
DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE

CURRENT NEWS 30 AUGUST 2011

'Dot-edu' Migration Promotes Language Training

(American Forces Press Service) ...Donna Miles

A pilot program that gives students at the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center unprecedented access to language training resources is proving so successful that it's being expanded throughout the school. The pilot, launched Feb. 1, enables 200 students studying Dari -- a dialect spoken in Afghanistan -- to tap into materials and capabilities offered through the educational, or "dot-edu", network, said Jonathan Russell, the language center's chief technology officer. "This innovation lets us go on to open-source websites in order to quickly gather the information we need and link up with websites that have our target language on them," said Army Sgt. Noah Mott, another Dari student. "We as a military unit have been able to use them in a way that better helps us understand our foreign language."

UK pupils 'worst in Europe for learning foreign languages'

(Telegraph) ...Graeme Paton

An international study shows that schoolchildren are less likely to learn multiple languages than in almost any other EU member state. In the last decade, the UK plunged from mid-table to joint-bottom of major rankings listing the number of languages learned in each country. Children from nations such as Poland, Slovakia, Bulgaria, Slovenia, Latvia and Lithuania are more likely to be taught a number of foreign languages than peers in home nations, figures show. In Luxembourg, pupils learn between two and three languages compared with an average of just one in the UK.

Chinese Flagship Names Interim Director

(Inside Indiana Business – News Release)

Vivian Ling, a leader in the field of Chinese language and literature, has been appointed as interim director of Indiana University's Chinese Flagship Program. Earlier this year, the Language Flagship, an initiative of the National Security Education Program (NSEP) within the U.S. Department of Defense, chose IU as the only location for its graduate-level activities in Chinese. In 2008, the IU Center for Chinese Language Pedagogy (CCLP) -- located within the College of Arts and Sciences -- was selected for the Flagship's undergraduate program. Ling will serve as director for the next two years, while IU conducts a national search. She is succeeding Jennifer Liu, who accepted a position at Harvard University.

Obama Says Learn a Foreign Language

(AuPairCare - Blog) ...Nikki Sulon

Last week President Obama stated that more Americans should be learning foreign languages in order to keep up with today's global economy: *"I will tell you...having a foreign language, that's important. That makes you so much more employable because if you go to a company and they're doing business in France or Belgium or Switzerland or Europe somewhere, and they find out you've got that language skill, that's going to be important as well. And we don't do that as much as we should; we don't emphasize that as much as we should here in the United States."* It's true - being bilingual will help you land a job in fields such as healthcare, hospitality, education, government, and business. For instance, people who are bilingual in Spanish and English are in particularly high demand for business executive and healthcare positions in the U.S. due to the large Spanish-speaking population across the country.

Foreign Language Teachers association to meet in Rochester

(Messenger Post) ...Jessica Spies

The New York State Association of Foreign Language Teachers, Inc. will have their annual conference this fall in Rochester. MaryAnn Woods-Murphy, 2009-10 New Jersey State Teacher of the Year, 2010

NECTFL Teacher of the Year, Northern Highlands Regional High School, Spanish teacher and diversity educator will be the keynote speaker. More than 400 foreign language professionals are expected to attend workshops focusing on topics like state standards and assessments, Advanced Placement examinations, using music, film, and art in the classroom and technology. Workshops will be offered in French, Spanish, German, Latin and Italian.

Convergys hires up to 900 workers

(First Coast News)...Phil Amato

Convergys doesn't disclose its clients to the public saying it's a branding issue. But they include some of the major players in the telecommunications, [financial](#), retail, insurance and landscaping industries. Someone is always at the call center answering calls and not only in English. Spanish, Portuguese and Italian are some of the other languages workers speak to clients all around the world. "Our Jacksonville site is very diverse, from our IT departments, to our varied programs that speak the different languages. We certainly pride ourselves on that," says Convergys recruiting manager William "Tripp" Brendle. \$1 to \$3 more an hour if they speak a foreign language.

Language Readiness Index (LRI) – (DRRS) User Guide Videos

(DRRS)

Training videos on how to effectively use and navigate through the LRI and DRRS.

PREVIOUS NEWS

Panetta: Language training critical to U.S. interests, security

(American Forces Press Service)...Donna Miles

Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta returned Aug. 23 to the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center he championed as a congressman to praise the next generation of military linguists he called critical to the United States' future.

Bilingual babies' vocabulary linked to early brain differentiation

(EurekAlert)...Molly McElroy

Babies and children are whizzes at learning a second language, but that ability begins to fade as early as their first birthdays. Researchers at the University of Washington's Institute for Learning & Brain Sciences are investigating the brain mechanisms that contribute to infants' prowess at learning languages, with the hope that the findings could boost bilingualism in adults, too. In a new study, the researchers report that the brains of babies raised in bilingual households show a longer period of being flexible to different languages, especially if they hear a lot of language at home. The researchers also show that the relative amount of each language – English and Spanish – babies were exposed to affected their vocabulary as toddlers. The study, published online Aug. 17 in *Journal of Phonetics*, is the first to measure brain activity throughout infancy and relate it to language exposure and speaking ability.

