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## **DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE**

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### **CURRENT NEWS 25 MAY 2011**

#### **Liberal arts college teaching in a second language**

*(USA Today)*...Dan Berrett

When parents are given a choice of primary and secondary schools for their children, schools with foreign language immersion programs can be some of the hottest draws. By learning not just literature and grammar, but also physics and philosophy in a foreign language, students are thought to develop a more expansive view of the world and be more intellectually and culturally nimble, as well as being able to speak fluently in two tongues. This thinking is a large part of what has driven the number of foreign language immersion programs at the K-12 level to nearly double in the past decade, according to the Center for Applied Linguistics.

#### **Multiple Language Skills Could be Key to Career Growth**

*(StarTribune)*...Matt Krumrie

As the demographics change across the state of Minnesota (and throughout the United States) and as technology continues to increase our ability to do more business at an international level, those with diverse language skills will position themselves for career success. That's what a number of Twin Cities business professionals say and what a recent University of Phoenix Research Institute study confirmed. That report said that 42 percent of employers expect the need for business proficiency in Chinese to increase over the next decade, while 70 percent indicated that the ability to speak Spanish will be a key skill set. For professionals looking to gain an edge, learning in-demand language skills could be the key to professional growth. "Adding a language skill and being fluent in your field of work is definitely an advantage in today's increasingly skilled and credentialed workforce," said Deb Bahr Helgen of the City of Minneapolis Workforce Council.

#### **Team work, gender and the power of bonding**

*(CTV News)*...Susan Pinker

Less than 24 hours after Osama bin Laden was killed by U.S. Navy Seals, I was driving through the gates of Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, near San Diego, to meet members of the newly formed Female Engagement Team. The FET, a 40-member, all-female battalion, had recently returned from Afghanistan, where they were deployed on a special mission to forge bonds with Afghan citizens. When I set up interviews with some of the toughest women in the United States, no one knew about the clandestine strike against the al-Qaeda leader, of course. Yet the timing of my visit made me think about the U.S. military's strategic deployment of the sexes: the all-male Navy Seals for stealth and violence, the all-female FET for winning hearts and minds. Is there a lesson here for business?

#### **Mais Oui! Learning a Language Helps Toddler's Brain Function**

*(fyi Living)*...Susan Becker

Can learning a second language as a toddler give your child a cognitive edge over kids who wait until high school French class? The authors of a [recent study](#) believe the answer is "Oui." Among toddlers as young as two, bilingual youngsters outscored their monolingual counterparts in the area known as "[executive functioning](#)." To toddlers, this comes down to sorting shapes, but for older kids and adults, executive functioning includes important mental tasks such as planning, strategizing, organizing and goal-setting.

#### **Slavic Written Language and Culture Day**

*(The Voice of Russia)*

Today Russia and all Slavic countries mark the Day of Slavic Written Language and Culture. The holiday is inseparably linked to the honouring of Saints Cyril and Methodius, - the preachers of Christianity and

authors of the Slavic alphabet. The written language, created by the two brothers, had an enormous effect on the development of Russian Literature. The date was first officially marked in 1863 due to the 1,000 years since the creation of the alphabet.

## **PREVIOUS NEWS**

### **Language policy actors**

*(Goethe Institut)*

The framework conditions governing early foreign language learning are determined to a significant extent by educational and language policy decisions originating outside the learning and teaching institutions of nursery education, pre-primary education, primary education). Decisions as to when children should start learning a first or second foreign language and how such a learning programme should ultimately be structured are made by numerous country-specific institutions and interest groups. It is, of course, possible for language policy provisions by an internationally federated body like the EU to influence the prioritisation and the attractiveness of a foreign language as a curriculum subject within a national education system.

### **McDonnell inks ASL bill at VSDB**

*(Newsleader)*...Megan Williams

Students at Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind raised their arms and shook their hands, signing clapping, as Gov. Bob McDonnell, signed a bill Monday validating their language in Virginia public schools. "American Sign Language is the language of our students," said VSDB superintendent Nancy Armstrong. "It's the language we believe in." McDonnell signed HB1435, proposed by Del. Richard P. "Dickie" Bell, R-Staunton, stating that ASL will be considered a foreign language and will have the same weight as any other foreign language course taught in schools.

