



Nebraska Department of Education

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

World Language Review

May 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 establishing strategic relationships across cultures so that they may learn, earn, and live.

Purpose Statement

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

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 standard-based instruction, students obtain the level of proficiency to communicate in culturally adequate manners, solve real-world conflicts and problems, establish cross-cultural relationships, advocate for all ethnic groups, to serve as ambassadors in communities for a more harmonious Nebraska.



NEBRASKA INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGES ASSOCIATION

Nebraska International Language Association (NILA) will hold its 2022 conference in person in Crete on October 22nd Saturday. The theme is

"Reconnect, Refresh." After two years of teaching while dealing with all the complexities due to COVID, it is time for in-person professional networking for all world language teachers in Nebraska to get reconnected and refreshed and prepare for the new normal. Please consider [submitting a proposal](#) to share your experience and expertise. Conference registration and more details will come soon.

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NDE World Language Guest Speaker Series – Spring series will end on June 4th and will resume in August

This spring, NDE World Language works with the Chinese Language Teacher Association Small Interest Group K12 (CLTA SIG K12) to present World Language Guest Speaker series. The series started with Dr. Le Kang's webinar on the Technology-enhanced Choice Board on April 2nd during the World Language Week. They will end with Ms. Heminger's "Finding Joy in the Challenges of Teaching World Languages in the 21st Century" on June 4th. All the recordings and materials will be posted on this [page](#).

The Guest Speaker Series will resume in late August when school is back in session. The plan is to have language-specific 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 attend the webinars when available. The Guest Speaker Series Schedule is [here](#).

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: Kelleen Browning

I'm Kelleen Browning, the Communications Chair for NILA. I send emails and update our website. I'm a German teacher at Lincoln Southeast High School. I graduated from University-Nebraska-Lincoln with a dual degree in German Language and Secondary Education. I worked at St. Ursulas Gymnasium in Geilenkirchen as part of the Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship. I teach German 1, 2, 3/4 Compacted, and AP with my trusty sidekick, Herr Igel. Currently, I am most excited about working with the UNL Opera Program, as they are very interested in working with schools and teaching about the intersection of Art and Language. I worked with the Opera department for several years at UNL and love attending whenever possible.



Events

◆
[WL GSS-7th - The Implementation and Strategies of 4 Strands in Chinese Language Teaching by Jessy Tu \(Registration\)](#)
10:00-11:30 am,
May 14th

◆
[WL GSS- 8th – Teaching History in German Classroom by Pat Branson \(Registration\)](#)
3:45 – 5:15 pm,
May 18th

◆
[WL GSS -9th – Spiraled Curriculum Design by Danielle Fulcher \(Registration\)](#)
10:00-11:30 am,
May 21st

◆
[Asian Community and Cultural Center 30th Anniversary Celebration](#)
1:00-5:00 pm, May 22nd
Website is [here](#)

◆
[NILA Proposals due](#)
June 3rd

◆
[WL GSS-10th - "Finding Joy in the Challenges of Teaching World Languages" by Cara Heminger](#)
10:00-11:30 am,
June 4th.

◆
[CSCTFL proposals due](#)
June 15th

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

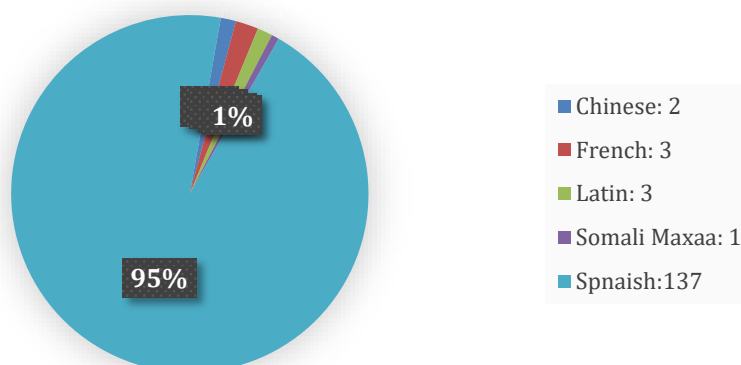


NSoBL Updates: Recipients, Support, & Additional Review Round

2022 Spring Recipients Finalized

The spring review round of the Nebraska Seal of Biliteracy has ended. The recipient list was finalized on May 15th. NDE World Language sincerely thanks Dr. Janet Eckerson from the University of Nebraska-Kearney for all the support and effort in the review process. Thanks to the joint effort of district coordinators and world language teachers all over Nebraska, 144 students are receiving 145 NSoBL in the 2022 spring round. The number of recipients in the 2022 spring round is more than the total number of recipients last year (112).

NSoBL Recipient by Language



Congratulations to 2022 spring recipients of the NSoBL! As shown in the pie chart, two seals are awarded for Chinese; three are awarded for French, three are awarded for Latin; one for Somali Maxaa;

137 for Spanish. It is the first time NSoBL has been awarded for the language of Somali Maxaa. The recipient list will be announced in News Release per parent permission in late May. Congratulations to 2022 spring recipients of the NSoBL!

