



Nebraska Department of Education

500 S 84th St. Second Floor ♦ Lincoln, Nebraska ♦ 68510

World Language Review

March 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 31st through April 6th. The theme this year is "Ignite the Power of Languages".

- Distinguished Scholar Judge Interest Form (Due March 10th):
<https://forms.gle/Ne1XXcifcdaPgGVS7>
- Student Submission Form (Due March 11th):
<https://forms.gle/5zVsKo9FMjFXdSze7>



Meet your World Language Specialist Online

Chrystal Liu's office hour is 3:00 – 3:30 pm every Wednesday till further notice. Please feel free to meet her via Zoom (<https://educationne.zoom.us/j/8517670798>) if you have any questions or concerns. Email notification to chrystal.liu@nebraska.gov is preferred to ensure the quality of conversation.

The tentative Shared Calendar for World Language Week is [here](#).

- [NDE WL Guest Speaker Series](#)
- [Meet Our NILA Board: Dr. Jared List](#)
- [NsoBL Updates: Recognition and Support](#)
- [ESU 5: Addressing the Teacher Shortage](#)
- [HLL Program at LPS](#)
- [Technology Tool: Lyric Training](#)
- [Teacher Story: Cara Heminger](#)
- [World Language Positions in Nebraska](#)
- [Call for Contributions to Next Issues](#)



NDE World Language Guest Speaker Series

The Guest Speaker Series is back! To promote professional collaboration and strengthen world language teacher networking, NDE World Language plans to have the 2022 World Language Guest Speaker series starting on April 2nd during the world language week. The plan is to have language-specific webinars and non-language-specific webinars presented by world language educators and experienced language teachers in and outside of Nebraska. Nebraska World Language teachers, you are invited to share your ideas as guest speakers and to attend the webinars when you are available. Please respond to this [Google Form](#) to share your needs and ideas.

Meet Our New NILA Board: President Elected – Dr. Jared List



Works at: Doane University in Crete, NE
Education:
- BA in Spanish and biology, Augustana College (Rock Island, IL)
- MA in Latin American and Peninsular Literatures and Cultures, Ohio State University
- PhD in Latin American literatures and cultures, Ohio State University

I am excited to join the NILA exec team this year! In addition to teaching, I have held various roles at Doane and Ohio State related to teaching and pedagogy, and I am looking forward to advocating for and supporting world languages in Nebraska. I am a strong proponent for a communicative approach to learning another language through comprehensible input and active learning. I have attended the annual NILA conference over the years and presented at last fall's conference with my colleague Josh Pope. I have also served on ad-hoc committees for the Nebraska Department of Education. My spouse, Brooke, and I have been teaching in Nebraska for 9 years. We have two daughters, Melina and Amara, and two dogs, Clifford and Sunny.

Events

[2022 CSCTFL](#)

Virtual

March 3rd – 5th

[Distinguished World Language Scholar Student Submission](#)

March 10th

[Distinguished World Language Award Judge Interest Form](#)

March 10th

[ESU 7 Professional Development](#)

March 22nd

[2022 World Language Week](#)

March 31st – April 6th

[UNL Language Fair](#)

March 31st

[NDE WL Forum #1](#)

1:00 – 2:00 pm April 2nd

[NSoBL Webinar](#)

3:30 – 4:30 pm, April 3rd

[NSoBL Recognition Press Release](#)

April 4th & 5th

[NDE WL Forum #2](#)

April 6th

[NSOB Spring Application Opens till](#)

April 15th

[Link to apply](#)

[2022 NETA Spring Conference](#)

April 21st – 22nd

[Service-Learning for World Language Webinar](#)

April 23rd

Please email your event information to Chrystal.liu@nebraska.gov



NSoBL Updates: Recognition and Support

Recognized by Local Universities

The University of Nebraska-Omaha, the University of Nebraska-Kearney, and Doane University worked with NDE World Language to recognize the Nebraska Seal of Bilingualism. Advanced placement and retroactive credit opportunities at UNK allow the

