



# Nebraska Department of Education

301 Centennial Mall South ♦ Lincoln, Nebraska ♦ 68509

## World Language Review

February 2018

### World Language Colloquium

*Setting the Context for Standards Revision*

Thirty-seven participants from around the state met at the World Language Colloquium February 8 in Lincoln to determine the areas of need in world language programming and to create a context for the revision of world language standards.



A discussion of the skills needed in language acquisition and production led to a comparison of second language learning skills to Nebraska's Career Readiness Standards. Language skills such as problem solving, communicating with empathy, and thinking with global perspectives correlate with career readiness skills such as communicating effectively and appropriately, using critical thinking, and demonstrating cultural competency. The power of languages to be college, career, and civic ready became evident as the group discussed that everyone gains by learning languages and that communication skills grow exponentially when a second language is introduced.

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# Charlamos: Notes of Gratitude



This morning, I heard on the news that a grateful heart can create a healthier and happier body and mind. February is certainly a month of gratitude for me. In November, I began to plan with the Nebraska Department of Education Data, Research, and Evaluation Team a survey to be released to all world language teachers in Nebraska. The survey, released to over 800 teachers, would be the largest study of world language programming from NDE. The DRE Team worked tirelessly to translate my requests into a usable and effective format.

In December, the survey was released to the state. I am very grateful to those who took the time to complete the survey. The 440 of you who responded helped to provide the data needed for a rich discussion at the World Language Colloquium.

The thirty-seven participants at the Colloquium invested their energy, their thoughts, and their experience. I am grateful for their hard work and willingness to take on challenging discussions for the benefit of our state.

The following day, the World Language Week Advisory Cadre met. Over the last three months, the group has met periodically to plan our first World Language Week. With the imagery produced by our Communications and Outreach Team, we are now ready to begin advertising the initiatives designed by the committee. I am grateful for their willingness to work around full schedules and responsibilities to create a lasting opportunity for our teachers and students.

I am fortunate to have this position. Not only do I get to work with the professionals at NDE, but I continue to work with world language teachers across the state. I participated in a discussion recently that focused on the uniqueness of world language teachers. I am grateful for that uniqueness and the fireless dedication evidenced by all of you.

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Languages Taught in Nebraska

	2016-2017	2015-2016	2012-2013	2009-2010	2006-2007	2003-2004	2000-2001
ASL	19	6	-	0	0	0	-
Chinese	1,036	892	798	422	81	71	34
French	13,929	13,131	12,772	8202	5314	5917	5,865
German	7,184	7,073	7,141	5552	4251	4684	6,761
Japanese	208	190	161	188	108	114	264
Latin	1,191	969	1,144	886	494	537	709
Russian	57	117	49	22	12	15	32
Spanish	92,177	88,784	84,160	59478	48377	46374	46,776
Language Survey	14,460	14,199	11,486	12691	11288	9011	9,000
Other	6,356	5,391	4,449	6599	5704	3607	3,509
<b>Total WL Students</b>	<b>136,617</b>	<b>130,752</b>	<b>122,160</b>	<b>94040</b>	<b>75629</b>	<b>70330</b>	<b>72,950</b>
<b>Total Students</b>	<b>302,386</b>	<b>299,877</b>	<b>289,411</b>	<b>282,977</b>	<b>280,202</b>	<b>278,858</b>	<b>280,495</b>
<b>Enrolled in World Languages</b>	<b>45.2%</b>	<b>43.60%</b>	<b>42.21%</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>26%</b>

Source: Nebraska Department of Education, World Language Specialist, 2018



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## Events

- ♦  
Masters of Arts in  
Language Teaching  
Workshop  
UNO  
February 16-17
- ♦  
Dido & Aeneas Opera  
UNO  
February 16-17
- ♦  
Chinese Spring Festival  
UNK  
February 17
- ♦  
Engaging Educators  
World Language Day  
ESU 4  
February 19
- ♦  
Hinamatsuri: Japanese  
Doll Exhibit  
Lauritzen Gardens and  
Kenefick Park  
Omaha  
February 20-March 4
- ♦  
Japan Festival  
UNL  
March 2
- ♦  
Scott D. Morris  
International Food and  
Cultural Festival  
Health and Sports  
Center  
UNK  
March 4
- ♦  
Central States (ACTFL)  
Milwaukee  
March 8-10
- ♦  
Irish Celtic Concert  
The Old Avoca  
Schoolhouse  
Avoca  
March 11
- ♦

# Colloquium 2018: Prioritizing Areas of Need

In 2016, Dr. Janine Theiler initiated the first World Language Colloquium to discuss and establish priorities for NDE in meeting the needs of world language teachers across the state. Task force groups were formed to address needs in the areas of programming, proficiency, professional learning, advocacy and collaboration. Tasks chosen by the 2016 group included the Seal of Biliteracy, increasing and maintaining communication among stakeholders through a centralized system, and creating professional development opportunities.

