
DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE

CURRENT NEWS 27 MAY 2011

Lautenberg, Holt introduce foreign language education legislation

(Newsworks)...Shannon McDonald

With the intention to "improve U.S. competitiveness and national security, U.S. Sen. Frank Lautenberg and U.S. Rep. Rush Holt of New Jersey have introduced legislation to create a program of foreign language classes for K to 12 students. The Foreign Language Education Partnership Program Act would provide up to \$50 million in annual funding for model programs of sequenced foreign language instruction from K-12, with the goal of graduating high school students with an advanced level of proficiency, according to a joint statement released by Lautenberg's office. All languages are eligible for consideration, but the Secretary of Education would have the authority to prioritize languages based on national needs.

Pashto linguist awarded Bronze Star for selflessness

(DVIDS)...Sgt. Marcy Sanchez

Cpl. Zachary D. Byron, a Pashto linguist currently assigned to 1st Radio Battalion, was presented the Bronze Star and Purple Heart for actions while serving with 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment in November 2010. Byron's squad was caught in an enemy ambush in the vicinity Durzay, Afghanistan located in southern Helmand province. Byron, 23, was shot in the wrist and thigh as he tried to render aid on the injured Marine in front of him. As he fell in and out of consciousness from blood loss, he continued to translate enemy communications, allowing the squad to avert another assault. "I had a sense of loyalty to my job and my troops to make sure I didn't fail them," Byron said.

Foreign attachés experience modern language learning at DLIFLC

(DLIFLC)

Approximately 25 foreign attachés from all around the world toured the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center (DLIFLC) on Tuesday, May 17. The visit was part of the attachés' annual spring tour that this year focused on Navy-Marine Corps and Joint Commands in the western United States. The senior foreign military officers, most of who work in their respective embassies in Washington, were exposed to major cultural, industrial, governmental, and historical aspects of the United States during their travels.

State eliminates some Regents examinations

(Times Beacon Record)...Elana Glowatz

To save the state money, high school students will no longer take foreign language Regents examinations nor any Regents examinations in January, the Board of Regents decided recently. According to the New York State Education Department, cutting out Regents exams in January will save \$1.4 million and eliminating foreign language exams for Italian, French and Spanish will save \$700,000 — exams in German, Hebrew and Latin have already been cut.

District looks into expanding languages

(phillyBurbs)...Amanda Cregan

The school board is hoping to begin Spanish language classes for kindergarten through fifth-grade students, but there are not enough funds to start the program. Parents and school officials want to give young students an early jump on learning a foreign language, said board President Larry Fieber. But with testing standards, it can be difficult to build another class into an already full day, he said. The elementary schools once had a foreign language offering, but with only one class a week, students were not immersed in the new language. "We found the effectiveness is not what it could have been," he said. "For an elementary program, it's got to be offered multiple times a week."

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[Academy Graduates Put Air Force in Good Standing, Donley Says](#)

(American Forces Press Service)...Lisa Daniel

The 1,021 graduates are among 3,300 newly commissioned Air Force officers, who add to about 28,000 new enlisted members, Donley said. It's important for officers and enlisted airmen to work together, he said. More than 20 percent of academy graduates minored in a foreign language.

[Opinion: How and Why the Humanities Lost Touch](#)

(The Chronicle of Higher Education)...Frank Donoghue

Let me start at the top. Higher education lost touch with the humanities in 1970, if not before. That was the last year in which a majority of U.S. college students graduated with majors in traditional liberal-arts subjects (of which the humanities form the core): philosophy, history, English, foreign languages, etc. So students have been fleeing the humanities as a discipline worth studying for at least two generations. Professor Nussbaum expresses the hope that we make students into "complete citizens" and not "little machines." But the overwhelming evidence is that more and more students *want* to become "little machines," or at least little money-making machines. This tendency is corroborated by the survey that UCLA has administered to an enormous number of incoming freshmen since 1966, asking them, among other things, what was most important to them. In the 1971 survey, the top three answers were "to help others who are in difficulty" (68.5%), to become an authority in my field (66%), and "to keep up to date on politics" (57.8%), all values consistent with being a good citizen. In 2001, the same survey found that "being very well off financially" (a distant fifth in 1971) topped the list at 73%. Help others in difficulty had slipped to 61.5%, while "keep up to date with political affairs" had dropped all the way to 28.1%.

[US Intelligence Crunches Metaphors to Understand Foreign Language](#)

(Gizmodo)...Andrew Tarantola

The Intelligence Advanced Research Projects Activity, a small arm of the US intelligence community, is distributing \$20 million grants to computer scientists who can parse a language and determine a culture's relationship with a certain concept. It's called, The Metaphor Program.

[Foreign language for college may be ended](#)

(Irish Times)...Sean Flynn

THE FOREIGN language requirement for students entering third-level colleges could be abolished, Minister for Education Ruairi Quinn has said. The Minister has said the language requirement "may need reconsideration in the light of the economic imperative to encourage more students to study the physical sciences in senior cycle." He has also hinted at radical changes in languages policies in second-level schools, with a stronger emphasis on languages such as Chinese and Russian which are seen as key to economic growth. At present, French accounts for about 70 per cent of all foreign-language teaching at second level.

[Opinion: Taken in isolation](#)

(Russia Beyond the Headlines)...Svetlana Babaeva

After decades of espousing a doctrine of multiculturalism and national diversity, Western societies are discovering that they have stifled themselves with their own ideals.

[Pentagon Library](#)

Pentagon Library now offers **Mango Languages** to all Library Patrons via the [Library Intranet](#). Mango offers web based training for 22 languages and ESL. A login profile is available to track your learning progress.

[Mendon-Upton's Spanish immersion program graduates first class](#)

(Milford Daily News)...Julie Balise

Ashley Hill says she has an edge when looking for a new job: her ability to speak both English and Spanish fluently. Hill was not raised bilingual, though. She learned her second language in Mendon-Upton Regional School District's Spanish immersion program, which will be graduating its first class next

month. Hill's journey through learning Spanish actually began 13 years ago, when then-Spanish teacher Joan Scribner did a presentation for parents of the Class of 2011 as their children entered kindergarten. Scribner was co-founding the Spanish immersion program in Mendon-Upton after researching similar methods in Maryland and Holliston, where a French immersion program was already under way.

Studying abroad

(Cambridge-news)...Lydia Fallon

You may want the opportunity to experience a completely different culture and way of life or are simply getting bored of good old Blighty, but studying abroad is a big commitment. Lydia Fallon looks at the pros and cons that may affect your decision.

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?