Save on College Tuition By Studying Abroad

Today's college students are often looking for ways to lower the cost of their college tuition. One way that students are increasingly discovering is spending a semester abroad. By studying abroad, many students are able to actually lower their college bills significantly. Those attending a 4-year college in the U.S. pay an average of \$9,700 per semester for in-state tuition. For example, a [Costa Rica Study Abroad program](#) costs less than \$7,000 per semester. Add in airfare and some spending money and the savings is still at least \$1,500. Remember this savings is compared to average in-school tuition so the savings for out-of-state and private colleges is many thousands more and can be as much as 75% compared to a semester in their home university.

Foreign Language Enrollments in K-12 Public Schools

ACTFL's most recent enrollment study found that from 2004-05 to 2007-08 more K-12 public school students enrolled in foreign language courses, yet, despite this increase, only 18.5% of all students were enrolled. Compared to other nations where nearly all students study a second or third language, the overall picture remains unsatisfactory. Looking forward, the impact of the current economic situation on public school budgets presents a potential threat to these gains. Enrollment levels should be studied annually to fully understand impacts, such as economic conditions, on our national foreign language capability pipeline, which will determine our national ability to meet future public and private sector demand for language skills. This highlights the need for all states to track foreign language enrollments (only 34 states as of 2007-08) and for standardized reporting across states.

Language Day to be held on May 13th

The Commandant of the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center cordially invites California high school students, instructors and staff to attend our annual Language Day, which will be held on May 13 at the Presidio of Monterey.

Rosetta Stone and JMU Announce New Language Partnership

Rosetta Stone and [James Madison University](#) announced the partnership Wednesday through which people can learn a language from Rosetta Stone and receive college credit from JMU. Dr. Jim Shaeffer with JMU says it'll expand the client base for both organizations. "How lucky are we to be in Harrisonburg that has the expertise and products of Rosetta Stone and then a top notch university to be able to partner," says Shaeffer. The target market isn't undergrads. Its people anywhere taking **adult education** courses or who will only be reimbursed by their employer if it's a for-credit course.

Foreign language department axed

The Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences Dr. Goldie Byrd announced to students and staff on March 31 that the Bachelor of Arts degree programs within the Foreign Language Department would no longer be offered in the areas of Spanish and French, and the department would be completely phased out in two years. She stated, the University was acting on a mandate from administration within the UNC system to assess which academic programs were high or low producing and to make the necessary cuts to offset budget restraints. "We are [undergoing] very serious financial stress," said Dr. David Aldridge, Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies.

Marine FET's Bridge Gap Between Western, Afghan Culture

In today's fighting military, and especially in the Marines, women serve a greater role than just another body on the front lines. In Afghanistan for instance, a special team of women whose mission is community outreach, especially bridging the gap between our culture and that of the Afghan culture, which is generally tougher on women.

PREVIOUS NEWS

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.

[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 Buco 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.