Recognition of Community Support

On its website, NDE World Language has added a webpage entitled [Seal of Biliteracy Impact & Community Support](#) under the Seal of Biliteracy Page. More than 48 universities/ colleges in and outside Nebraska recognize the seal. This [spreadsheet](#) includes the universities outside Nebraska that recognize the seal. Please share the spreadsheet with your students. Higher Ed Institutes in Nebraska that have endorsed the seal include University Of Nebraska-Kearney, University of Nebraska-Omaha, Doane University, Wayne State College, and University of Nebraska-Lincoln. The organizations that have endorsed the seal include Shaanxi Commerce Representative Office, Middle Western Commerce office of Weinan City, Nebraska Languages Initiative, Nebraska Chinese Association, Lincoln Chinese Cultural Association, and Education Office of Embassy of Spain. Businesses that endorsed the seal are Easyway International LLC and Heartland Steel LLC. For their endorsement details please check [this webpage](#).

Additional Review Round added in November

Based on discussion at the Spring NSoBL Review meeting with NDE World Language and NILA representatives, an additional round will be added starting this year. The new application deadlines will be August 1st, November 1st, and April 1st. The application will continue to be open throughout the year, and the review will start

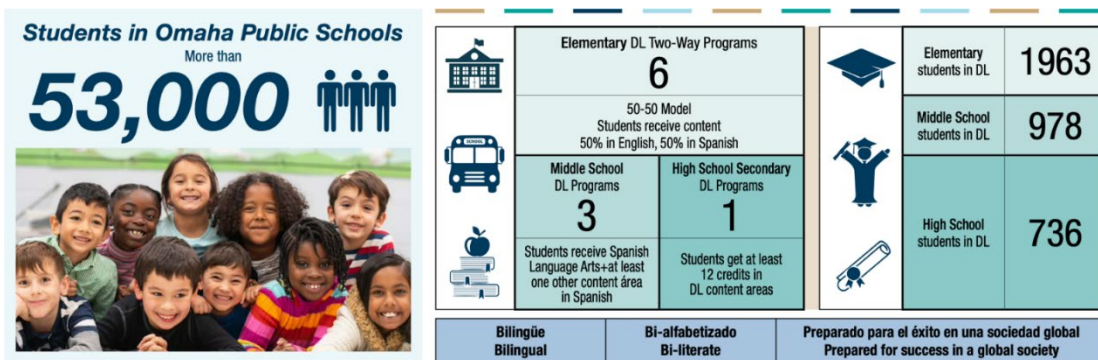
on the designated dates mentioned above. NDE World Language encourages ESU leaders, district world language coordinators, and world language teachers to plan accordingly and spread the word to your community and students.

Dual Language Program at Omaha Public Schools

The Omaha Public Schools Dual Language Instructional Model serves as a model for the country. It is one of fewer than fifteen programs in the United States that spans grades K-12. The instructional model began at Marrs Elementary in the year 2000. It now serves more than 3500 students in ten schools. OPS is committed to providing a K-12 pathway for students in the instructional model. It is not an additional program but rather a difference in approach to instruction. All the dual language classrooms in OPS serve English speakers, Spanish speakers, and bilingual students. Eight of the OPS schools have been recognized as "International Spanish Academies" by the Ministry of Education of Spain.

Research shows an immersion advantage in English Learners meeting proficiency beyond early grades (Steele, J.L., et al, 2015). Dual Language also has a positive impact on non-English learners, students who are bilingual yet fluent in English, native English speakers, and students with special learning considerations (Thomas & Collier, 2012). Special Education students also benefit from bilingual education with no detriment on language expected development or abilities (Paradis J., Genesee F., Crago. M., 2015). Additional benefits of learning in two languages include more favorable attitudes toward being bilingual and toward students who are different from themselves, stronger cultural identity and high self-esteem, better overall attendance, fewer behavior referrals, lower cost of education, development of un-activated brain areas and increased creativity and problem-solving skills.

<https://www.ops.org/Page/625> OPS Dual Language



Opportunities for Language Teachers and Students

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

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

2023 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.



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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 crystal.liu@nebraska.gov.

Lead with Language Teacher Scholarship Program - ACTFL



ACTFL's Lead with Language Teacher Scholarship Program provides merit-based scholarships to graduating high school seniors committed to pursuing the language teaching profession in languages other than

English. Awardees will receive an award of \$1,500 per academic year. Scholarships may be renewed three times following the initial award for a cumulative for \$6,000 per recipient. Administrators and world language teachers, please encourage your students to prepare all the required materials and [apply](#) by 4:00 pm May 27th Central Time. On the application page, you will find the list of required materials. Applicants will be notified of the results no later than July 15th.

