



# Nebraska Department of Education

500 S 84<sup>th</sup> St. Second Floor ♦ Lincoln, Nebraska ♦ 68510

## World Languages

August 2021

**Mission Statement:** Empower educators to engage students in authentic use of world languages via standard-based instruction to fulfill a range of functions, from expressing personal needs to communicating in the workplace, and to establish strategic relationships across cultures so that they may learn, earn, and live.

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### New Positions filled – Get Connected



#### Xianquan Liu (Chrystal) – NDE World Languages Specialist

- Ph.D. in Educational Studies (2020, University of Nebraska-Lincoln)
- 12 years of college English teaching experience in China and four years of Chinese teaching experience in an urban high school in Omaha, Nebraska.

Email: [chrystal.liu@nebraska.gov](mailto:chrystal.liu@nebraska.gov)

Work Phone: 402-430-8147

#### My goals

My role is to support world language teachers in Nebraska. In this coming academic year, my focus will be on implementation of the 2019 Nebraska World Languages Standards, advocacy for the Nebraska Seal of Biliteracy (NSOB), and improvement of technology literacy amongst world language teachers. I will also support various initiatives from ESUs, school districts, community partners, and individual world language teachers.

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#### Katy Cattlett - President of [NILA](#) (Nebraska International Language Association)



Katy Cattlett earned a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education with an endorsement in English as a Second Language from the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO). She later earned an endorsement in bilingual education from UNO as well as a master's degree in Educational Leadership from Doane University. Ms. Cattlett's career began at a small bilingual Catholic school in South Omaha. In 2004, she began working as a dual language teacher at RM Marrs Magnet Middle School. From 2009 until 2019, Ms. Cattlett served as the curriculum supervisor for the dual language and world languages programs with Omaha Public Schools. In August 2019, Ms. Cattlett achieved one of her dreams, becoming the principal of Spring Lake Magnet Elementary in South Omaha. Ms. Cattlett's most important role is being mom to her three children.



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## NDE World Languages Initiatives for 2021-2022

In the coming academic year (2021-2022), there will be three NDE World Languages initiatives: implementation of 2019 NDE World Languages Standards, advocacy for the Nebraska Seal of Biliteracy, and improvement of technology literacy.

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### Implementation of 2019 Nebraska World Language Standards

The NDE World Language Standards were approved in 2019, however, the implementation process was delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In the coming academic year, the NDE World Languages program will provide professional learning on the introduction and implementation of the revised standards. Follow-up support will be available upon request. NDE World Languages also welcomes participation and involvement from Nebraska educators in creating standards-based teaching resources, which will be shared across the state as part of NDE's Open Education Resources (OER) hub. Any ESU or district staff, or individual teachers interested in the creation of OER resources, please feel free to contact Chrystal Liu at [chrystal.liu@nebraska.gov](mailto:chrystal.liu@nebraska.gov).



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### Advocacy of Nebraska Seal of Biliteracy (NBOS)

The Nebraska Seal of Biliteracy is a collaboration between the Nebraska Department of Education and the Nebraska International Languages Association to acknowledge high school students who can demonstrate proficiency in English and one other language. It is recognized by employers and postsecondary institutions even in other states. One of the goals of this initiative is to make more Nebraska students aware of the program, thereby increasing the number of qualified students who successfully complete the application process. In the 2021-2022 academic year, NDE World Languages is committed to advocating the NSOB across the state by working together with ESUs, school districts, teachers, counselors, and community members to maximize the impact so that more and more Nebraskan high school graduates can benefit. Any help and support will be greatly appreciated.

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### Technology Literacy Improvement

Technology integration in world language education has become an undeniable trend, especially during and after the pandemic. To be better prepared for future unexpected situations (like the pandemic), world language teachers need to improve technology literacy and develop skills to effectively integrate educational technology to promote learner motivation, to provide equitable instruction, and to involve language learners in meaningful communication in authentic contexts. NDE World Languages welcomes requests for collaboration and professional learning opportunities.



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## Immediate Help Needed to Advocate NSOB

World language teachers, your help is needed to pass the information within your districts, schools, departments, colleagues in other content areas, and students to maximize the impact so that more and more students can be acknowledged for their bilingual proficiency. In turn, more and more people will be aware of the value of being bilingual and the importance of world language education. The deadline for application is **August 15, 2021**. Please help spread the word so that many of your students can still benefit. This [flyer](#) provides more information.

## Program Advocacy - New Programs Approved

The Department of Modern Language and Literature at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln has approved a new online course. The course is ready for student enrollment this fall. This online Russian program is part of Nebraska Now Program,

(<https://admissions.unl.edu/specialized-information/nebraska-now/>), which is open to 11th and 12th graders.

Please help spread the words with ESUs, districts, schools, colleagues, and students so that the new program will have a good enrollment.