Seal recipients to earn a minor, a major, or double major more quickly. Students with the seal are eligible for 6 to 9 credits after completing a validating course at UNK. French, Spanish, and German are offered at [UNK](#). The seal recipients with that Seal awarded for those languages will be waived from the placement test, and they will be eligible to receive up to 16 credits upon



completing a 3000-level course. At [Doane University](#), the Seal recipients will be

enrolled in advanced Spanish course at SPA300+ level and are eligible for 3 credits at the intermediate level. Three more retroactive credits will be awarded when students complete the advanced level Spanish course. In addition, students with a seal awarded for languages that are not offered at Doane will be awarded 3 credits at the one- or two- hundred level.

NSoBL Integrated in OPS System

Thanks to the World Language Teaching and Learning Consultant, Maria Perez-Mozaz, for putting all the effort to advocate for the NSoBL in Omaha Public Schools. Omaha Public Schools have created mini lessons on NSoBL for teachers and students, created a procedure to support student applications for the seal, and listed the NSoBL as a specialized diploma.



ESU 5: Addressing the Spanish Teacher Shortage in Rural Nebraska

Across the state, rural districts are struggling to provide students access to high-quality Spanish instruction. Educational Service Unit (ESU) 5 meets this need through its Distance Learning World Language Program. The ESU 5 Distance Learning World Language Program is rooted in NDE's World Language Standards. They incorporate digital learning best practices into a distance learning context. Program data indicate students enjoy their classes, are motivated to learn Spanish, value learning a second language and succeed at acquiring the language. For more information on the ESU 5 DL World Languages Program, Courses Offered, and District-level Technology Requirements: [Click here](#)





ESU 5 currently serves more than 350 students in 16 public schools across our State. This coming year ESU 5 is expanding a partnership with ESU 3 to increase these numbers. Are you ready for a change of pace? Interested in joining a Team of high-quality Educators making a real difference across the State? Are you ready for a teaching position without district-level extra duties? This job may be for you!

This unique and exciting position will require strong skills in World Language and Digital Learning best practices. ESU 5 is currently accepting interested applicants in the Lincoln/Beatrice (ESU 5 is located in Beatrice, approximately 30 miles south of Lincoln) and the Omaha (ESU 3 is located in La Vista, approximately 10 miles southwest of Omaha) areas. Instructors' home base will either be ESU 5 - Beatrice or ESU 3 - La Vista.

A valid Nebraska teaching certificate with the appropriate endorsement is required. The target start date for this position will be August 8, 2022. The position will remain open until filled. Please submit Letter of Application, Resume, Letters of Recommendation, Credentials and transcripts to: Dr. Nick Ziegler, ESU 5 World Language Coordinator, at nziegler@esu5.org.

[Heritage Language Learner Program at LPS](#)

In Lincoln Public Schools, our students and their families represent over 150 countries and more than 100 different languages. LPS recognizes multilingualism as an asset and seeks to nurture and enhance skills with the heritage language. One way we accomplish this is through a formal heritage language learning program.

WHO are heritage language learners?

The term "heritage speaker" generally refers to a student raised in a home where a non-English language is spoken, who speaks or understands the heritage language, and who is to some degree bilingual in English and the heritage language (Valdés, 2000). Heritage Language Learners often demonstrate high oral/aural proficiency and may demonstrate less developed literacy. This is distinct from what we might consider traditional world language learners who often enter into the language learning experience with novice proficiency in reading, writing, listening, and speaking.

WHY offer heritage language learning courses?

The unique needs and assets of our Heritage Language Learners introduce distinct considerations for programming, curricular development, and classroom instruction, particularly in the early stages of heritage language learning. Research confirms general educational benefits of systematic incorporation of the home language in the educational program. Students enjoy higher levels of academic success, including increased achievement in literacy and other academic subjects (Genesee, Lindholm-Leary, Saunders, Christian, 2006). Beyond general educational benefits, LPS establishes specific goals for the heritage language learning program.



