



Nebraska Department of Education

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

World Language Review

July & August 2022

NDE World Language Mission Statement (Finalized)

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

NDE World Language sincerely thanks Ms. Kelly Garcia for spending the time editing and reviewing the newsletter.

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NDE OER World Language Hub

Special thanks to the group of World Language teachers worked together with NDE World Language for creating and vetting materials NDE OER World Language Hub.

OER means Open Education Resources. [OER Commons](#)

a public digital library of open educational resources, which allows educators to explore, create, and collaborate with other educators around the world to improve curriculum. World language teachers now can go to [OER Commons](#) and create an account and

search for Nebraska K-12 World Language (Group) to send a request to join the group. If you are not interested in becoming a member of this group, you can still

access all its materials by searching for NDE World Language. There are two sets of materials available in this group, including the vetted materials from OER commons and student self-assessment documents in two formats (checklist and circles) for five proficiency levels (Novice-Mid, Novice-High, Intermediate-Low, Intermediate-Mid, and Intermediate-High). For example, if you search for "WL Self Assessment" in OER commons, the system will provide you with the whole list of those self-assessment documents. [This document](#) is an example of a self-assessment checklist for



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Intermediate Low. These self-assessments were created based on the 2019 Nebraska World Language Standards. All the self-assessments are ready to use and student friendly. World Language teachers are welcome to translate the documents into their own language if needed. It is recommended that world language teachers engage students with this document three times in an academic year: pre-course, mid-course, and post-course. Engaging students with this self-assessment activity will help students see growth over time and hopefully attribute growth to effective learning practices. Please feel free to contact chrystal.liu@nebraska.gov for any questions and concerns. Those self-assessment documents are made available in circle format as three documents: [communication](#), [cultural and connection](#), and [community and cognition](#).

The other set of materials were vetted from OER Commons, imported to the WL Hub, and aligned to Nebraska World Language by the 2022 summer Hub Development Team. There are materials in Chinese, French, German, and Spanish. NDE World Language invites more teachers of all languages to join the Nebraska K-12 World Language in order to both contribute and benefit from all the materials created in this joint effort.

CLTA-NE Established

The Chinese Language Teacher Association of Nebraska (CLTA-NE) has been founded. The Chinese Language Teacher Association of Nebraska. It is a nonprofit educational and professional organization. The mission of CLTA-NE is to increase public awareness of Chinese language and culture education, to promote



teaching, learning, and research of the Chinese language and culture, to provide a platform for professional growth and collaboration for Chinese language educators and supporters, to serve Chinese language teachers and learners, to enhance cross-cultural communication for the community. The current president of CLTA-NE is Mrs. Wenli Rapkin, a passionate Chinese teacher, who has served the Lincoln community for years.

Many very important world language experts, community partners, and NILA representatives attended the Inaugural meeting to participate in the celebration of the new teacher



Events

◆
[Teacher Educator Forum](#)
August 9th

◆
["Creating a Cultural of Engagement" Webinar by Dr. Janet Eckerson](#)
[Registration Link](#)
10:00-11:30 am,
August 20th

◆
["Evaluation as Part of Learning Process" Webinar by Ms. Zhe Feng](#)
[Registration Link](#)
10:00-11:30 am,
August 24th

◆
["Maximizing Language Learning Success" Webinar by Dr. Christopher Jacobs](#)
[Registration Link](#)
10:00-11:30 am,
September 10th

◆
[One Community Cultural Festival](#)
11:00 am – 9:00 pm
September 10th
Stinson Park, Aksarben Village (2285 S 67th, Omaha, NE 68106)

◆
[2022 Harvest Moon Festival](#)
4:00 – 7:00 pm
September 10th
Antelope Park Bandshell

◆
["Interpersonal Speaking and Writing" Webinar by Ms. Kelleen Browning](#)
10:00-11:30 am,
September 17th

◆
[ESU 6 World Language Collaboration](#)
9:00 am – 3:00 pm
September 22nd

◆
["Movement in the Classroom" Webinar by Ms. Yulia Evans](#)
10:00-11:30 am,
September 24th

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





association on July 2nd, 2022. UNL professors Dr. Loukia Sarroub shared the Nebraska Chinese immigration history and the social significance of the Nebraskan Chinese community. Dr. Aleidine Moeller shared how a teacher association can benefit and support individual teachers in their professional growth and career. NILA representatives Ms. Danielle Fulcher and Ms. Kellen Browning also expressed their readiness to connect and support the CLTA-NE at the meeting. Mrs. Rebecca Reinhardt, the Cultural Programs Coordinator & Chinese Community Advocate from the Asian Community & Culture Center, sent a video congratulatory message since

she was not able to attend due to health issues. As the president of Lincoln Chinese Culture Association, Mr. Xie Shuai brought the best wishes and support from the local Chinese community. Nebraskan World Language teachers, please support the newly established CLTA-NE as they begin the new chapter of Chinese Language Education in Nebraska!