Tennessee legislators make summer trip to China

(knoxnews.com)...Tom Humphrey

The organizer of a trip by 15 state legislators to China this summer says he returned with a "verbal commitment" from Chinese officials to match up to \$5 million in state money for establishing educational ties between the nation and Tennessee. The lawmakers, including Reps. Ryan Haynes and Harry Tindell of Knoxville, spent 10 days touring the Asian nation last month, to include a visit to the Hanban. Hanban, more properly known as the Chinese National Office for Teaching Chinese as a Foreign Language, is affiliated with the Confucius Institute, a nonprofit public institution that promotes Chinese language and culture. According to its website, the institute is engaged in teaching the Chinese language at more than 300 locations around the world. Tennessee legislators were invited to China by Madam Xu Lin, executive director of the international Confucius Institute, through its University of Memphis operation, said Coley, a veteran of three prior trips to the People's Republic of China.

A look at the popularity of Mandarin as a foreign language

(Asian Correspondent)...Annie Chiu

Learning Chinese is becoming more and more popular around the world. It is reported that over 3,000 universities and colleges in 109 countries provide students with Chinese courses. In addition, more than 500 Confucius Schools have been set up around the world. Students in many countries, such as America, India, France and Russia can take Chinese courses. Even the Middle School students of these countries can choose Chinese courses as a second foreign language. First, Mandarin is becoming popular because of the great achievements that China has made in the last 30 years. Thirty years ago China was a poor and undeveloped country, but great changes have taken place in China since then. China has become the second biggest economy in the world. With the Beijing 2008 Olympics and the World Expo 2010 in Shanghai, the world has learned more about China and China has learned more about the world. China has played important roles in some international affairs.

Register for FLAG's World Language Program

(Suburban News – Press Release)

FLAG's World Language Program begins registration for the 2011-12 academic year. FLAG is offering French, Spanish and Mandarin classes to K-fifth grades, with levels appropriate to each child and in small class size. The Spanish II class complements the public school curriculum allowing the children to reinforce the oral skill they are learning in school. The French classes provide excellent preparation for children who will elect that language in sixth grade. In the Mandarin classes, children are introduced to the mandarin language and its rich culture.

After Cuts, Cornell Fights for Future of Eleven Languages

(The Cornell Daily Sun)...Akane Otani

Cornell administrators and professors are fighting to save the university's "critical languages" program – which offers instruction in 11 lesser-known languages of national interest such as Thai and Khmer – after the federal government slashed approximately half of its funding on May 13. Provost Kent Fuchs decided in June that his office would temporarily provide 90-percent of the languages' lost funding. Beyond that, however, the future of the program looks bleak.

Lewis U's Startalk helps VVSD students learn a new language

(TribeLocal)...Larry Randa

Twenty-three Valley View School District 365U high school students earned college credits while learning the basics of a new language over the summer through a free Lewis University program called "Startalk." "Students were selected on the basis of a number of factors, including their academic achievement and their commitment to continue studying the target language in the future," said Assistant Professor Serafima Gettys, coordinator of Lewis' Foreign Language Program.

Lockheed Martin (NYSE:LMT) Shows Off New Interpretation Service

(Stocks & Shares – Press Release)

Lockheed Martin (NYSE:LMT) has developed highly qualified linguist online interpretation service LinGo Link to remove language barriers. The service offers a real-time option that connects interpreters with different users at the same time. Macy W. Summers, Lockheed Martin (NYSE:LMT)'s IS&GS-Defense vice president, said, "Lockheed Martin (NYSE:LMT)'s unique solution provides language support to forces that in the past have not had access to qualified interpreters. LinGo Link serves as a force multiplier by allowing interpreters, skilled in multiple languages and dialects, to be used in different areas without the need to be physically present at each location".

First Day Of School For CMS

(Fox Charlotte)

It's a new era for Waddell formerly Smith Language Academy. It's a highly regarded K-8 foreign language immersion program. They made the big move to what was Waddell High School. As you might expect first day here is an adjustment. Ynez Olshausen, Principal says "a lot of tours going on today, teachers leading their kids around you can tell by their faces they look bewildered but they're enjoying it." Now because they're a K-8 you would think they'd be overwhelmed moving into a high school building but not so they had 24 mobile classrooms last year and the principal says they are using 100 percent of this building.

Cept to launch language courses

(Daily News & Analysis)

The Centre for Environmental Planning and Technology (Cept) University is all set to launch foreign language courses from September 12. The university will offer courses in French, German and Chinese languages. "Cept no more is an architecture only institute. It's a University and to expand its horizon, we have decided to launch this course in foreign language. When students will be architect or interior designers, they will also need command over languages of the countries they want to work in or clients they serve to. Basically, the initiative is to help students," said Khandwala.