World Language Review

April 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.

Thanks for Celebrating World Language Week

NDE World Language highly appreciated that many institutes and classroom teachers took the time to celebrate World language Week.

- Thanks to UNL for sponsoring its World Language Fair on March 31ˢᵗ as the beginning of World Language Week.
- Thanks to UNK for planning a whole week of on-campus celebration and opening its world language lab for students to take STAMP test to apply for the Seal of Biliteracy during the World Language Week.
- Thanks to OPS for organizing building-wise activities to celebrating the world language week.
- Thanks to all the other districts and schools for joining NDE World Languages to celebrate the 2022 Nebraska World Language Week.
- Thanks to all world language teachers for active participation in celebrating the World Language Week with students.
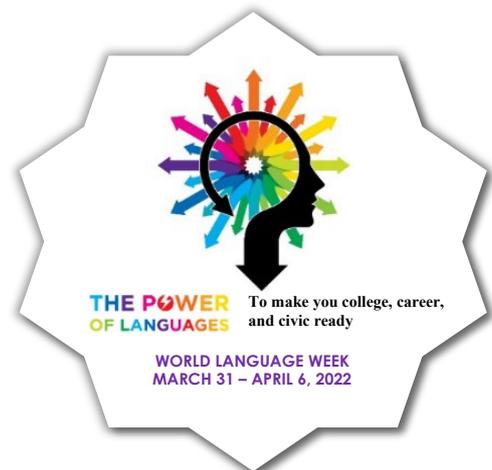
The news release announcing the 2022 Distinguished World language Scholar Award winners is here. The electronic certificates will be ready in 7-10 days.

- NDE WL Guest Speaker Series
- Meet Our NILA Board: Danielle Fulcher
- NSoBL Endorsement Outside of NE
- Service-Learning for WL Education
- Opportunities for Language Teachers and Students

- Technology Tool: I'm A Puzzle
- Teacher Story: Mrs. Yulia Evans
- World Language Positions in Nebraska
- Call for Contributions to Future Issues

NDE World Language Guest Speaker Series

The 2022 World Language Guest Speaker series started on April 2nd during the World Language Week. The current series is a joint effort of NDE World Languages and CLTA SIG 12. 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 Nebraska. Nebraska World Language teachers, you are invited to share your expertise as guest speakers and to attend the webinars when you are available. The Guest Speaker Series Schedule is here. All the related information and recordings of the webinars will be linked to
Please respond to this Google Form to share your needs and suggestions.

Please respond to this Google Form if you are interested in presenting in our Guest Speaker Series.

Meet Our New NILA Board: Vice President: Danielle Fulcher
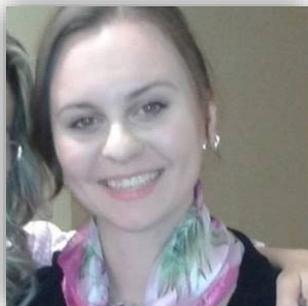
I am a Spanish teacher in southeastern Nebraska. I graduated from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 2008 with a bachelor´s degree in Spanish. I returned to the university in 2010 to earn dual teaching certifications in 7-12 Secondary World Languages and 7-12 Secondary Sciences. While earning my certification, I studied abroad in Toledo, Spain, which I consider as one of the most profound, unforgettable experiences of my life. At Freeman, I teach Spanish levels I – IV along with an 8th grade exploratory class. I am also the assistant Speech Coach (we placed 2nd at Districts and are sending seven students to State on Mar. 17th, woot woot!) I am also the high school Quiz Bowl Sponsor. At Freeman there is a cultural expectation of teaching with our strengths and knowing our students' strengths. According to the Clifton Strengths Finder, my top five strengths are Restorative, Intellection, Learner, Input, and Achiever.

NSoBL Updates: University Endorse

The deadline to apply for the Nebraska Seal of Biliteracy is April 15th for the spring round. Please encourage students to apply for the seal even if their transcripts are not ready by the deadline so that their application can be included in the spring round. Request for missing materials will be sent to keep the applications open. Please remind your students to submit missing materials as soon as they are available.

NDE World Language has added a webpage entitled *Seal of Biliteracy Impact & Community Support* under the Seal of Biliteracy Page on its website. There are more than 45 universities/ colleges outside Nebraska that recognize the seal. This spreadsheet includes the universities outside Nebraska that recognize the seal. Please share the spreadsheet with your students.

Service-learning for World Language Education

By Dr. Cecilia Tocaimaza-HatCh

Current research on best practices in language learning show that students learn best when actively engaged in using the target language. This means that learning occurs when students use the target language as they work collaboratively on meaningful tasks, negotiate meaning, and overcome misunderstandings. However, with curriculum demands and time limitations, it can be challenging to allot sufficient time and space in our day-to-day instruction for active learning. In my experience as a Spanish professor, I have found that service-learning can foster active learning into the classroom while also meeting curricular demands.

Service-learning (SL) is experiential learning in which students meet learning objectives through engagement in a project that aims to meet an expressed need in the community. SL can take many forms, and one of them is what we call P-16 SL. In P-16 SL there are three partners, college students, a community partner, and P-12 (pre-kindergarten through 12th grade) students, who collaborate in a mutually beneficial initiative. For our purposes as language teachers, a P-16 SL project will engage our students in the target language in the ways I described prior, e.g., negotiation in the target language.