Fall NDE World Language Guest Speaker Series

The 2022 Spring NDE World Language Guest Speaker Series received positive feedback from multiple world language teachers in and outside of Nebraska. The NDE World Language Department has decided to resume the Guest Speaker Series in August. The guest speakers that have agreed to present in the fall series include Dr. Janet Eckerson and Dr. Christopher Jacob from UNK, Dr. Nick Ziegler from ESU 5, Ms. Kelleen Browning from Lincoln Southeast High School, Ms. Yulia Evans from Lincoln East High School, Ms. Zhe Feng from Minnesota. There will be more guest speakers joining the team. The 2022 Fall NDE World Language Guest Speaker Series will kick off with Dr. Janet Eckerson's webinar entitled "Creating a culture of engagement in the language classroom" from 10:00 am to 11:30 am on Saturday, August 20th. Please [register](#) and join us. For more details and updates about the coming webinars, please follow NDE Facebook and Twitter.



2022 Nebraska Department of Education World Languages Fall Guest Speaker Series

Meet Our NILA Board: Pat Branson

I am currently an adjunct German instructor at Creighton University and taught German for over 30 in Bellevue Public Schools and taught part-time at Creighton Prep and then UNO. I received my M. A. in Curriculum and Instruction from UNL. I have been president of the Nebraska Chapter of AATG multiple times and served as NILA president in 2015-16. I also served on the Executive Council of the AATG. I was Outstanding World Language Educator for NILA in 1989 and 2014 and Nebraska German Teacher of the Year in 1995. I received the Goethe Institute Certificate of Merit and the "Language Matters" award from AATG/ISE. I was co-coordinator of the State German Students' Convention for many years and took many trips to Germany with students. In my free time, I play violin with Orchestra Omaha. According to the Clifton Strength Finder, my top 5 strengths are harmony, developer, consistency, responsibility, and positivity.



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Opportunities for Language Teachers and Students

The 2022 NILA Conference Still Accept Proposals

The 2022 NILA conference is going to be held in person in Crete on Saturday, October 22nd. The conference theme this year is "Reconnect, Refresh." The



Keynote Speaker is Heather Sweester, the ACTFL Teacher of the Year! It is going to be a great opportunity to reconnect with old friends and to meet new friends. Registration will open soon.

2023 CSCTFL Grants and Scholarships

CSCTFL announced its CSCTFL Grants and Scholarship on July 18th, including opportunities for in-service world language teachers and future world language teachers.

For teachers:

[Patrick T. Raven CSCTFL Conference Attendance Grant](#) for first time attendees with five or less years of teaching experience - Deadline: January 15, 2023

[Latino Schools Travel/Study Scholarship in Peru](#) for Spanish teachers teaching grades 11-12 or at college level. Deadline: November 1, 2022

[Casa Xelajú Travel/Study Scholarship in Guatemala](#) – Deadline: November 1, 2022

[Centro Mundolengua Spanish Teacher Training in Spain](#) for Spanish teachers or future Spanish teachers - Deadline: November 1, 2022

For Students:

NEW! [Ken Stewart Future Language Educator Scholarship for High School Seniors](#) - Deadline: January 15, 2023

NEW! [Vista Higher Learning Future Language Educator Scholarship for College/University Students](#) - Deadline: January 15, 2023

UNO Graduate Studies for World Language Teachers

Language practitioners have several options in pursuing their graduate education at the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

UNO currently offers these programs:

- [MA in Language Teaching with concentrations in French, Spanish, German, and TESOL.](#)



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- A multiple-entry, 36 credit hour, cross-listed program
- Two concentrations: MA in French, German, Spanish, or TESOL
- Entry abroad may be required in all areas of coursework
- Offered by World Languages in conjunction with the Department of English and the College of Education, Health and Human Services
- Graduate Certificate in Teaching Spanish in Heritage/Bilingual Settings

CONTACT INFORMATION

Cecilia Tecolman-Hatch, Ph.D., Graduate Program Director

402.554.4341

ctecolman@unomaha.edu

Arts & Sciences Hall, Rm 301
6001 Dodge Street, Omaha, NE 68182

UNO is an Equal Opportunity Institution. For more information, contact the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion at (402) 554-4341 or visit our website at www.unomaha.edu/diversity.