### **Cedar Rapids Elementary Schools to Introduce Spanish Program**

*(Eastern Iowa Schools)*

The Cedar Rapids Community School District will introduce an Elementary Spanish Program during the 2011-2012 school year in all kindergarten and first grade classrooms. One additional grade level will then be added each subsequent year, with grades K-5 all included in the program by the 2015-2016 school year. Students will participate in 30-minute Spanish language sessions every three days. Foreign language teachers will deliver the research-based curriculum to homerooms with the classroom teacher present.

### **Grand Valley alumna receives U.S. Department of State scholarship**

*(HollandSentinel)*

Grand Valley State University graduate Sandra Braden has won a U.S. Department of State critical language scholarship issued by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. Braden is among 575 American undergraduate and graduate students to receive a scholarship, from more than 5,200 applications from all 50 states and a wide range of academic disciplines. Braden will study the Arabic language and culture in Oman from June through August. Braden, from Big Rapids, graduated from Grand Valley in April with a bachelor's degree in international relations and a minor in Mid-East studies.

### **WWU student and Lake Stevens resident earns Critical Language Scholarship**

*(Lake Stevens Journal)*

Western Washington University student and Lake Stevens resident Dana Rafter received a Critical Language Scholarship by the U.S. Department of State to study Arabic language and culture in Tunis, Tunisia from May 30- Aug 1. The Critical Language Scholarship will fund all expenses for Rafter's trip, including airfare, accommodation and language courses.

### **Language Learning Institute coming to Saratoga Springs**

*(The Saratogian)*

The Language Learning Institute has opened a new educational center in Saratoga Springs to help adults and children learn French, Italian, Russian, Spanish and Portuguese. "We want to bring the love of language to as many people as possible," institute founder Nancy Scarselletta said. "While we have always been proud of our Albany base, we realize it is not convenient for everyone. With our arrival in Saratoga, we will be able to help many more people learn new languages and cultures."

### **Not the War Umesh Sharma Expected**

*(Harvard GSE)...Umesh Sharma*

This is the story of a Harvard graduate who has taken the road less traveled. I came to the United States six years ago from Rajasthan, India, to attend Harvard. After obtaining my master's in the [International Education Policy Program](#), I decided not to return to India. I became a teacher in Washington, D.C. Then, in February 2009, the U.S. Army started a new program, MAVNI: Military Accession Vital to National Interest. I was able to join the Army despite being a legal immigrant and not having U.S. citizenship or permanent residency.

### **International and Foreign Language Education**

*(U.S. Department of Education)*

International and Foreign Language Education (IFLE) advises the Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education on matters affecting postsecondary, international, and foreign language education. This office is responsible for encouraging and promoting the study of foreign languages and cultures of other countries at the elementary, secondary, and postsecondary levels in the United States. The Fiscal Year 2011 grant competitions for the following IFLE programs have been cancelled: American Overseas Research Centers; Business and International Education; Fulbright-Hays Training Grants--Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad; Fulbright-Hays Training Grants--Faculty Research Abroad; International Research and Studies; and Undergraduate International Studies and Foreign Language Program.

### **Foreign Language Policy and Petition: How to Meet the Foreign Language Requirement (Bachelor of Arts Degree)**

*(University of New Hampshire)*

Proficiency in a foreign language at the level achieved by satisfactory work in a one-year, college-level course. This requirement may be fulfilled by taking a College Board foreign language achievement test or by completing the equivalent of a full-year elementary course in any foreign language (must be eight UNH credits or equivalent), or by completing the equivalent of a semester of a course in a foreign language beyond the elementary year (must be four UNH credits or equivalent), or by completing the equivalent of a one-year college-level course in American Sign Language (must be eight UNH credits or equivalent). Students should be aware that not all majors accept American Sign Language as a means to satisfy departmental foreign language proficiency requirements and should check with their advisers. No credit is awarded for elementary year college coursework if the student has had two or more years of that language in high school.

### **Boren Scholarship, WVU help freshman become world traveler**

*(West Virginia University)*

Cody White's freshman year at [West Virginia University](#) included a Russian language course in each semester. The [engineering](#) major from Charleston had visited the country two summers ago and hoped to return someday. White's "someday" has turned into "soon" with the awarding of a National Security Education Program's David L. Boren Scholarship. "I didn't expect to get the scholarship," White said. "I applied but I knew I had three more years to try for it. Once I found out I got it, I started to get excited." White has plenty to be excited about. Along with the scholarship, he's leaving this month for a two-month trip to China as part of a [WVU nanotechnology](#) research initiative.