For example, this fall, I will teach a graduate course to students in the Master of Art in Language Teaching at UNO. For their SL project, students will develop lesson plans for a local-non-profit organization on civil rights. In the writing of these lesson plans, my students will meet a need in the community. At the same time, they work on both their target language and their ability to design effective lesson plans, which are student-learning objectives for the course. Then, as a next step, our goal will be to collaborate with P-12 students who will contribute their own voices to students' lesson plans, by, for example, illustrating the content depicted in the lesson. Potential P-12 partners include a World Language class in high school or a dual language class. Regardless, these students will also need to engage in many discussions, planning, and negotiation, which will take place in the target language, to determine how they will achieve their portion of the SL project. Through this experience, our P-12 partners will not only learn about the topic of civil rights, but they will use the target language for meaningful purposes and feel satisfied that they created a product with long-lasting effects that can better their communities. In closing, it is essential to acknowledge that SL does require additional logistics and planning for the teachers involved; however, SL does pay off. As mentioned before, well-designed SL experiences can foster language learning, and it has other benefits, including students' ability to assess their own proficiency in the target

language, a new appreciation of their bi/multilingualism (particularly for heritage learners), and additional motivation to continue pursuing studies in the target language.

At UNO, P-16 SL projects are well supported, so please reach out to Service-Learning Academy with your ideas. Also, you can learn more about our current P-16 initiatives here: https://www.unomaha.edu/service-learning-academy/p16-initiative/index.php

Dr. Cecilia Tocaimaza-HatCh will present a guest speaker webinar from 10:00-11:30 am on April 23rd on "Service-learning for Language Learning: A How-to Guide". Please register here. UNO Service-Learning Academy will host its annual service-learning seminar from July 11th to 15th in person. For more details, please check their website.

Opportunities for Language Teachers and Students

Student Opportunities: UNL Summer Program
This summer, for the first time, NE high school students will have the option to take two semesters of UNL Russian online through Nebraska NOW program. Here's the website with details:https://admissions.unl.edu/specialized-information/nebraska-now/ (click on "see classes"). It would be great for students interested in Russian whose high schools don't offer it (Russian is no longer taught in any NE high schools. It would help future students get ahead on their language requirement and get a head start on a variety of majors, including Russian. Russian is considered a critical language by the US government and will also give students a pathway to careers in government service, homeland security, human rights, and more.

UNL Course for Spanish Teachers
Course Title: "The Interpretive Mode: Reading and Listening in the Foreign Language Classroom"
Course Number: TEAC 922 B/SPAN 922B
Session: 8-week Summer Session 5/16/21 - 7/8/22
Instructor: Mel Hernández
Course Description: (Please note, this course is cross listed and can be taken for credit in Spanish OR Education)
In this course, we will explore a variety of strategies for reading, listening, and viewing that work to improve foreign language teaching and learning. Lessons, activities, and tasks will be created to use with your own students based on research-informed pedagogical practices. In the role of the learner, you will complete and create products that often incorporate Web 2.0 and other technology applications. You will then reflect on your learning experiences as a teacher and analyze and discuss those experiences with peers. The target language will be used in the products you create. The course is arranged in 14 online modules.

Opportunities offered by ACTFL
The 2022-2023 ACTFL Mentoring program is open for application. Teachers need to be current ACTFL members to apply. All applications must be received by 11:59 p.m. ET on Thursday, June 30, 2022. The mentoring

program is designed to help world language educator in their early careers to succeed in their current assignments and gain skills to be successful in long-term in their careers. World language teachers that are still in their first five years of their career can apply for the Traditional mentoring program. World language teachers that are still in their first three years of online teaching (it also applies to teachers with multiple years of in-person teaching experience but still new to online instruction) can apply for the Distance learning mentoring program. World language teachers that are in their first three years of hybrid teaching can apply for the Hybrid mentoring program. For more details, please check ACTFL Website.

ACTFLearn Central, a more engaging, user-friendly platform to help language educators learn and grow, is offering its first on-demand course, Assisting HLLs Using Existing Resources. It is a one-hour PD course free for all ACTFL members ($24.99) for non-members. For more details, please visit the webpage.

CSCTFL Call for Proposals

Central State Conference on Teaching Foreign Languages (CSCTFL) calls for proposals for its 2023 conference. The 2023 conference will be in Columbus, Ohio. It will be an excellent opportunity for world language teachers to network, to learn, and to collaborate. The deadline for submitting a proposal is June 15th, and decisions will be shared no later than August 1st. World language teachers, please consider submitting a proposal (or proposals) to share your expertise and expand your network. If you need any help, please get in touch with chrystal.liu@nebraska.gov.

Click Here to Submit Your Session/Workshop/Event Proposal for the 2023 Conference

2023 CSCTFL/OFLA Joint Conference
March 9-11, 2023
Hilton Columbus Downtown

CSCTFL 2023
A joint conference with OFLA

Join us in Columbus next Spring as we gather in person for the Friendly Conference. We look forward to seeing you again!