## *Seal of Biliteracy*

Rebecca Gill-Rose and Nila Jacobson explained that the Nebraska Legislature has expressed that the Seal of Biliteracy will remain a district-level decision. However, working with the Nebraska International Language Association, Gill-Rose and Jacobson have organized a program that awarded 39 Seals of Biliteracy this year. The Seal of Biliteracy is given to students who have shown proficiency in English and one other language. Any world language teacher can nominate students through NILA's established process. More information can be found at:

<http://www.nebraskalanguages.com/seal-of-biliteracy.html>

## *NILA's Learning Challenge*

Dr. Janet Eckerson and Dr. Nick Ziegler illustrated the opportunities for professional development now available through the Nebraska International Language Association. Dr. Eckerson detailed the face-to-face immersion, integrated performance assessment, and comprehensible input workshops offered by NILA and AATSP. Dr. Ziegler explained NILA's online Professional Learning Challenge that offers courses such as Implementing Comprehensible Input, Creating Integrated Performance Assessments, Developing Intercultural Communicative Competence, Enhancing Comprehensible Input Through MovieTalk, and Empowering Learners with LinguaFolio. More information can be found online at <http://www.nebraskalanguages.com/nila-iwla-challenge.html>.

## *Moving Forward*

2018 participants were asked to indicate what they saw as the most strategic tasks given the impending revision of world language standards. Moving forward, the next steps will be to develop a shared vision on proficiency outcomes for each year of learning experience in coordination with standards revision at the state level. This will lead to creating an understanding of what effective world language programs and providing professional development to reinforce that understanding.

◆  
Lincoln Irish Dancers 20<sup>th</sup>  
Annual Ceili  
Lincoln  
March 11

◆  
"Germany &  
Switzerland" Travelogue  
Presented by Altrusa  
Grand Island  
March 11

◆  
Wu Man and the Huayin  
Shadow Puppet Band  
Lied Center, Lincoln  
March 14

◆  
The Buzz About CI  
Workshop  
ESU 6  
March 27

◆  
World Language Week  
in Nebraska  
April 1-7

◆  
Language Fair  
UNL  
April 5

◆  
Le Convention Français  
Millard South High  
School  
April 7

◆  
Nebraska German  
Students' Convention  
Skutt Catholic High  
School  
April 7

If you would like to share your event, please email [stephanie.call@nebraska.gov](mailto:stephanie.call@nebraska.gov) with the information to add.



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## Distinguished Scholar Award



# THE POWER OF LANGUAGES

to make you college,  
career, and civic ready

WORLD LANGUAGE WEEK • APRIL 1-7, 2018

The World Language Distinguished Scholar Award recognizes Nebraska high school students for their leadership in language learning, commitment to language study, appreciation for cultural diversity, and communicative competence.

High schools in Nebraska may nominate one student per language offered in the building or one student per level (I/II, III/IV, V/AP/IB/Native Speakers) if there is one language offered in the building. Nominations must be made by the student's teacher using the online form at <https://goo.gl/forms/uwKU4eaDPKs48Fyk1>.

Nominations are due February 23. Nominated students will be asked to complete a portfolio and to submit it with their information forms. The selection committee will choose three students per ESU for recognition. World Language Distinguished Scholars will be announced the week of April 1, 2018.

## World Language News

A Previously Unknown Language Has Just Been Discovered in Southeast Asia

<https://www.sciencealert.com/new-language-found-asian-malaysia-jedek-hunter-gatherers>

Why Are They Speaking French At The Opening Ceremony?

<https://www.elitedaily.com/p/why-are-they-speaking-french-at-the-2018-opening-ceremony-its-a-long-time-tradition-8172106>

There Are 2,144 African Languages, Using Them in Our Universities Will Help, Not Hinder Youth

<https://qz.com/1201975/african-universities-should-use-african-languages-not-just-english-french-and-portuguese/>

Prince George Is Learning to Speak This Foreign Language

<https://www.rd.com/culture/prince-george-speak-language/>



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## Professional Opportunities

National Association for Bilingual Education  
Conference

Albuquerque, New Mexico

March 1-3, 2018

<http://www.nabe-conference.com/index.html>

Central States Conference on the Teaching  
of a Foreign Languages

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

March 8-10, 2018

<https://csctfl.wildapricot.org/>

STARTALK Chinese Teacher Institute

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

July 11-21, 2018

<https://sites.google.com/site/stchineseteacherinstitute/home>

MA in Teaching, Learning and Teacher  
Education

German, Spanish

University of Nebraska-Lincoln (online)

Registration deadline for fall 2018:

March 1, 2018

<https://cehs.unl.edu/tlte/golden-education/>

Earn a Master's in French/Spanish Language  
Teaching

Summer Language Institute

For Spanish and French Teachers

Southern Oregon University

\$350/credit hour

\$100 study abroad fee

\$55 insurance fee

DEADLINE: March 2, 2018

[www.sou.edu/sli](http://www.sou.edu/sli)



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