WHAT'S NEXT?

MASTER OF ARTS IN LANGUAGE TEACHING



Nebraska
UNO

This program seeks to improve students' competence in the target language and foster connections between current language teaching theories and practice, as seen in day-to-day classroom applications.

- [Graduate Certificate in Spanish.](#)

This 18-credit certificate focuses on improving an individual's Spanish language competence to advanced and superior levels (according to ACTFL guidelines). *This program can be completed online.*



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- [Graduate Certificate in French.](#)

This 18-credit certificate focuses on improving an individual's French language competence to advanced and superior levels (according to ACTFL guidelines)

- [Graduate Certificate in Teaching Spanish to Heritage Bilingual Learners.](#)

This 18-credit certificate focuses on Spanish language competence and the study of sociolinguistic and pedagogical topics relevant to teaching Spanish to heritage and bilingual learners. *This program can be completed online.*

Applications for these programs are accepted on a rolling basis, so you still have time to apply to begin classes this fall.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact Dr. Cecilia Tocaimaza-Hatch at ctocaimazahatch@unomaha.edu.

Nebraskan Language Programs – [NCA Chinese School](#)

The NCA Chinese School was founded in 2008 by the Nebraska Chinese Association. Our mission is to teach Chinese and Chinese culture through weekend language education and related activities. Currently, we have about 60 students and are still growing. Most of our students are native Chinese speakers. We have developed a heritage language curriculum from kindergarten to AP Chinese for the native speakers. We also have a class for adult non-native Chinese speakers. Our teachers are passionate and experienced in teaching students of all ages.



People always talk about Chinese being a hard language to learn, but what are the benefits of learning this hard language? Is it worth learning Chinese? If these questions are raised to the students at Omaha Chinese School, I bet you will get a variety of answers. I would like to address two benefits here. First of all, learning Chinese helps to gain a better understanding of one of the richest cultures in the world. Every year, Omaha

Chinese School organizes different activities to let students have opportunities to experience Chinese culture. We also partner with the Nebraska Chinese Association to celebrate traditional Chinese holidays. Secondly, learning Chinese makes you smarter. Researchers found that learning Chinese stimulates more parts of brain than learning English. In summary, although it is hard to learn Chinese, it is definitely worth it.

Teacher Stories – Alicia Shoemaker

As a graduate of one of the last remaining one-room schoolhouses on the Nebraskan prairie, my love for modern languages began at a young age. In our small and tight-knit community, I spent a significant amount of time with my multilingual great-grandparents. They told me about discrimination they faced for speaking their native languages after arriving in Nebraska; some of my ancestors were educators in Nebraska and were immensely impacted by the 1923 Meyer vs. Nebraska case as well as the global conflicts and previous language-centered Nebraskan laws that inspired it. My grandparents also emphasized how significant those languages were to their identities and how thrilled they were that I was able to learn modern languages in elementary



school. In middle school, I became a Willa Cather scholar fascinated with the beautiful cultures described in her books. Then I took several opportunities to travel around Europe and Central America before graduating from high school. Those experiences solidified my love for learning about people and places throughout life. After my first college practicum, I knew that teaching would be part of my journey as well and I switched my majors to Spanish and English with secondary education endorsements in each language. This is a choice I've never regretted even during a very challenging pandemic. Clearly, I owe much to outstanding students and teachers in Nebraska.

Although my teaching career began as an international one starting in Argentina and ending with two consecutive Fulbright scholarships to serve as an educator and conduct research in Spain, I've spent the majority of my time as an educator in Nebraska at District 145 Schools, Nebraska Wesleyan University, and Elkhorn Public Schools. Alongside many fantastic colleagues, I've had the honor of serving as president of the Nebraska International Languages Association, being one of three final editors for the 2019 Nebraska World Language Standards, serving on the first and following NDE World Language Week committees, traveling to Comprehensible Input Denver Language Labs to discover new strategies, and being the inaugural world language representative on NDE's STEAM leadership cohorts. My top career award has also come from students and colleagues in this state who nominated me for the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Frieda Battey Distinguished Educator Award I received in 2016 and the Global Educator Award I received in 2018. When I reflect on my time spent teaching, I feel instant gratitude for the opportunity to be in the presence of such kind, talented, and diligent students/educators.

