
DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE

CURRENT NEWS 09 AUGUST 2011

IU urges Congress to restore foreign language funding cuts

(Chesterton Tribune)

Indiana University is working to find alternative ways to fund foreign language instruction after a \$1.7 million decrease in federal funds, even as its president urges Congress to restore funding for such programs. Congress has cut \$50 million from the Department of Education's HEA-Title VI and Fulbright-Hays programs that support foreign culture and language training. IU has one of the highest concentrations of Title VI programs in the country. President Michael McRobbie says the programs have helped train foreign language scholars, military personnel and public service leaders for generations. He says restoring Title VI funding to 2010 levels is essential to continuing that work. McRobbie is one of more than 80 college and university presidents who signed a letter urging Congress to restore the funds.

Israeli nursing school rescinds ban on speaking Russian and Arabic

(Haareetz.com)...Jack Khoury

The Health Ministry has instructed the School of Nursing in Ashkelon, part of the city's Barzilai Medical Center, to withdraw an order banning students from speaking any language other than Hebrew on campus. The order, printed on nursing school and ministry letterhead and bearing the stamp of the school administration, reads: "Students, it is absolutely prohibited to conduct a conversation in a foreign language during studies and in school corridors. The official language of the school is Hebrew." The majority of the school's 250 students are from the south of the country, with a smaller number from the center and north of Israel. Many of the students speak Russian or other Eastern European languages, and quite a few are Arab. According to one student, who asked to remain anonymous, the directive was posted about two weeks ago and drew many angry responses from students.

300 Students Affected by Abbey College Closure

(98FM)

300 foreign language students have been left high and dry, after finding themselves locked out of classes, when their college ceased trading at the weekend. Abbey College, based on Dame Street, had about 300 English language students and 20 teachers, but now says a liquidator is being appointed to wind down the business.

Ohio language students benefit from Arabic Camp

(Gillette News Record)...Delaney Daly

Imagine becoming immersed entirely in an Arabic culture. Learning to adjust to a different language, different food and a different way of thinking can be a challenging process for most people. Established more than 25 years ago, the Academy of World Languages offers extensive diversity in different cultures, providing students with the choice to learn Arabic, Chinese, Japanese, and Russian. English as a second language is also taught. Half of the school's population is international students, representing 42 countries and 38 languages. "We want to continue the bridge to foreign language and foreign understanding," said Jacquelyn Rowedder, the principal of Academy of World Languages.

SAIC Launches First Hybrid Machine Translation Solution, Helping Redefine Language Services

(PRNewswire – Press Release)

Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC) [NYSE: SAI] today announced its linguistics technology offering, with the industry's first hybrid machine translation (HMT) solution. The linguistics technology offering enables language service providers and users of translation services to operate more efficiently and effectively to meet the growing need for cross-lingual communication in today's global market. SAIC's new offering puts advanced technology – with the ability to translate in context – directly

in the hands of users. Direct access to the machine translation (MT) technology reduces the need for more expensive human translation (HT), thereby elevating human translators to higher order editors, potentially resulting in lower costs for businesses and increased productivity for translation providers.

Exchange offers lessons for Wellington, Japanese students

(SnpOnline.com)...Melissa Dilley

For 21/2 weeks in July, the Wellington School hosted 15 high school students from its sister school in Saitama Prefecture, Japan. In addition to teaching daily English classes, summer program instructors facilitated trips to Central Ohio attractions. "This is a fun way to see the different cultures and to see how excited they get learning about things we love doing," said student and Wellington senior Chelcie Trepp. She has been volunteering with the summer program for three years. The exchange program, in its 20th year, is meant to bring diversity not just to the visiting students, but to those whose homes they share.

PREVIOUS NEWS

Local Marine reaches out to women in Afghanistan

(Marietta Daily journal)...Kyle Dominy

Lance Cpl. Jacqueline Veres has been in the Helmand province of Afghanistan since March, working with a Female Engagement Team, a special force designed to build relationships and gather information from Afghan women. "We are here for counterinsurgency and to win the trust and confidence of the Afghan women, men and children," Veres said. "We are the voice for over 50 percent of the population." Cultural restrictions in Afghanistan forbid a woman from speaking to a man who is neither their husband nor a close relative.

Female engagement team helps child recover from cancer

(RC-East.com)...Spc. John Iasiello

The Female Engagement Team from Company D, 1st Battalion, 279th Infantry Brigade, Task Force Creek, and medics from Operational Detachment Alpha, both under Task Force Duke, helped save the life of a local female child stricken with cancer. Company D's FET was invited by Operational Detachment Alpha medics to assist with the care and treatment of "Bebe," the name given to her to protect her family from retribution from the Taliban.

