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## **DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE**

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### **CURRENT NEWS 31 AUGUST 2011**

#### **First day, first grade, new language? No problem**

*(Salt Lake Tribune)*...Lisa Schencker

For many Utah students, the days of starting foreign language instruction slowly, in middle or high school, are over. Horizon Elementary in Murray is one of 57 schools — 16 more than last year — offering dual-immersion language classes often starting in first grade. Students spend half the day with an English-speaking teacher, and the other half with a teacher who speaks entirely in a foreign language — Spanish, French or Mandarin Chinese — focusing on various subjects in each language. By sixth grade, they're expected to be fluent in both languages.

#### **More high school students take second foreign language**

*(China Post)*

The number of high school students taking second foreign language courses in Taiwan has increased 2.7 times in the past decade while those taking certifying tests for foreign language proficiency soared by seven times. Officials at the Ministry of Education (MOE) said yesterday that high schools started offering second foreign language courses in 2001 and total the number of students taking the class increased by 270 percent to reach close to 90,000 in 2010. As high as 90 percent of students have passed the proficiency tests at all levels while the total number jumped by 700 percent, they said.

#### **Montenegro lags over language on path to EU**

*(New Europe)*...Ivan Delibasic

The European Parliament's Delegation for South-East Europe Vice Chairman [Jelko Kacin](#) has criticised the Montenegrin opposition for hampering the country's [EU](#) accession prospects. Kacin acknowledged the question of language and culture as being important, but highlighted that what was also at stake is the beginning of Montenegro's accession negotiations. The Montenegrin opposition is considering a parliamentary boycott after the 2 September debate on amendments to the Law on General Education if an agreement is not reached on the status of the Serbian language in Montenegro's schools. The opposition set granting of equal status to the Serbian and Montenegrin languages in the country's education system as the prime condition for its support for the reform of the election law required by the EU to commence the accession negotiations.

#### **Will Gadhafi defeat bring new freedom for Berbers in Libya?**

*(CNN – OPINION)*...Peter Fragiskatos

While the rebels in eastern Libya appeared divided and have struggled to make gains, their [counterparts in the western Nafusa Mountains](#) have enjoyed much greater success. Over the past few months, they have secured control over a wide area near the Tunisian border, a strategic position that helped open the way toward Tripoli, where the Gadhafi regime appears to have met its end. All this from a group of [inexperienced fighters](#) whose ranks include doctors, professors, students and even taxi drivers. But there is something else that makes the Nafusa rebels different from those who fought in the east: Many of them are Berbers. Taking advantage of the uprising against Gadhafi, Libya's Berber minority, around 10% of the population, is engaged in a [cultural revival](#). The teaching of Berber language courses and the airing of radio broadcasts, acts punishable by torture or even death only a few months ago, are now openly practiced and Berber activists are adamant about preserving their newfound freedom.

#### **Three-fifths of colleges get C or worse in general education**

*(Washington Post)*...Daniel de Vise

An analysis of core education requirements at 1,007 colleges found that three-fifths of those schools require three or fewer of seven basic subjects, such as science, math and foreign language. This is the

[third annual report on general education](#) by the American Council of Trustees and Alumni, titled What Will They Learn? The group has set out to illustrate the failings of America's colleges in requiring students to learn essential subjects over the course of their education.

### **Cryptologic Linguist - Technical Training**

*(YouTube)*

Air Force video on Air Force cryptolinguists, their training, and their current missions.

### **General Dynamics Awarded Foreign Language Training Support Services Contract**

*(Market Watch – PRESS RELEASE)*

General Dynamics Information Technology, a business unit of General Dynamics, is one of six awardees selected by the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center (DLIFLC) for the Foreign Language Training and Training Support Services contract. The five-year, indefinite delivery, indefinite quantity contract has a potential value of \$96.3 million to all awardees if all options are exercised. General Dynamics will provide foreign language instruction; curriculum development and documentation; infrastructure support for individual, small-group classes and instructors; as well as long-distance support and instructor-quality control for Mobile Training Teams. In addition, General Dynamics will provide state-of-the-art language training facilities equipped with Wi-Fi, classrooms and lounge areas in the Washington, D.C. metro area.

## **PREVIOUS NEWS**

### **'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, [financia!](#), 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.

### **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.