## Technology Literacy Improvement

Improving technology literacy is one of the three initiatives for NDE World Languages. Our experience shifting from in-person to online instruction without adequate preparation at the end of last March was a real-life example showing us that world language teachers need to improve technology literacy to be better prepared for possible future unexpected situations like the pandemic. In response, ACTFL has provided four issues of [Tech Watch](#) every year since 2018. The most recent issue is [here](#).

## Engaging learners with online manipulatives by [Flippity](#)

Flippity is a website that offers a variety of templates to generate games and activities to engage learners either in-person or online. One of the most popular templates is [Manipulatives](#), which generates an online version of the traditional envelope activities. The only thing teachers need to do is to replace the items in the spreadsheet in the template, publish it to the web, get the link, and play with students. Once teachers are more familiar with the manipulatives template, they can change the background to

## Events

### [Chinese Teacher PD](#)

OCCA, Omaha  
12:00 pm– 3:00 pm August 7<sup>th</sup>

### [Teacher Educator Forum](#) [Zoom Link](#)

9:00 – 12:00 August 9<sup>th</sup>

### [World Language Content Area Discussion](#) [Zoom Link](#)

1:00 pm – 2:30 pm August 9<sup>th</sup>

### [NSOB Fall Application Closes](#)

August, 15<sup>th</sup>  
[Link to apply](#)

### [Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival Celebration](#)

Zorinsky Lake Park, Omaha  
September 18<sup>th</sup>

### [NILA Conference](#)

Virtual  
October 23<sup>rd</sup>

### [NCSSFL Conference](#)

Virtual  
November 16-18

### [ACTFL Conference](#)

Virtual  
November 19-21

### [2021 Nebraska Chinese Association Youth Talent Contest](#)

[link to details](#)

Please email event information to  
[Chrystal.liu@nebraska.gov](mailto:Chrystal.liu@nebraska.gov)



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have columns, rows, or Venn diagrams, etc. [This YouTube Tutorial](#) will help you get started if you are interested. If you have questions or need help, please don't hesitate to contact [chrystal.liu@nebraska.gov](mailto:chrystal.liu@nebraska.gov).

What kind of technology have you been using? What technologies are welcomed by your students? What kind of technology are you interested in learning more about? Please feel free to contact [chrystal.liu@nebraska.gov](mailto:chrystal.liu@nebraska.gov).

## Teacher Stories

Each NDE World Languages newsletter will include a section entitled "Teacher Stories" to help world language teachers know who are in the community and what other teachers are doing. It is also a good opportunity to introduce yourself to the community. Please feel free to contact [chrystal.liu@nebraska.gov](mailto:chrystal.liu@nebraska.gov) to share your stories with the Nebraska world language community.



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### Story from [Micah Ringlein](#) – Our Talented Picture Book Author

Micah has just received his paperweight as acknowledgement for his ten years of excellent French teaching at Omaha Central.

Here is his story...

"As my wife and I are both seasoned, public school French teachers, we had been discussing approaches to encouraging multilingualism in our home as well as with our friends and family for our 2020-born daughter's benefit. We had been making conscious efforts to provide her with texts and toys that offered Spanish and French, as well as surround her with engaging contexts in those same languages whenever possible. It is important to us that our daughter grows up understanding that languages are keys to connecting with people and to becoming an aware and understanding world citizen.

"Around the same time of our discussions, I started experimenting with digital illustration to make a series of one-panel comics, *Peas in a Pod*. My goal was to share the excitement, crazy blunders, and difficulties of being a first-time parent through a family of green peas. Shortly after making my first handful of comics, I was inspired by my wife, Masey, to write, illustrate, and have Amazon publish my children's book, [The Little Green Pea](#). Although it was created as a private tribute to her being an outstanding mother, Macey encouraged me to make it publicly available due to its universal messages of love and dedication.

"Putting these two contexts together, it seemed only natural that I then make *The Little Green Pea* available in as many languages as possible. I was able to consult my very patient, polyglot friends and co-workers to make now-published text translations into Spanish (*La lentejita verde*) and French (*Maman petit pois*) with Japanese, Chinese, German, and Russian on the way. In addition, I asked notably influential women in my life to contribute their voices for a YouTube read aloud in each language.

"Not only has all of this served as a way to connect with my friends and co-workers, but it has also inspired me to pick up where I left off with learning other languages. Moving forward, it is my absolute pleasure to continue documenting our growing family through the comics and future books with the pea family. It is perhaps an odd parental joy to find out that someone else has a child that also loves to find and try to eat fuzz balls off



the floor. Furthermore, all of the technical skills that I have acquired will lend themselves handily to improving the quality of materials that I can offer my students. Learning digital illustration, animation, video, and audio recording has been quite the leap for me, but if you're considering doing this yourself for the benefit of your classroom, just know that it's nothing compared to learning how to do remote learning in 2020. For more information about my comic books, please check this [link](#).