Technology Tool of the Month: I'm A Puzzle

Effective technology integration into the world language classrooms has been an indispensable trend. 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 will discuss one technology tool each month in our World Language Review. You are invited to contribute to this section.

I'm a Puzzle is a website that offers free online puzzle games. Teachers can create their own puzzles with multiple choice quizzes and share them with students. The website has English, French, German, Portuguese, and Spanish, which means that the website can be displayed in those languages. Teachers can create their own quizzes using "Make Your Own Puzzle", by uploading their own images, picking the difficulty level, changing the puzzle piece shapes, and adding a quiz to the puzzle. Multiple choice is the only available question type now, but it takes different languages, including Chinese.

Once a puzzle is created, it can be shared in different ways, including different social media, google classroom, and to be embedded in other websites or applications. A screen recording is [here](#) to show how to create a puzzle with a quiz using [I'm A Puzzle](#).

Ideas for your reference:
1. Create puzzles for cultural exploration. Multiple different images showing different festive activities are used to create puzzles for different groups of students. Students worked in groups putting the puzzles together, creating a paragraph to describe the festival activities, and share with the rest of the class.
2. Create a puzzle with a quiz to be used as a Class formative assessment to take care of ragged endings. Students who finish earlier can enjoy the puzzle while waiting for the other students to get it done.
3. Create pairs of puzzles to be used as information gap activity. Assign students into group A and group B. Students in the same group get assigned the same puzzle. Each A student pair up with a student from group B to work together to use questions and answers to figure out the difference between their puzzle pictures.

Please share your innovative ideas using the tool with chrystal.liu@nebraska.gov. Once your ideas are accepted, they will be included in the coming *technology tools for World Language Classroom* Webpage on NDE World Language website.

Teacher Stories – Yulia Evans

Mrs. Yulia Evans is a German Teacher at East High School in Lincoln NE. She has been teaching at East High School since 2009.

Let us get to know her together.

Hi, I am Yulia Evans at East High School. I graduated from Rostov-on-Don State Pedagogical University in Russia, and after moving here and receiving my teaching certificate, I started working at East High School. I consider myself a very lucky person because I have an opportunity to collaborate with a group of very talented German teachers here in Lincoln. There are five of us in the district, and we share the same vision and values. We also support each other by sharing materials and enjoy working together by contributing to our curriculum.

When I was little, my dad, who also learned German at school, always told me, "It is great to speak another language, because you can connect with people better".

I believe a world language class is one of the most important classes at school. While learning a language, students have unique opportunities to learn a new language, culture, customs and traditions, as well as gain knowledge about geography and history of different countries in the world. They are also able to learn how to effectively communicate with each other and build relationships. Through

the language, they learn about themselves and others! Languages help students see the world in a bigger, better, and more colorful way!

Our subject prepares students to become successful global citizens in the future! What I like the most about my job is seeing my students' progress. Since I am the only German teacher in the building, I have had the privilege of teaching them for four years. Usually, at the beginning of the second year, everyone gets a feeling of the community, our German family. My students become friends with each other!

Humor makes up a big part of my life. I believe humor helps me get through difficult times and enjoy every situation. My friend Alla, who is also a German Teacher in Wisconsin, and I wrote a chapter for the book "Teach German with a Sense of Humor". We share some humorous ideas and projects that can be used in the classroom with the students to communicate in a target language and to avoid the stress of using the language.

World Language Positions in Nebraska

The following teaching positions were posted as of April 9th, 2022 from Teach in Nebraska

- 9-12 Spanish teacher, North Platte Public Schools, North Platte.
- 6-8 Part-time Spanish teacher, Holy Cross Catholic School, Omaha.
- 7-12 Spanish teacher, Wakefield Community Schools, Wakefield.
- 7-12 Spanish teacher, Arcadia Public Schools, Arcadia.
- 9-12 Spanish teacher, Schuyler Community Schools, Schuyler.
- 9-12 Spanish teacher, Guardian Angels Central Catholic, West Point.
- 6-12 part-time or dual endorsed world language teacher, Parkview Christian School, Lincoln.
- 9-12 Spanish teacher, Elkhorn Public Schools, Omaha.
- Spanish teacher, Creighton Preparatory School, Omaha.
- 9-12 Foreign language teacher, Alliance Public Schools, Alliance.
- K-8 Spanish teacher, St. Thomas More, Omaha
- 6-8 Spanish teacher, South Sioux City Community School District, South Sioux City.
- 9-12 Spanish teacher, Quest Forward Academy Omaha, Bellevue.
- 7-12 Spanish-Eligible for Hiring bonus, Anselmo-Merna Public School, Merna.
- 7-12 Spanish teacher, Bellevue Public Schools, Bellevue.
- 7-12 World language teacher, Wood River Rural Schools, Wood River.
- 9-12 Spanish teacher, Wilber-Clatonia Public School, Wilber.
- 7-12 Spanish teacher, Grand Island Public Schools, Grand Island.
- 8-12 Spanish teacher, Tekamah-Herman Community School, Takemah.

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 chrystal.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](#).