
DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE

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Earmark ban puts University of Montana language and cultural program in jeopardy

Earlier this year when Congress banned earmarking - direct spending for specific projects - Don Loranger became rightfully concerned. Loranger is director of the Defense Critical Language and Cultural Program, a program, established in 2007, that teaches soldiers Pashto, Dari, Arabic and Chinese languages and about Afghanistan and Iraq prior to deployment to those war zones. It is funded by an earmark. Now funding is in jeopardy for a program that Loranger says is critical preparation for United States soldiers deploying to war. U.S. Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont., recently sent a letter to the Department of Defense urging the administration to include the program's \$2.25 million annual operating budget in the defense budget, saying the training is "the difference between life and death, and I am proud that UM is a part of making our troops and our country safer."

Russian students visit Huntsville schools as part of exchange program

Some American and Russian teens recently discovered there are a lot of differences between them - and a lot of similarities. A group of 17 students and three adults from Sochi, Russia, visited Huntsville last week, staying with local families and attending classes at the Academy for Science and Foreign Language and Columbia High School.

Former Spanish teacher's foreign-language education business carves out job-training niche

A former Spanish teacher in Atlantic County schools, Stacey Kammerman's business started from the concept of teaching simple phrases to help schools communicate with Spanish-speaking parents. From there, she saw an opportunity to expand the business to English-speakers who could benefit from learning functional Spanish as it related to their jobs, including bankers, construction workers and park rangers. "The thing that was the most desirable is that (the program) was specific to their particular needs. They didn't learn the whole language, which takes the average person five years," she said. "They learned what they needed for their job so they could use it immediately."

Philippine's DepEd holds summer program for foreign language teachers

The Department of Education Bureau of Secondary Education is holding simultaneous summer training courses for high school teachers based on the Special Program in Foreign Language (SPFL). The training aims to capacitate the teachers on the diverse aspects involved in learning a second or a foreign language. SPFL is among the department's efforts in enhancing not only public school teachers' but also students' foreign language proficiency and global competencies.

PREVIOUS NEWS

Soldiers prep to pave new path in war

The brigade's Schweinfurt-based elements-172nd Support Battalion, 9th Engineer Battalion and 1st Battalion, 77th Field Artillery Regiment-will provide most of the female personnel for the teams. They will be led by FET officer-in-charge 1st Lt. Jennifer Montgomery, who recently transferred from Schweinfurt's 12th Chemical Co. to the brigade staff, and still resides here. She will command the collection of several four-woman teams, circulating among them as they are dispersed throughout the brigade's region of responsibility during the deployment. "Their primary purpose is intelligence gathering from Afghan women," said Montgomery. "The women might tell the FET members 'our water is bad here, we have no sewage disposal, help us.' Or, they might say 'that guy over there, he's corrupt.'"

Plainfield School Board mulls Chinese language program

For \$50 a student, Plainfield School Board is looking at offering Chinese immersion classes during summer school for students in grades 7-11. The two beginner Chinese classes will be offered through a federal grant which will pay for the teachers. Glenn Wood, director of high school curriculum, said STARTALK asked the district to participate in the program which purpose is to provide students exposure to Chinese language and culture. STARTALK is the newest of the component programs of the National Security Language Initiative, seeking to expand and improve the teaching and learning of important world languages that are not widely taught in the United States, including Persian, Arabic, Pakistani (Urdu), Indian (Hindi) and Chinese.

Employers, workers find multilingualism brings multiple assets

Proficiency in multiple languages can open doors to enriching opportunities and experiences. With today's global economy and dynamic demographics, multilingualism is considered a critical asset for some companies and organizations. Schools, businesses, health care providers and law enforcement agencies are just some of the places that rely on employees who can speak languages other than English.

Expanding Language by (Online) Degrees

Arabic is not a universal language, least of all in Pennsylvania. But by developing a [fully online undergraduate degree](#) in Arabic language and culture, the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE) will soon make Arabic universally available across its 14 colleges and universities — with other online language programs to follow.