## Teaching Resources

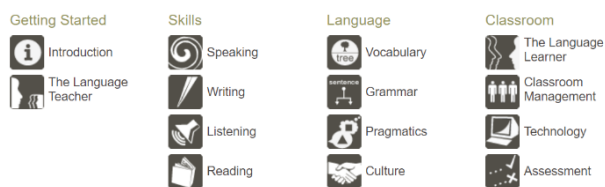
[English and French Channel YouTube](#): A Canadian teacher, Danielle Rychlo, shared her ELL YouTube channel with NDE, and it can be used as a resource. She films her PowerPoints so that others have access. The channel has weekly new videos and includes themed vocabulary, idioms, phonics, and grammar. There are interactive activities for the students, such as fill-in-the-blanks, roleplays for "real world" conversations, quizzes, pair questions, class discussions, and more.

[Little Fox Chinese – Stories and Songs for Learners](#) This YouTube Chinese Channel offers short, animated stories and songs to help lower-level to intermediate-level Chinese learners build up vocabulary in authentic contexts. Two new videos will be added each week. Little Fox Chinese also has its own [website](#), which offers stories, songs, and games for Chinese learners. These resources are free upon registration.

[Coerll Center for Open Educational Resources and Language](#) This Open Resource Education Website is created by the University of Texas at Austin. It offers language teaching materials, including free electronic textbooks in different languages. Please click the link below to check language resources for your languages.

<a href="#">Arabic</a>	<a href="#">Bangla</a>	<a href="#">Chinese</a>	<a href="#">Czech</a>	<a href="#">English</a>
<a href="#">French</a>	<a href="#">German</a>	<a href="#">Hebrew</a>	<a href="#">Hindi</a>	<a href="#">Italian</a>
<a href="#">Japanese</a>	<a href="#">K'iche'</a>	<a href="#">Malayalam</a>	<a href="#">Nahuatl</a>	<a href="#">Persian</a>
<a href="#">Portuguese</a>	<a href="#">Russian</a>	<a href="#">Sanskrit</a>	<a href="#">Spanish</a>	<a href="#">Tamil</a>
<a href="#">Turkish</a>	<a href="#">Urdu</a>	<a href="#">Yoruba</a>		

### [Coerll Online Methods Course – Open Resources.](#)



The University of Texas has also included this foreign language teaching methods course in their ORE Hub. This course is arranged in four topics: introduction, skills, language, and classroom. If you need a quick refresh of theories, ideas for your

teaching practice, this course may be the right place to look for resources.

## Schools Needed for Cultural Exchange

Yulin High-Tech Zone No. 4 Elementary School in Shaanxi, China is seeking for an elementary partner school for their September cultural and craft exchange project. Students there have already started working on paintings and crafts. This introduction provides a brief description of the school. Please contact [chrystal.liu@nebraska.gov](mailto:chrystal.liu@nebraska.gov), if your school is interested.



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## World Language Positions in Nebraska

The following teaching positions were posted as of July 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021 from [Teach in Nebraska](#)

- 9-12 School Spanish Teacher, Cozad Community Schools, Cozad
- 8-12 Grade Spanish Teacher, Tekamah-Herman High School, Tekamah
- 7-12 Grade Spanish Teacher, Winnebago Public Schools, Winnebago
- 7-12 Grade Spanish Teacher, Thayer Central Public Schools, Hebron
- 5-8 Grade full of part time Spanish Teacher, St. Columbkille Catholic School, Papillion
- 9-12 Grade part time Spanish teacher, Northwest Public School, Grand Island
- 9-12 Grade Spanish teacher, Schuyler Community Schools, Schuyler
- 7-12 Grade Spanish teacher, Laurel-Concord Coleridge School, Laurel
- 5-12 Grade Spanish teacher, South Platte Public Schools, Big Springs
- 9-12 Grade Spanish teacher, Kearney Catholic High School, Kearney
- 6-12 Grade Spanish teacher, Grand Island Central Catholic, Grand Island
- 9-12 Grade World Language teacher, Gordon-Rushville Public Schools, Gordon
- 7-12 Grade Spanish Teacher, St. Mary's Catholic School, O'Neill
- 9-12 Grade part-time Spanish teacher, Lincoln Lutheran Middle/High School, Lincoln

## Call for Contribution to Next Issues

World language teachers, your contribution is needed to build the Nebraskan world language community. If you are interested in sharing any information and contribute to any section of the newsletter, please contact [chrystal.liu@nebraska.gov](mailto:chrystal.liu@nebraska.gov). The purpose of the NDE monthly newsletter is to communicate NDE initiatives, advocate for programs, advertise cultural event, make connections, and to build community.

Make sure you contact [chrystal.liu@nebraska.gov](mailto:chrystal.liu@nebraska.gov)

- When you have questions about NDE initiatives.
- When you have initiative that needs support from NDE.
- When you want to increase the presence of your program.
- When you have resources to share.
- When there are exciting event going on locally.
- When you need help get connected with other teachers and programs.
- When you have professional learning needs.
- Whenever there is a need.
- And more, ...

Hope your year is off to a GREAT Start!