Through participation in courses designed specifically for Heritage Language Learners, students in LPS will...

- maintain home language,
- expand academic vocabulary in the home language,
- develop literacy skills in the home language,
- develop transferable literacy skills and strategies to benefit performance in all academic areas
- earn high school credit.

For more information, please check [this link](#).

Technology Tool of the Month: [Lyrics Training](#)

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.

Integrating Authentic Music to Engage Students: [Lyrics Training](#)

Lyric training has a website version and application versions that are available in



both Google Play and Apple Store. It offers authentic songs in many languages, including Catalan, Dutch, German, English, Finnish, French, Italian, Japanese, Polish, Portuguese, Spanish, Swedish, and Turkish. It allows students to search for songs and practice listening after choosing their language levels. As teachers, we can find and create our own activities. Please check [this tutorial](#) to learn the details if you are interested. There is a [Spanish example](#) and a [French example](#) for your

reference.

Teacher Stories – Cara Heminger

Cara Heminger

French Teacher, World Languages Department Chair,
Lincoln North Star High School, Lincoln Public Schools

Education:

BA, French and English from the University of Minnesota
- Morris

MA, French Literature, from the University of Nebraska -
Lincoln

Awards:

2009 Nebraska French Teacher of the Year

2016 Nebraska World Languages Teacher of the Year

Schools taught in:

Collège Roger Martin du Gard, Epinay-sur-Seine, France

Omaha Central High School, Omaha, Nebraska

Lincoln East High School, Lincoln, Nebraska

Lincoln Southwest High School, Lincoln, Nebraska



<https://www.facebook.com/NDE.WL/>



education.ne.gov/worldlanguage/



[@NDE_WorldLang](https://twitter.com/NDE_WorldLang)

Lincoln North Star High School, Lincoln, Nebraska

*Fun fact – I am the only teacher who opened both LSW and LNS in Lincoln back in 2002-2003.

I am married to my husband Doug, who is Deputy Warden at the Nebraska State Penitentiary, and we have three children, Val, 19, Connor, 17, and Ava, 15. All three have taken French at East High School in Lincoln. Val is attending SCC in Lincoln for general studies.

I am originally from Minnesota and moved to Nebraska to go to graduate school. My first trip to France was a 1988 school trip with 70 students and 4 teachers. My love for travel and language continued to grow in college where I got to do a research grant with my French professor, Dr. Edith Farrell, where we translated, compiled and presented the personal letters of Catholic Archbishop Father Anatole Oster from the late 1800s. I was an English *Assistante* in 1996-97 in suburban Paris, and it was there where I decided that teaching was for me! I was grateful to get to live in France for a year and solidify the language and learn more about the culture. I traveled all over Europe with family, friends, as well as alone, and I highly recommend time abroad to fully appreciate our diverse world.

I loved attending UNL where I was a French Graduate Teaching Assistant for three years in the Modern Languages Department while I worked on my French Literature Masters. While there, I received my Teaching Certification for 7-12 French and English in the College of Education with Dr. Ali Moeller. I still use activities and strategies from our classes. Now that it is my 22nd year teaching in public schools, I can truly say that our world language classes touch our students' hearts and minds. I have been active in NILA and the Nebraska chapter of the AATF for over 20 years and am currently the Nebraska AATF President and Regional Representative. When we are not in a pandemic, we run a biennial French Convention and an overnight French Auberge de Jeunesse Immersion. I also absolutely love attending the UNL Foreign Language Fairs with my students. It is through all of these events where our students feel pride and can fully shine with their language accomplishments. Without the extracurricular parts of our education, our classes are just curriculum.

