



# Nebraska Department of Education

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

## World Language Review

February 2022

### NDE World Language Mission Statement

Empower educators to engage students in the 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 establishing strategic relationships across cultures so that they may learn, earn, and live.

### Ignite the Power of Language: Call for Participation in the 2022 Nebraska World Language Week



The 2022 Nebraska World Language Week will be from March 31<sup>st</sup> through April 6<sup>th</sup>. The theme this year is "Ignite the Power of Languages". NDE World Languages Invites all world language programs, language educators, and language learners across the state to participate in the World Language Week the way they can. The 2022 World Language Week will start with the UNL Language Fair on March 31<sup>st</sup>. World Language Distinguished Scholars will be announced in a news release during that week.

- World Language program Leaders: please contact [chrysal.liu@nebraska.gov](mailto:chrysal.liu@nebraska.gov) to include your activities in 2022 WL Week shared calendar.
- World language teachers: please nominate your students by **March 1<sup>st</sup>** using this [Google Form](#).
- For more detailed information, please check this [poster](#).

- UNL Language Fair
- Meet Our NILA Board: Angie Wagoner
- Local and Regional Spring Conferences
- ACTFL Call for Proposal
- Seal of Biliteracy Spring Application Opens
- Nebraska Language Initiative (organization)
- Teacher Story: How We Started using the Target Language
- Technology Tool: Blooket Online Games
- Teaching Positions in Nebraska
- Call for Contributions to Next Issues



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## UNL Language Fair Sponsored by Department of Modern Language and Literature is Open for Registration



The University of Lincoln-Nebraska will have the 2022 Language Fair from 9:30 am to 2:00 pm on March 31 at the UNL Union. Students can prepare entries in the following area: drama, music, poetry, poster session, or folk dancing (in Russian, French, German, Spanish, Chinese, or Japanese). There is a new category-short film category so that students can still submit an entry even when they are unable to travel. Please contact [modlang2@unl.edu](mailto:modlang2@unl.edu) for registration and questions. For more details, please check the [website](#).

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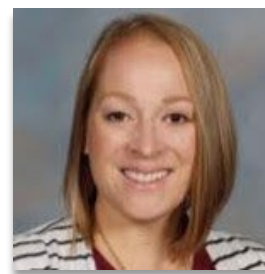
## Meet Our New NILA Board: New President – Angie Wagoner

Angie speaks: Spanish

Works at: Crete High School in Crete, NE.

Education:

- BA in Spanish and TESOL, the University of Northern Iowa, 2008.
- MA in Spanish Education, UNK
- MA in Educational Leadership, Doane University



During my time at UNI, I studied abroad at Universidad Veritas in Costa Rica and fell in love with the country. Since then, I have returned 3 times, once during my master's program at UNK, and twice with students on cultural exchange trips. We hope to go again this summer! My husband Aaron and I have two beautiful daughters, Adalyn (8) and Anabelle (5). We are hosting our first foreign exchange student this year! Her name is Agata, and she is from Poland. It has been a wonderful experience for our family and our community. We also have two huskies, Winston and Truman. When I'm not teaching or spending time with my family, I love to play cards or board games with friends, read, listen to music, see musicals at the Orpheum (we have season tickets!), and lift weights or go for walks! I'm passionate about helping the students in my community find value in



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different cultures, languages, and the huge world around them. I hope to see you all at NILA 2022!

## The 16th Annual Colloquium on Language Teaching



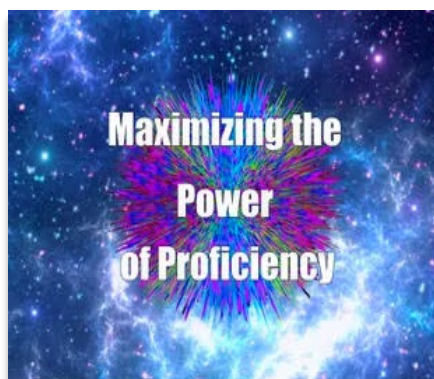
### Sponsored by UNO

The University of Nebraska-Omaha is hosting the 16th Annual Colloquium on Teaching Languages from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm on Feb. 5th, 2022. Dr. Dale A. Koike, Professor Emeritus at the University of Texas at Austin will be the keynote speaker,

and the topic is "Heritage Language and Learning/ Teaching: from Research to Practice". More details and the agenda can be found [here](#). Please register [here](#) if you haven't.

