
DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE

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Language under fire

Schools across the nation have been cutting traditional foreign language programs, while enrollment of students studying those languages has been climbing, according to two recent studies on the subject. Arabic, Chinese, Korean and American Sign Language have displayed a significantly increasing presence in higher education curricula, according to a report by the Modern Language Association. Despite growing numbers of interested students, the economic recession, which has left many institutions faced with budget concerns, might explain why many universities have decided to cut funding toward foreign language programs with lower student interest and fewer faculty, according to a study conducted by Steven Brint, sociology professor and associate dean of the College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences at the University of California at Riverside.

Mayor Daley Announces Grants For Chinese Language, Culture Programs (VIDEO)

At a visit to a prominent architecture firm in downtown Chicago, Mayor Richard Daley announced Monday nearly half a million dollars in grants to support the school system's Chinese language and culture programs. "The world is getting smaller," the mayor said at Skidmore, Owings and Merrill. "We have to prepare our students for this global community. We cannot allow them to be left behind."

Law promoting American Sign Language okayed

Public high schools, colleges and universities in Virginia must accept American Sign Language toward fulfillment of foreign language requirements under a bill that received final approval by the General Assembly last week. House Bill 1435 says high schools must "count completion of an American Sign Language course toward the fulfillment of any foreign language requirement for graduation." Moreover, such courses "shall be counted toward satisfaction of the foreign language entrance requirements of a public institution of higher education in the Commonwealth."

Foreign Language Axed at NC A&T

The [North Carolina A&T State University](#) Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, Goldie Byrd, announced that the foreign language Bachelor of Arts degree programs would no longer be offered in Spanish and French, and that the department would be completely phased out in two years.

Ready for English?

Fifth- and sixth-grade teachers will have one new worry starting this month — teaching English. All elementary schools must introduce compulsory foreign language lessons. Despite the difficulties of implementing this national strategy for English education, it is high time Japan took its English level more seriously. Only North Korea scores lower than Japan on the TOEFL exam in the Asian region.

Mandarin squeezed in tight school curriculum

Prime Minister John Key last year complained that the number of secondary school students learning Mandarin had only just overtaken the number learning Latin. Mr Key urged young New Zealanders to improve their general understanding of Chinese culture and suggested a campaign was needed to have Mandarin taught in schools. Only 101 of the country's 2500 schools offer Chinese language classes, many after school hours. While the number learning Mandarin has quadrupled in the past decade, to 10,230, progress has come from a very low base.

Students fight McGill language course changes

As Michael Beauvais was scanning McGill's course catalogue last week deciding what courses to take next year, he made a troubling discovery. "The classes I needed to complete my Russian translation

program were no longer being offered," said Beauvais, who is winding up the second year of a joint honours in Russian and Italian studies. "I find it absolutely disturbing that the administration can just pull funding away and force students to change their programs."

More Pupils Are Learning Online, Fueling Debate on Quality

Mr. Hamilton, 18, is among the expanding ranks of students in kindergarten through Grade 12 — more than one million in the United States, by one estimate — taking online courses. Advocates of such courses say they allow schools to offer not only makeup courses, the fastest-growing area, but also a richer menu of electives and [Advanced Placement classes](#) when there are not enough students to fill a classroom. But critics say online education is really driven by a desire to spend less on teachers and buildings, especially as state and local budget crises force deep cuts to education. They note that there is no sound research showing that online courses at the K-12 level are comparable to face-to-face learning.

PREVIOUS NEWS

Finding Top Talent in China, India, Brazil

U.S. and European multinational corporations are raising their bets on booming emerging markets. The trick is finding the right executives to play their hands. In rapidly growing countries such as Brazil, China and India, tapping expatriates is becoming obsolete. Instead, global businesses are looking for leaders who have the ability to move easily between different cultures and have deep local roots as well as international operational experience.

IARPA Babel program seeks to provide translation and intelligence analysis for any known language

Officials of the U.S. Intelligence Advanced Research Projects Activity (IARPA) in Washington are asking companies and universities for help in a project to transcribe and [translate any language](#) quickly for further analysis. The IARPA Incisive Analysis Office issued a broad agency announcement (IARPA-BAA-11-02) last week for the [Babel program](#), which seeks to develop [speech-recognition technology](#) for any human language that will help U.S. intelligence analysts search and process massive amounts of recorded speech.