In my free time, I teach classes at Doane for their Curriculum and Instruction Master's Program, and I am a Les Mills fitness instructor at Genesis Health Clubs. On weekends, I can be found thrifting, baking, reading, talking to my plants, and walking my Jack Russell Terrier, Rooster Cogburn. I am looking forward to traveling again, and my first trip planned is to New Orleans this summer for the AATF National Convention.

**Here is a statement I wrote for Central States when I was up for teacher of the year...

For a long time, all my examples for advocating for learning languages came from personal experiences or ideas of how it opened students' minds and broadened their horizons, etc. But, after teaching in a very ethnically-diverse school with many of my students learning French as their second, third or even fourth language – many of whom have immigrated to America, passed out of ELL and have chosen to take French – I can speak to this topic through the eyes and experiences of these children. I pride myself in making my classroom a welcoming place for all kids, no matter what their skill-level or interest. I strive to get to know each individual student and for them to get to know each other. Teaching French, while of course the goal



of my profession, comes slightly after teaching each student as an individual. When they trust me and each other, magic happens. Kids appreciate each other's cultures and are open to learning the French language and about Francophone cultures. World news starts to make sense, their own country's events start to become relevant, and, if all goes well, they become students of this earth – not just students in my class. I hope to ignite that little spark of wonder within them – so that they may someday fan the flame with travel, study, or cross-cultural friendships. French is simply the vehicle to make this magic happen. If my students visit me years after graduating and regale me with stories of how they met a French person and had a conversation, watched every French movie on Netflix, traveled to Paris with their grandma, or became a French teacher in Brazil, then I have succeeded in my mission for developing cultural competence. That spark of wonder never goes out, and it hopefully spreads interest in other cultures to my students' friends and family.

World Language Positions in Nebraska

The following teaching positions were posted as of March 7th, 2021 from [Teach in Nebraska](#)

- 9-12 Spanish teacher, [Kearney Catholic High School](#), Kearney
- 7-12 Spanish teacher, [Shickley Public Schools](#), Hickley
- 9-12 French teacher, [Skutt Catholic High School](#), Omaha
- 9-12 ½ Spanish teacher, [Perkins County Schools](#), Grant
- 7-12 Spanish teacher, [Norfolk Catholic School](#), Norfolk
- 6-12 Foreign Language teacher, [Parkview Christian School](#), Lincoln
- 7-12 Spanish teacher, [Fairbury Public Schools](#), Fairbury
- Spanish teacher, [Kearney Public Schools](#), Kearney
- 9-12 Spanish teacher, [Quest Forward Academy Omaha](#), Bellevue
- 7-12 Spanish teacher, [Wakefield Community Schools](#), Wakefield
- 7-12 Spanish teacher, [Guardian Angels Central Catholic](#), West Point
- 9-12 part-time Spanish teacher, [Raymond Central Jr/Sr High](#), Raymond
- 9-12 Spanish teacher, [Schuyler Community Schools](#), Schuyler
- 9-12 Latin teacher, Lincoln [Pius X Catholic High School](#), Lincoln
- k-12 Spanish teacher, [Red Cloud Public Schools](#), Red Cloud
- Spanish teacher, [Education service unit #5](#), Beatrice
- Full-time Latin faculty, [Creighton Preparatory School](#), Omaha
- 8-12 Spanish teacher, [Tekamah-Herman High School](#), Tekamah
- 7-12 Spanish teacher, [Anselmo-Merna Public School](#), Merna
- 7-12 Spanish teacher, [Thayer Central Public Schools](#), Hebron
- Spanish teacher, [Dundy County Stratton Schools](#), Benkelman
- 7-12 Spanish teacher, [Blue Hill Community Schools](#), Blue Hill
- 6-12 Spanish teacher, [Grand Island Central Catholic](#), Grand Island
- 7-12 Spanish teacher, [Winnebago Public Schools](#), Winnebago

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 crystal.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 chrystal.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, ...

If you are not on the mail list and wish to subscribe to the newsletter, please put your contact information in this [google form](#).