## CSCTFL's 54th Annual Conference is open for Registration!

Central State Conference on Teaching Foreign Languages will be held virtually from March 3rd to March 5, 2022. The conference theme is "Maximizing the Power of Proficiency". The Thursday keynote speaker will be Kim Potowski, and her topic will be *Apples and*



*oranges: Best approaches in working with heritage speakers.* The Saturday keynote speakers will be Elizabeth Matchett and Ying Jin, and they will talk about Empowering World Language Instruction with The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. A preliminary list of sessions is located [here](#). Please check this [website](#) for more detailed information about the conference. The registration link is [here](#) if you are interested. The registration fee is 105 dollars if registered before February 15th. If you need some reference to talk to your school or district, [this letter for administrators](#) offered by the conference might be very helpful. The conference also offers a [professional development certificate](#)

that can be presented to your school or district as evidence of participation.

### Events

- ◆  
[Lunar New Year](#)  
February 1<sup>st</sup>
- ◆  
[16<sup>th</sup> UNO Annual Colloquium on Teaching Languages](#)  
February 5<sup>th</sup>
- ◆  
[2022 ACTFL Proposal dues](#)  
February 11<sup>th</sup>
- ◆  
[Lunar New Year Celebration and Asian Culture](#)  
February 12<sup>th</sup>,  
Lancaster Event Center
- ◆  
[Early Bird Registration for 2022 CSCTFL](#)  
February 15<sup>th</sup>
- ◆  
[2022 World Language Distinguished Scholar Dues](#)  
March 1<sup>st</sup>
- ◆  
[2022 CSCTFL Virtual](#)  
March 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>
- ◆  
[2022 World Language Week](#)  
March 31<sup>st</sup> – April 6<sup>th</sup>
- ◆  
[NSOB Spring Application Opens till](#)  
April, 15<sup>th</sup>  
[Link to apply](#)
- ◆  
[2022 NETA Spring Conference](#)  
April 21<sup>st</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>

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



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## 2022 ACTFL Call for Proposal

2022 ACTFL Annual Convention will be held Friday, November 18<sup>th</sup> through Sunday, November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022, at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center in Boston, MA. The goal of the ACTFL Annual Convention is to provide a comprehensive professional development experience for language educators of all languages and levels. Compelling proposals address the needs of today's learners and educators by focusing on innovative programs, emerging trends, and research-informed practices. It is an excellent opportunity to share your ideas and to network with world language teachers all over the country. The deadline for proposal submission is 10:59 pm Central time on **February 11<sup>th</sup>**. This [video](#) is provided by ACTFL to help teachers to write a successful proposal. You do need ACTFL membership to submit a proposal. Please feel free to contact Chrystal Liu at [chrystal.liu@nebraska.gov](mailto:chrystal.liu@nebraska.gov) if you have any questions about the convention or need any suggestions or feedback to draft your proposal. This is [the proposal submission link](#).



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## Nebraska Seal of Biliteracy: Please Continue to Apply

The Nebraska Seal of Biliteracy (NSoBL) 2022 spring application is open till April 15<sup>th</sup>. World language teachers, please encourage your students to apply whenever they are ready. The Spring round will only process applications submitted by **April 15<sup>th</sup>**, which means all applications after that date will be funneled to the next Fall round. The Spring round will only process application submitted by August 15<sup>th</sup>, which means all applications after that date will be included in the next Spring round. If expedited processing is needed, please contact [chrystal.liu@nebraska.gov](mailto:chrystal.liu@nebraska.gov), this [infographic](#) will help you communicate with your students.

NDE World Languages is working with the Nebraska Language Initiatives to advocate the NSoBL in the local community and Higher Ed Institutes. Soon, the NSoBL will be better recognized in Nebraska local industries, organizations, and Higher Ed Institutes. Students with the NSoBL will benefit more in the future.

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## Program Advocacy: The Nebraska Language Initiative



The Nebraska Languages Initiative supports world language teaching and learning with professional development, access to assessments, and programming support. Director Stephanie Call is excited about the current initiative to support the Nebraska Seal of Biliteracy. "We can assist individual students or small groups of students in accessing the AAPPL language assessment in order to qualify for the Seal." Call is hoping that the nonprofit can ensure equitable access to the Nebraska Seal



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of Biliteracy. "Although there's no cost to the Seal itself, not every school is able to provide a qualifying language assessment."

