



# Nebraska Department of Education

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## World Language Review

June 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.

### **Purpose Statement (Finalized)**

Bilingualism and multilingualism positively correlate with cognitive development, academic achievement, creativity, communicative and cultural competence, earning potential, motivation, and positive aging. As Nebraska world language educators, we are to bridge the gap between the potential benefits and the reality by advocating for world language education, creating an authentic learning experience, promoting language proficiency, cultivating intercultural communicative competence, and maximizing the benefits of multilingualism.

### **Vision Statement (Finalized)**

Nebraskans are aware of the positive impact of world language education and can make informed choices about language education. All students have access to the language education of their choice. With standards-based instruction, students obtain the level of proficiency to communicate in culturally adequate manners, solve real-world conflicts and problems, and establish cross-cultural relationships,

NDE World Language would like to thank all the language educators who have provided feedback and shared opinions on revising the above statements.

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

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



[education.ne.gov/worldlanguage/](https://education.ne.gov/worldlanguage/)



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

## NDE WL Guest Speaker Series: Updates

Special thanks to our guest speakers and CLTA SIG K12. We completed the spring NDE WL Guest Speaker Series. All the recordings and related materials are listed on [the NDE WL Guest Lecture Series](#) page. Please share [your interest in presenting](#) and the [topics you like to have](#) in the Fall Guest Speaker Series.

Speakers	Title	Introduction	Resources	Language
Dr. Le Kang	Technology-enhanced Choice Boards in Chinese Language Classrooms	<a href="#">Poster</a>	<a href="#">Slides</a> ; <a href="#">Choice-board Example</a> , <a href="#">recording</a>	English
Stephanie Call & Chrystal Liu	Seal of Biliteracy: Your Language Passport to Opportunities	<a href="#">Poster</a>	<a href="#">Slides</a> <a href="#">Recording</a>	English
Ying Jin	Innovative Ideas to Foster the 21st Century Mind	<a href="#">Poster</a>	<a href="#">Recording</a>	Chinese
ZhouZhou He	Project-Based Learning Ideas to Enhance Global Mindedness	<a href="#">Poster</a>	<a href="#">Recording</a>	English
Cecilia Tocaimaza-Hatch	Service-learning for language learning: A How-to guide	<a href="#">Poster</a>	<a href="#">Project Planning Template</a> <a href="#">Community Partners</a> <a href="#">Slides</a>	English
CLTA SIG K12	Round Table Discussion: How to start and foster Chinese programs?	<a href="#">Poster</a>	<a href="#">Recording</a>	Chinese
Jan Coone	One Tool to Embellish, One Tool to Manage	<a href="#">Poster</a>	<a href="#">Recording</a> <a href="#">Website</a>	English
Jessy Tu	The implementation of and strategies on four strands in Chinese Language Teaching	<a href="#">Poster</a>	<a href="#">4-3-2 Approach</a> <a href="#">Recording</a> <a href="#">Materials</a>	Chinese
Pat Branson	Teaching History in German Classroom	<a href="#">Poster</a>	<a href="#">Recording</a> <a href="#">Materials</a>	English
Danielle Fulcher	Spiraled Curriculum Design: A Method to Survive when you are the only language teacher in your area!"	<a href="#">Poster</a>	<a href="#">Recording</a> <a href="#">Slides</a> <a href="#">Shared Curriculum Maps</a>	English



### Meet Our New NILA Board: Jami Swanson

Dr. Jami Swanson is the current treasure on the NILA board.

Let's meet her

Public education is my passion. Serving as Treasurer for NILA provides opportunities to work with educators outside of my



building and district and allows me to see teaching and learning from different perspectives. I have met some dear friends and colleagues in the process. Presently I am teaching Spanish at North Star High School in Lincoln, NE. I have served as a middle school and high school world language teacher in both rural and urban settings for a total of 15 years. I left the classroom for 12 years to serve as a World Language Curriculum Specialist and Professional Development Specialist for Lincoln Public Schools. Training and supporting individuals to positively impact learners by providing the skills and tools to the annual 300+ new teachers in our district was so much fun it became the topic of my dissertation. Seeing teaching from the administrative, teacher and parent roles simultaneously has changed my teaching in ways I did not expect. When I am not teaching, I spend as much time as possible at my husband's family farm on Plum Creek Reservoir. My children are at super fun ages (10 and 14) for camping, fishing and stargazing.