As a modern language educator, I've been able to guide students on trips to Central and South America, Europe, and Africa. Many of my former students have gone on to teach Spanish, live abroad, and use their skills in various ways! So far in 2022, I have spoken with former students who are now world language educators themselves about their classrooms, had lunches and dinners with others in which we spoke completely in another language, and listened to many tell me about their lives abroad using a target language as well as others say how much they rely on it in their careers within the U.S. Several others have shared their favorite new additions in multilingual music and international cinema. Some of them even took the time to send voice messages in a target language sharing what new phrases and words they acquired! One of their voicemails in Spanish during Teacher Appreciation Week brought tears because it is indescribably beautiful to hear years of their dedication transformed into an integral piece of their identity. Students (current and former) truly enhance my life in every single way because I learn so much from them and rejoice in their growth and accolades. My goal is always to develop their language proficiency and cultural competence. Their

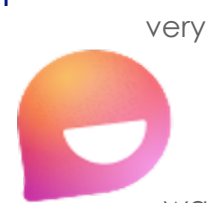


stories and connections to so many people in our global community throughout the years are the embodiment of this mission. My family and I look forward to meeting up with some of these remarkable individuals during our summer trip to Europe.

When I'm not in the classroom, I spend most of my time with my husband and children doing our best to recognize the magical moments in each day. I love to engage in adventure travel, ride horses, read, write, and volunteer (often in another language! :). I also serve as the current president of the Malaika Foundation of Nebraska and a member of the United States Global Leadership Coalition Nebraska State Advisory Committee. It has truly been an honor to submit this piece, as I always love reading about the professional and personal trajectories of modern language educators throughout the state. In closing, I'd like to extend my love to all in our profession and send best wishes for the year ahead!

Technology Tool of the Month: Flipgrid is now Flip

Many world language teachers are familiar with Flipgrid. It is a video discussion and sharing app that helps include all students in discussions in and outside the classroom. In late June, Flipgrid



became Flip, but it is still the same powerful technology tool to enhance meaningful communication in world language classrooms. If you are not familiar with Flipgrid (Flip), please check out [this video](#) from the official Flip site for a basic understanding. Also, this [step-to-step guidance](#) can help you get started. If you have experience using the app, [this video](#) will help you get to know the recent and upcoming updates about Flip. A few inspiring updates are included here for your reference.

- Bitmoji Topic media. Flip has teamed up with Bitmoji so that Flip users can personalize their profile with Bitmoji avatars and use Bitmoji as a topic media.
- Backdrop. This function was added in 2021. It allows users to choose from a set of backgrounds or use their own images or videos to bring more creativity.
- Music. There are more than 30 choices of music to be selected and added to your responses.
- Mobile updates. Now teachers can add topics and leave feedback directly on their mobile devices.

World Language Positions in Nebraska

The following teaching positions were posted as of July 27th, 2022 from [Teach in Nebraska](#)

- 9-12 Spanish teacher, [Norfolk Catholic School](#), Norfolk
- 9-12 Spanish Teacher, [North Platte Public Schools](#), North Platte
- 9-12 Spanish Teacher, [Norfolk Catholic School](#), Norfolk.
- 9-12 Spanish/ world language teacher, [Kearney Catholic High School](#), Kearney.
- 9-12 Spanish teacher or world language teachers, [North Platte Public Schools](#), North Platte.
- French World Language teacher, [Omaha Public Schools](#), Omaha.
- Spanish World Language teacher, [Omaha Public Schools](#), Omaha.
- Part-time Latin/ French/ Chinese Spanish World Language teacher, [Omaha Public Schools](#), Omaha.
- Spanish teacher, [Creighton Preparatory School](#), Omaha.



- 7-12 Spanish teacher, [Wakefield Community Schools](#), Wakefield.
 - 6-8 Spanish teacher, [South Sioux City Community School District](#), South Sioux City.
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Call for Contributions

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. 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

- 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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