Call facilitated the collaboration of the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) and the Nebraska International Language Association (NILA) to create the new Nebraska Seal of Biliteracy. She then served as the NDE Liaison to the project. "The Seal is such a landmark for our students. It's a recognition of their hard work and dedication and ability that distinguishes them in the workplace and higher education." NEBLI continues to develop opportunities for world language teaching and learning through collaborative partnerships and creative planning. Although still in its early stages, plans for summer professional development are already in development. Check in at [www.nebraskalanguagesinitiative.org](http://www.nebraskalanguagesinitiative.org) or follow us on Facebook.

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## Technology Tool of the Month

Effective technology integration into the world language classrooms has been an indispensable trend. ACTFL has provided four issues of [Tech Watch](#) every year since 2018. The most recent issue is [here](#). As world language teachers, we need to be more efficient in using technology to enhance our instruction so that students can be better motivated. We are going to discuss one technology tool each month in our World Language Review. You are invited to contribute to this section.

### Prepare your online games in 3 minutes - Blooket



As world language teachers, we prefer online games easy to prepare and fun to play. Therefore, Blooket might be one of the top choices for teachers who are too busy to spend time learning new technologies to engage students. Blooket works with Quizlet, a well-known online flashcard platform, which means teachers can import their vocab lists from Quizlet to Blooket. Once a list is created, the Blooket website offers seven or eight

games free of charge, including whole-class activities, paired competition, and individual activities (homework). With the paid version, Currently, the website offers new games regularly. Currently, the free games on the website include Gold Quest, Fishing Frenzy, Crypto hack, Tower Defense, Café, Battle Royale, Factory, Racing, Crazy Kingdom, Tower of Doom, and Classic. If you are interested in spending three minutes using Blooket to prepare vocab games for the whole unit, please check [this tutorial](#). Please feel free to contact [crystal.liu@nebraska.gov](mailto:crystal.liu@nebraska.gov) if you need any help using it. 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 [crystal.liu@nebraska.gov](mailto:crystal.liu@nebraska.gov).

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## Teacher Stories – Please Share Your Stories!



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*With 19 years of teaching experience, Katie Hayes teaches Spanish 3 and 4 at Pius X High School. She and her handsome husband have six kids ages 13, 11, 9, 7, 5, and 3, so their house is nice and loud and the Encanto soundtrack can be heard playing on Alexa pretty much all the time. When asked to tell her favorite story, Katie chose to tell the story of her department instead of herself. She wants to say to all world language teachers: Muscle emojis to all the educators! You are changing lives!*



### **Story from [Katie Hayes](#) – How we started using the target language**

ACTFL recommends that we speak [90% in the target language in our language classrooms](#). It can be intimidating when hearing it for the first time as a Methods student, I remember thinking, “What!” But if you took Methods with Dr. Ali Moeller, you know that 90% target language use in your own classroom is doable. But what about achieving 90% among *all* teachers in your department? There is no one path to success—many pieces are involved.

In our school, it started with leadership with a vision. Shout out to Tracy Chapelle, our department chair, who made it her goal to transform our department into one where speaking the target language is natural and every student expects to hear it in all classes. Heads-up: it is a slow change that occurs over many years. And then it requires regular mental renewals of the commitment to keep it in the target language (or is that just me?).

How did we get started?

Little things you've already thought of and already do:

- Start with the stock phrases and build from there: Take out your books. Pass in your papers.
- Never say it in the target language and then translate it immediately into English—students will be trained to wait for the English translation. Use lots of actions. Get sweaty!
- Make a personal goal and observe your own use of the target language. In my first years, I kept tallies whenever I spoke English, so I had some real data to look at the end of the day. Then I made a new goal and started over the next day.

Things that work for us in our school:

- Words are currency  
When I was a practicum student at Lincoln High, I observed the teachers giving out participation points to students, putting the onus on the students to keep track of their own points and to earn the required amount by the end of the month. Having adapted the “pesos” system, the Pius X language teachers are always wearing a little purse, ready to hand out fake money for student sentences. Side note: it does make you look like a favorite teacher when students approach you in the hall to tell you a sentence or two. Double side notes: In class, I don't put a limit on how many pesos can be earned. I have activities planned in which students can earn pesos and I also give out pesos when they just speak Spanish in the moment—getting us closer to that ACTFL 90%!
- Admin is behind us  
We have great support from our administration and have from the beginning of our transformation. Having faith in our professionalism, the administration takes on



our side in communicating with parents and dealing with the worries and anxiety related to our move to 90& target language.