Government (ILR) Scale	Academic (ACTFL) Scale	ALTA Scale
5	Distinguished	12+
4, 4+		11,12
3, 3+	Superior	9,10
2+	Advanced High	8
2	Advanced Low, Mid	7
1+	Intermediate High	6
1	Intermediate Low, Mid	5
0+	Novice High	4
0	Novice Low, Mid	1,2,3

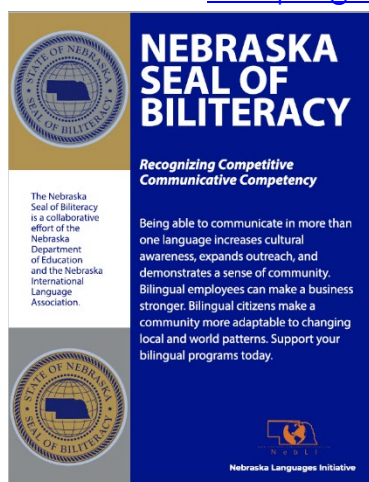
## NSoBL Updates: Application & New Approved Assessment

### Applications Due on August 1<sup>st</sup>

As mentioned in the last newsletter, the coming round of applications is due on August 1<sup>st</sup>. World Language teachers, please encourage your students to apply if they missed the April round. The due date for the August round is **August 1<sup>st</sup>** by the end of the day. The registration link is [here](#). There will be an additional round added this year with the due date of November 1<sup>st</sup>.

### More Community Support for the NSoBL

NDE released [the Spring NSoBL news release](#) on June 6<sup>th</sup>, announcing 145 seals awarded to 144 recipients in the spring of 2022. In the same news release, NDE and World Language acknowledged two universities, four organizations, and one business for supporting the seal. The two universities are University of Nebraska-Lincoln and Wayne State College. The four organizations include: Lincoln Chinese Cultural Association, Nebraska Chinese Association, and Nebraska Languages Initiative, and the Education Office of Embassy of Spain. The business that claimed to support the seal is Heartland Steel LLC. Nebraska Languages Initiative has already assisted NDE World Language created NSoBL flyer for community advocacy.



### New Approved Assessment Added

ALTA language assessment has been added to the list of approved assessments. ALTA offers more than 90 languages, including Tamil, Somali, and some Native



American languages. Teachers of less commonly taught languages or Native American Languages can explore the [website](#) and check whether your languages are included. The updated assessment requirements for the seal of biliteracy can be found [here](#). If students take the ALTA test for their chosen language, they need to score 5 to get the silver seal and 6 to get the gold seal once they meet the English proficiency requirement. The score referencing chart is [here](#) for reference.

## Opportunities for Language Teachers and Students

The Malaika Foundation and the Nebraska Languages Initiative have partnered to sponsor an online summer discussion series. The series focuses on culture in K-12 teaching. Open to educators across content areas. This series will look at culture in many different ways. Beginning with a definition of culture in the first part of the series, we then look at how to approach teaching culture, understanding and including the culture of students, how to find resources to support cultural understanding, and how Nebraska recognizes culture in the classroom. World language educators will recognize the concepts of interculturality, but the series strives to discuss the culture we teach, the culture in the way we teach, and the culture of those whom we teach.

Nebraska Languages Initiative  
&  
Malaika Foundation

Global and Cultural Dimensions for the K-12 Classroom

Online Seminar and Discussion Series  
Summer 2022

Culture is who we are and how we see the world. Discuss what the elements of culture are, how it influences our understanding, and how to meaningfully address it in the classroom.

JUNE 2	DR. STEVEN DUKE <i>Below the Iceberg:</i> Introducing and exploring the cultural iceberg for the classroom	JUNE 30	DORANN AVEY <i>Go-To Guide for Resources:</i> Finding materials to support cultural relevance and understanding
JUNE 9	SHEILA DORSEY VINTON <i>Cultural Anthropology 101:</i> Approaching life elements for the classroom community	JULY 7	STEPHANIE CALL <i>Big Concept, Little Details:</i> Wrapping culture into a curriculum package
JUNE 16	DR. MICHELLE WARREN <i>Authentic to Another Culture:</i> Teaching a culture that is not your own	JULY 14	KATHY DAMOUDE <i>Manageable Exchanges:</i> Making intercultural changes happen in the classroom
JUNE 23	TRD <i>The Tough Discussions:</i> Guiding student discussions about the more difficult cultural concepts	JULY 21	DEAN JACOBS <i>Cultural Celebrations:</i> Opportunities, grants, and programming to support cultural topics

There is no cost to participate, but registration is required.  
All sessions begin at 3:00 pm CT via Zoom.  
For more information, visit [www.nebraskalanguageinitiative.org/professional-workshops](http://www.nebraskalanguageinitiative.org/professional-workshops)

Speakers include Dr. Steven Duke, Sheila Dorsey Vinton, Dr. Michelle Warren, Dorann Avey, Stephanie Call, Kathy DaMoude, and Dean Jacobs. Their diverse experiences lend unique perspectives to the topics. Each sixty-minute session will begin with a brief introduction followed by the presentation and a time for questions and answers. Although the presentations are free to attend, registration is required. More information can be found on the Nebraska Languages Initiative website under professional development or on the Nebraska

Languages Initiative Facebook page.