La.'s Tunica tribe revives its lost language

(Associated Press)

Brenda Lintinger decided to do more than learn a new language — she set out to resurrect the ancient tongue of her own Tunica Indian tribe, words that had not been uttered for more than 60 years. In spring 2010, the 51-year-old Tunica Tribal Council member had been searching the website of Tulane University in New Orleans when she noticed that the school specialized in lesser-known languages.

Sacramento Valley Charter School: Redefining education in an innovative way

(Examiner.com)...Amrik Singh

A Press Conference was held in West Sacramento Gurdwara at 5 PM on August 6, 2011 to brief people regarding the opening of a charter school in their neighborhood. Sacramento Valley Charter School Board of Directors answered an array of questions about school's programs, which would prepare students to compete and excel on a global level. In addition to English, Science, Math and American history, students will have the opportunity to learn Punjabi as a Foreign Language. Board members said that learning a foreign language helps in developing cognitive and critical skills which are necessary for a strong foundation in other subjects as well.

ROTCs return to Ivy League

(USA Today)...Jim Michaels

There are practical reasons for seeking more military candidates among the elite universities, say some experts. The military is increasingly involved in counterinsurgency campaigns that require officers with

cultural and language skills, says the Pentagon. Gen. [David Petraeus](#), who led coalition efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan before being appointed to head the [CIA](#), has a doctorate from Princeton and has spoken of the value of a broad education for military officers. Counterinsurgencies in Iraq and Afghanistan have required officers who are leaders and can think creatively.

[A Secret War in 120 Countries: The Pentagon's New Power Elite](#)

(Pacific Free Press)...Nick Turse

"But the world changed over the last decade," he said. "Our strategic focus has shifted largely to the south... certainly within the special operations community, as we deal with the emerging threats from the places where the lights aren't." To that end, Olson launched "[Project Lawrence](#)," an effort to increase cultural proficiencies -- like advanced language training and better knowledge of local history and customs -- for overseas operations. The program is, of course, named after the British officer, Thomas Edward Lawrence (better known as "Lawrence of Arabia"), who teamed up with Arab fighters to wage a guerrilla war in the Middle East during World War I. Mentioning Afghanistan, Pakistan, Mali, and Indonesia, Olson added that SOCOM now needed "Lawrences of Wherever." While Olson made reference to only 51 countries of top concern to SOCOM, Col. Nye told me that on any given day, Special Operations forces are deployed in approximately 70 nations around the world.

[Opinion: Why We Need Fulbrights](#)

(Forbes)...Michael Noer

Congressional budget cuts to vital cultural-understanding programs are making America less competitive and less secure, say Cornell University's Glenn C. Altschuler and David J. Skorton. One of the key lessons of the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001 was that many U.S. politicians, diplomats and intelligence officers were flying blind due to a lack of understanding of the Islamic religion and relevant cultures in the Middle East and elsewhere. Recognizing this unmet need for better understanding of outside cultures, Congress increased support for two federal programs, Title VI and Fulbright-Hays, which enable American universities to immerse students in the cultures and languages of friends and foes around the world. Apparently, our elected officials aren't on the same page. Last spring Congress passed a continuing resolution that cripples programs crucial to our prosperity and national security.

[Chinese servicemen must have global horizon](#)

(Xinhua)

Colonel Chen Changqing, director of the Engineering and Chemical Division of a group army under the Jinan Military Area Command (MAC) of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA), who headed for Sudan's Wau and Darfur three times to perform peacekeeping missions in May 2006, January 2009 and June 2010, recently received an interview with the PLA Daily at an engineer regiment of the PLA Jinan MAC. Chen Changqing said as reflected in performing peacekeeping missions, the officers and men of the Chinese PLA still needed to strengthen combat awareness, uplift combat quality and enhance cultural competence, especially foreign language proficiency.

[UAE police brush up on their language skills with an emphasis on Chinese, Russian](#)

(World Tribune)

The United Arab Emirates, besieged by an expatriate majority, has intensified efforts for police to learn foreign languages. Officials said foreign language skills would enhance police capabilities in law enforcement and counter-insurgency. They said this would also reduce dependency on interpreters.

[Linguist Considers 'What Language Is' — And Isn't](#)

(NPR)

Whether or not the first humans could speak is still a matter of debate, but most scientists agree that languages have been around for at least 80,000 years. The written word, in contrast, is relatively new. Humans have been putting words on tablets, textiles and paper only for approximately the past 5,500 years. Yet many assume the written word is superior to how humans actually speak. If a language isn't fixed on a page — like English, French, Spanish or Chinese — it isn't "real." And while many English speakers consider the English language to be relatively advanced, linguist John McWhorter says it's actually profoundly simpler than many ancient languages. In his book, *What Language Is: And What It*

Isn't and What It Could Be, McWhorter, a professor of linguistics and Western civilization at Columbia University, debunks some of our most persistent myths about language.