



## NEWS RELEASE

For additional information, please contact David Jespersen by phone (402-471-4537) or email ([david.jespersen@nebraska.gov](mailto:david.jespersen@nebraska.gov))

JUNE 6, 2022

# NEBRASKA STUDENTS AWARDED SEALS OF BILITERACY

The Nebraska Department of Education and the Nebraska International Language Association have awarded 145 Seals of Bilingualism to 144 Nebraska students this semester. This is the first time that a Nebraska Seal of Bilingualism has been issued for the language of Somali.

The Nebraska Seal of Bilingualism is a collaboration between the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) and the Nebraska International Language Association honoring high school students who have achieved a high level of proficiency in English and at least one other language.

Students apply for the Nebraska Seal of Bilingualism after demonstrating proficiency based on the Nebraska World Language Standards structured around communication, cultures, connections, communities, and cognition within a language other than English.

### 2022 Spring Nebraska Seal of Bilingualism Recipients

#### ***Ana Raymundo-Tercero***

Omaha South High School

Spanish

#### ***Chris Lopez***

Papillion La Vista Senior High School

Spanish

#### ***Emmy Lu Feek***

Falls City Senior High School

Spanish

***Ashley Rivas Martinez***

Crete High School

Spanish

***Darlyn Reyes Sosa***

Omaha South High School

Spanish

***Genesis Acosta-Garcia***

Lexington High School

German

***Brisa Garcia-Vargas***

Lexington High School

Spanish

***Ella Goeke-Schulte***

West Holt Rural High School

Spanish

***Gisela Meza-Guzman***

Omaha South High School

Spanish

***Gissell Martinez-Garcia***

Omaha South High School

French

***Jenny Dong***

Millard West High School

Chinese

***Karissa Rieck***

Lincoln Southwest High School

French

***Mallis Bonner***

Omaha South High School

Spanish

***Haley Hernandez-Sandoval***

Lexington High School

Spanish

***Jose Gonzalez-Hilario***

Omaha South High School

Spanish

***Landon Magana***

Omaha South High School

Spanish

***Sadie Jarecke***

West Holt Rural High School

Spanish

***Janna Marley***

Lincoln High School

Spanish

***Karen Estrada Gutierrez***

Omaha Central High School

Spanish

***Mailyne Zubiato-Rodriguez***

Omaha South High School

Spanish

Community support is a crucial aspect of strengthening the foundation of World Language instruction. We are excited to announce new partnerships that will strengthen the Seal of Biliteracy program.

The University of Nebraska Lincoln will recognize the NE Bilingual Seal of Biliteracy for students entering this fall. Students who have earned a Gold or Silver designation in Spanish, French, and German will be placed into more advanced classes and will have the potential to earn retroactive credit.

Wayne State College will award six credits for students who have achieved a Silver designation and nine credits for those students who achieve a Gold designation.

Four organizations are also providing extra support for students. The Lincoln Chinese Cultural Association, the Nebraska Chinese Association, the Nebraska Languages Initiative and the Embassy of Spain will work with teachers and the community to provide professional development and other supports for students working towards the Seal of Biliteracy.

And Heartland Steel LLC has announced their support for the Seal by recognizing it as evidence of bilingual skills in their hiring process.

More information about the Nebraska Seal of Biliteracy can be found online at:

[www.education.ne.gov/worldlanguage/nebraska-seal-of-biliteracy](http://www.education.ne.gov/worldlanguage/nebraska-seal-of-biliteracy).

####

*David Jespersen*  
*Public Information Officer, Nebraska Department of Education*  
402-471-4537  
[david.jespersen@nebraska.gov](mailto:david.jespersen@nebraska.gov)  
@NDE\_News