The Malaika Foundation is a non-profit organization that builds a greater understanding of peoples and countries throughout the world for Nebraska youth by enhancing global education in Nebraska schools and communities. The Nebraska Languages Initiative is a non-profit that promotes world language teaching and learning through professional development and support services.

Continue checking in with NEBLI and Malaika to find out more about opportunities for your classroom.



# Technology Tool of the Month: Rubric Tools

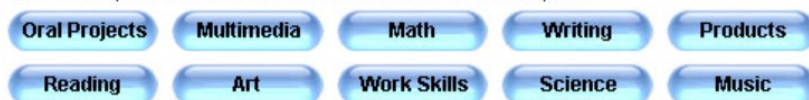
World language teachers must make rubrics from time to time, especially when they use different types of assignments or projects throughout the semester. Two free online websites allow teachers to generate rubrics fast. [Quickrubric.com](http://Quickrubric.com) requires

signing up before saving the rubric one created. The rubric creation page is shown in the below image. Teachers can add a name and some description to their rubrics. Also, teachers can add or delete criteria/topics or columns (performance level) and put in their requirements for each criterion and for each level. Last, teachers can save or print their rubrics.

If you are unsure how to word each requirement for each criterion for each student level, [Rubistar](http://Rubistar) might be a better choice for you. Teachers do not need to sign up if they do not want to save editable rubrics on the website, which means that teachers cannot come back and edit their rubrics once created. In other words, signing up allows teachers to save and re-edit their rubrics on the website. As shown

## Create a Rubric

Choose a Topic below to create a new rubric based on a template:



in the image below, the website provides categories for different kinds of rubrics. For example, if a Spanish

teacher wants her students to create a video to interview a native speaker about how to make one kind of authentic Spanish food, she might want to choose oral projects.

There are more template options in each category for teachers to choose from. For example, oral projects include class debates, historical role play, interviews, Newscast, oral presentations, puppet show, storytelling, and video. Once an appropriate template is picked, teachers will be redirected to an interactive editing page. There are many





criteria to choose from. When one is picked, the corresponding level requirements will be automatically filled, but all the cells are editable to allow teachers to edit, reword, or overwrite the prefilled texts. Teachers can choose as many or as few criteria as they like. Also, teachers can create their own criterion/ criteria from scratch. Please contact [chrysal.liu@nebraska.gov](mailto:chrysal.liu@nebraska.gov) if you have any problems making your rubric.

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## Teacher Stories – Kelly Garcia

Kelly Garcia has been teaching for over 20 years, but she joined ESU 5 in 2019. She enjoys developing curriculum and teaching with comprehensible input.

The Nebraska Department of Education's World Language Standards includes Connections. As WL educators, we are to help students "use the language studied to reinforce and expand their knowledge, connecting language and cultural experiences to all content areas ."I'd like to share one example of successfully addressing this strand.



Educational Service Unit #5 is based out of Beatrice, Nebraska. This academic year we served 360 students in 16 school districts across the state. Our program offers Spanish 1, Spanish 2, Dual Credit Spanish 3 (Nebraska Wesleyan's 1010 and 1020 courses), and Dual Credit Spanish 4 (Nebraska Wesleyan's 2010 and 2020 courses). In our Dual Credit Spanish 3 classes, students engaged in a unit addressing the pros and cons of electric vehicles.

I received an email about the Rev Electric Vehicle program. Students were able to sign up and learn more about the benefits of electric/hybrid vehicles. I also made sure to have students do their own research to see the pros and cons of owning an electric vehicle.

To prepare students, I made a vocabulary handout and wrote questions for students to investigate and answer. Students had to do their own research concerning the practicality of buying an electric/hybrid vehicle. They also spoke to family and community members like mechanics to get other perspectives about the practicality of electric vehicles. In spite of the points in favor of using electric vehicles and the subsidies offered, many students decided the vehicles were simply not suited to their needs. Students used new vocabulary in context to discuss the pros and cons in class. The culminating activity was to make a 30-45 second video highlighting the advantages of electric vehicles.

Students had a lot of fun putting their videos together, but they had to make a video in English for Rev and a Spanish video for class. Every student who entered a video was entered into a drawing for Beats headphones. My classes were lucky enough to have two winners drawn. After the videos were judged, two more of my students



won a pair of Beats headphones. The winning students made a rap about electric vehicles.

Making Connections to other content areas is important because we want students to be learning language (structures and vocabulary) that is applicable to real life. Language is the vehicle through which students express themselves. This project accomplished that goal. You can learn more about the Rev Program here:

<https://reved.org/>.

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## World Language Positions in Nebraska

The following teaching positions were posted as of May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022 from [Teach in Nebraska](#)

- 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.
- Chinese World Language teacher, [Omaha Public Schools](#), Omaha.
- 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.
- 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 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](mailto: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 [crystal.liu@nebraska.gov](mailto:crystal.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 email list and wish to subscribe to the newsletter, please put your contact information in this [Google Form](#).