- o We share it all

As a team, we work together, plan together, and share everything. For some levels, the whole team gets together to plan. In other levels, one person puts the activities on a calendar and the other teachers use their critical eye to adjust as needed. When a new person comes on board, they use the materials that everyone else has created, contributing their own materials to the group whenever they're inspired. The big ideas here are that 1) new ideas are ALWAYS welcomed and applauded, 2) if what we have is working and there are no new ideas, we'll go with that! 3) tinkering is constantly underway. It is how we grow! It's natural to want the personal credit for an amazing new idea. Sometimes that credit comes as positive feedback from another teacher who used your idea or was inspired by your idea to create something else. Sometimes the feedback comes from seeing how well it worked with your students. Sharing is the important thing—keeping a great idea for just your students limits the effects of your greatness! We have found that our projects are better when we all weigh in. Our projects continue to improve as we continue to tinker.

- o We got the students on board

Student buy-in takes longer than teacher buy-in. While transitioning from regular use of English to more use of the target language (and this could take a few years), students will complain that they don't know what you are saying. That is because they came from a class where they heard lots of English. I don't want to say, "Don't believe them," because it is true that they don't understand you...today. But they will! Teach them what to watch for. Train them on how to ask for help. We provide all kinds of support, including gestures, visuals, posters with translation. For some words, an English translation makes more sense than a picture of the word or action. But when students ask that famous "Do I need to write this in Spanish?" question, you can confidently tell them, "Yes, this is Spanish class." And when they ask why you are speaking so much Spanish, you can tell them, "Well, this isn't English class..."

The big takeaway here is that speaking in the target language is a daily choice, just like anything else. Will I take the easier road, use English with my students and let them use English throughout the class? Is today the day that I will take the extra time and energy to explain and re-explain and act it out and give examples and circumlocute in the target language? Can I do it again tomorrow? Am I kind of on a roll at this point? Are my colleagues in on this, too? Are we now changing the culture and expectations, period by period, day by day? We are? Oh, we ARE! WE CAN DO THIS! We ARE doing this!

## World Language Positions in Nebraska

The following teaching positions were posted as of Jan 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021 from [Teach in Nebraska](#)

- 7-12 Spanish teacher, Cozad Community Schools, Cozad
- 9-12 Spanish teacher, Valentine Community Schools, Valentine
- 7-12 Spanish teacher, Shickley Public Schools, Hickley



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- 7-12 World language teacher, Stapleton Public schools, Stapleton
- 9-12 Spanish teacher, Northwest Public Schools, Grand Island
- 6-12 Spanish teacher, Osceola Public Schools, Osceola
- 7-12 Spanish teacher, Anselmo-Merna Public School, Anselmo-Merna
- 7-12 Spanish teacher, Thayer Central Public Schools, Hebron
- World language teacher, Spanish preferred, Dundy County Stratton Schools, Benkelman
- 7-12 Spanish teacher, Blue Hill Community Schools, Blue Hill
- 6-12 Spanish teacher, Central Catholic, Grand Island
- 7-12 Spanish teacher, Hemingford public schools, Hemingford
- 9-12 part-time Spanish teacher, La Vista South High School, Papillion La Vista Community Schools, Papillion
- 7-12 Spanish teacher, Winnebago Public Schools, Winnebago
- 8-12 Spanish teacher, Tekamah-Herman High School, Tekamah
- 7-12 Spanish teacher, Lincoln Christian School, Lincoln
- 9-10 Spanish teacher, Scotus Central Catholic, Columbus
- 11-12 Part-time Spanish teacher, Lincoln Lutheran Middle/High School, Lincoln
- 9-12 Spanish teacher, Guardian Angels Central Catholic, West Point
- 5-8 Full or part-time Spanish teacher, St. Columbkille Catholic School, Papillion
- 7-12 Spanish teacher, Laurel-Concord-Coleridge School, Laurel
- 9-12 Spanish teacher, Kearney Catholic High School, Kearney
- 6-12 Spanish teacher, Grand Island Catholic, Grand Island
- 7-12 Spanish teacher, St. Mary's Catholic School, O'Neill
- 9-12 Spanish teacher, Lincoln Lutheran Middle/ High School, Lincoln
- Pre-K Lead teacher – Bilingual Spanish/ English, Aventuras-Spanish Immersion Program for Young Children, 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 contributing to any section of the newsletter, please contact [chrysal.liu@nebraska.gov](mailto:chrysal.liu@nebraska.gov). The purpose of the NDE monthly newsletter is to communicate NDE initiatives, advocate for programs, advertise cultural events, make connections, and build community.

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

- When you have questions about NDE initiatives.
- When you have an 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 events going on locally.
- When you need help get connected with other teachers and programs.
- When you have professional learning needs.
- And more, ...

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