Language translation apps for Smartphones make traveling lighter

Translation apps have recently taken over, dramatically improving the experience and lightening the suitcase a little. More words and phrases have been packed into the new generation of apps, which can translate even complicated sentences saddled with one or more dependent clauses. Thanks to advances in speech-recognition technology, several apps let you skip typing and instead dictate a sentence to have the translation spoken back to you immediately -- or to the person to whom you're talking -- in a natural human voice. Best of all, many are free.

Local schools get a buzz from Foreign Language Spelling Bee

Twelve talented young students have won a place in a national final after demonstrating their language skills at the Routes into Languages East Foreign Languages Spelling Bee. The competition has captured the imagination of over 40 schools across the East of England, with around 4,800 Year 7 pupils battling it out to spell the highest number of words in French, German or Spanish.

RCSD Budget Deeply Cuts Art, Music, Foreign Language

A school board analysis of the Rochester City School District's proposed [budget](#) provides specifics that confirm information principals gave staff and parents weeks ago: the budget will deeply cut into art, music, foreign language, and physical [education](#). The district released a 300-page budget proposal two weeks ago that called for 908 job cuts, but the document did not specify subject areas or programs that would be affected.

Need for Medical Interpreters Growing

"It's just as important to have the cultural comprehension," said Marco, "because if you learn a foreign language but don't understand the nuances inherent in that culture, you'll miss a big part. It's important to translate, but also you need to understand how is Alzheimer's viewed in the Latino culture."

Machine Foreign Language Translation Systems bridge gap between Soldiers, locals

"In the counterinsurgency strategy it has been recognized that language and linguistic capabilities are one of the seven key cornerstones for success in the counterinsurgency strategy in Afghanistan, so this is pretty important stuff. If you can't talk to the people who you are trying to win the hearts and minds of, it is kind of hard to win a counterinsurgency."

Language program for Marine Forces Reserve continues to advance

The Marine Forces Reserve command language program has come a long way since the new command language program manager showed up in 2009. The program is capable of sending Marines to San Diego State University in San Diego, Calif., to learn foreign languages before they get deployed. Recently, 12 Marines from 1st Battalion 25th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, attended a class to learn basic Pashto before deploying to Afghanistan. They graduated from the class March 24.

DARPA issues BAA for advanced robotic translator

Called the Broad Operational Language Translation, (BOLT) the BAA specifies that DARPA is looking for a new Human Language Technology (HLT) research and development program to create a hardware/software combination that can translate multiple (foreign) languages "in all genres" (voice, recorded voice, email, text, etc.) It should also be able to retrieve information from translated material and be able to serve as both a machine-machine and human-machine translator and finally, the trickiest part, to take both visual and tactile cues from the environment and then to perform some sort of reasoning on that information, possibly combined with other inputs, to come up with an appropriate response, either orally, or via text.

Paktika officials, PRT discuss women's education, employment initiatives

Paktika Provincial Reconstruction Team members discussed the future of female education and employment with the provincial director the Department of Women's Affairs and female council members April 7. The PRT's female engagement team works closely with the provincial DoWA, Dr. Bibi Hawa, to provide educational and vocational opportunities to the women of Paktika Province.

Language Schools

The increasingly diverse U.S. population, coupled with globalization of industries, means the number of people seeking instruction on foreign language, English as a second language, and sign language, is constantly ballooning in recent years. Language instruction is a \$1 billion industry, with a 13 percent year-over-year growth rate, according to AnythingResearch.com, which ranks the industry as the fifth fastest-growing area to start a business in 2011.

Taking "Foreign" Out Of Language

Leslie Lancry speaks six languages, a fact that usually impresses other people more than herself. It is, she says, the result of loving language and of opportunity. She believes that while American children often have the first, the second is in too short supply. "When they walk in, they will walk in to a Spanish, French, or Mandarin-speaking country," the three languages to be taught in Reston, Lancry says. The company's trademarked method, which it calls FunImmersion, pairs full immersion (no English) with activities most children like, such as music, movement, art projects and treasure hunts. Only native speakers are hired to teach language.

UCLA Offers Summer Armenian Heritage Course for High School Students

The languages currently being offered are Amharic, Armenian, Arabic, Chinese, Hindi, Italian, Persian and Russian. The language classes are specifically designed for heritage language students. This typically means that the student heard the language at home throughout their childhood, but was educated primarily in English. In addition to our heritage language classes, the center is now offering beginning Italian and Russian for any interested high school students.

[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.