Government Budget Cuts May Kill Language Programs

To the dismay of administrators, faculty, and students, Cornell's 11 "critical language" programs — which offer students instruction in lesser-known languages that hold national importance, like Khmer and Burmese — are facing significant budget reductions and potential elimination after federal lawmakers agreed to a \$1.3 billion reduction to the Department of Education on April 15.

Madison Schools Aim to Add More Language Classes

Video discussing Madison County's (VA) desire to increase language courses to all students.

Army, Navy Add Citizenship Option To Boot Camp

(Yahoo.com)...Susanne M. Schafer, Associated Press

Military service has long been one route to U.S. citizenship. Now the Army and Navy, in need of specialists and language skills in wartime, are speeding things up by allowing recruits to wrap up the process while they're still in basic training.

DLIFLC Alumni support Operation Tomodachi

Col. Craig J. Agena, Chief of the Bilateral Coordination Action Team's U.S. contingency at Camp Sendai, visited the Nobiru and Rikuzen-Ono train stations in Higashi Matsushira with other U.S. and Japanese military members, as well as city officials. Agena, who attended the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center's Japanese school as part of the Foreign Area Officer (FAO) program in 1991 and 1992, was called to duty in support of Operation Tomodachi shortly after the disaster struck.

California Guard linguists bridge language gaps in Salvadoran exercise

"Tener otro idioma es de poseer una segunda alma." In English, it reads: "To have another language is to possess another soul." To understand that quote in both languages means more than possessing two souls. It can also mean the ability to bridge the barrier between people, countries and, sometimes, armies. That is what soldiers of the 223rd Military Intelligence Battalion, California Army National Guard, are doing as linguists in El Salvador. "It's not as easy as people think," said Spc. Charles Chang, of the 223rd. Chang put his translating abilities to the test last month during the opening ceremony of Beyond the Horizon 2011, a training exercise to provide humanitarian assistance to the people of El Salvador most affected by Hurricane Ida in 2009.

Make foreign language a must?

In the near future, all Madison County students may have to take a foreign language, according to the long-range plan that was unanimously approved by the Madison County School Board April 11. The long-range plan was created by parents, teachers and students and will act as a sort of instructional road map for Madison public schools through 2017, Superintendent Matt Eberhardt told The Eagle in an interview last week.

Madison Schools Aim to Add More Language Classes

Madison County's school board and superintendent are taking a hard look at some new requirements for students. They want to get as many of them as possible into a foreign language class, but that could take away from other electives and from their dwindling budget.

Sailor's language skills key to Bulkeley VBSS team success

Operations Specialist 1st Class Christopher Kashou, a new member of the VBSS team aboard Bulkeley, is a Palestinian-American who grew up speaking Arabic. "OS1 has become our hero here! His first trip out with the VBSS team proved to be a huge success since we were able to use his language skills to our advantage," said Ensign Michael Seymour, Bulkeley's boarding officer. "It feels good to be contributing to the [U.S. Navy's] 'global force for good' with the skills I was taught as a child. Arabic is a skill I am lucky to have, and I am thrilled to be a part of the VBSS team, helping them communicate with people who speak Arabic," said Kashou.

DARPA initiates overarching language translation research Publishes Broad Agency Announcement for Broad Operational Language Translation (BOLT) program

BOLT seeks to accurately translate Mandarin Chinese and multiple dialects of Arabic into English from all types of media, specifically focused on the challenging task of informal conversational speech, email text and instant messaging. "BOLT also aims to allow users to conduct English-language queries that retrieve targeted information from multi-lingual sources. BOLT would give users the ability to conduct robust searches that yield the most relevant results," he said.

Marine makes a difference in Afghanistan

"FET does what we can't do," said Sgt. Mackenzie D. Atkins, a station team non-commissioned officer with the Police Embedded Team in Now Zad. "FET is a very underrated asset." Atkins went on to highlight the importance of gaining the trust of the women and children in the area, stating how children are typically more likely to approach the female Marines with information and updates. "There were no girls in school before the last FET team got here," Hogan said. "I love to see the kids in school. The children that are in school are the ones who are going to change Afghanistan in the long run," Hogan began. "You can't change the mind of most of the adults, but you can change the minds of the people who will one day run this country."