2022 World Language Fair at Open Language Resource Center

This all-day event will bring high-school students to the Lawrence campus for a day focused on exploring world languages and cultures. Presentations at previous Fairs have showcased almost two dozen languages and have included Bollywood and Flamenco dance lessons, Chinese calligraphy, Japanese anime, Roman graffiti, and Portuguese karaoke.

Past presenters have included faculty from Benedictine College, Fort Hays State University, Johnson County Community College, Kansas State University, Missouri State University, Pittsburg State University, the University of Kansas, and Wichita State University. An informational fair will also be held over an extended lunch hour for students to learn about scholarships, study abroad, and language programs at all participating colleges and universities. More details about the event, including complete programs from previous Fairs, are available on the OLRC website (olrc.ku.edu/wlf).



The event is free for all registered attendees and includes a boxed lunch and a range of prizes. Schools are responsible for their own transportation costs to the event, but those unable to afford those costs are asked to contact the Open Language Resource Center (olrc@ku.edu) about possible support.

Additional information on the 2022 World Languages Fair will be posted on the OLRC website as details become available. Please contact Jonathan jperkins@ku.edu if you have any questions.



Technology Tool of the Month: Pixton Comic & Storyboard Builder



One of the most important things that world language teachers have learned from the experience of teaching during the pandemic might be to allow student choices and voices and build the learning community. Pixton is

a tool that helps teachers to allow choices and voices to build a learning community, while engage students in language learning projects. Pixton is an online comic & storyboard building platform. Teachers can create classes for students. Students can: a. enroll in the classes their teachers have created for them; b. create avatars for themselves; c. use their own avatars and other available characters to create comics and stories to showcase their learning results; d. present and download their own comics and stories to the class, peers, or parents. Also, teachers can create class pictures for the whole class even when some students might have chosen remote learning. The image on the right showed Pixton class photos of some of my classes. The use of avatars instead of actual pictures avoids unnecessary exposure to social media while still strengthening the sense of belongingness for students.

Please share your innovative ideas using the tool with crystal.liu@nebraska.gov.

Once your ideas are accepted, they will be included in the coming *technology tools for World Language Classroom* Webpage on the NDE World Language website.

Virtual Community Building - Class Photo



Teacher Stories – Ching Yuk Lam



Ni hao! My name is Ching Yuk Lam. I am an educator at Omaha Public Schools (OPS) with a multicultural background. I was born in mainland China and immigrated to Hong Kong during elementary school. As a result, I speak Chinese, Cantonese, Taiwanese, and English. I serve as a World Language Teacher at Beveridge Magnet Middle School and Burke High School. This is my 7th year teaching Chinese at OPS. I love spending time with my husband and three lovely kids. I enjoy cooking, baking, and crafting.

My passion for teaching was planted in middle school. I am grateful for the great teachers I had from 7-12th grades, who exemplified professional knowledge and genuine caring for students' academic and personal growth. To me and my peers, our favorite teachers are not only teachers, but also like moms and friends. So, we



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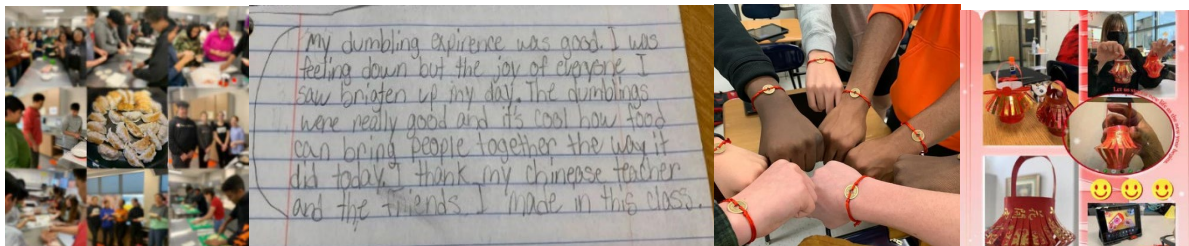


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called them "Teacher Mama" (mother), which perfectly reflects the Chinese idiom, "A teacher for a day is a father for a lifetime". This significant teacher-student relationship made meaningful learning so natural for me and inspired me to become a teacher. I believe that teachers individually and collectively may not change the world but can improve it and make it a much better one. In this sense, working as a teacher does not mean it is a job, but a mission to younger generations.

This sense of mission got stronger when I became a parent. Through parenting, I have much more understanding, respect, and patience towards my students and their parents. Parenting truly makes me see the teaching and learning processes in a different lens in the classroom. I am more passionate in engaging, caring and encouraging students in our daily conversations. I believe there is a significant meaning of my place in my adolescent students.

Learning Chinese is challenging, yet my students found it's not as difficult as they thought; indeed it's an enjoyable journey. In addition to various implements of face to face and online learning activities and games, the students are always involved in different hands-on projects, such as Beijing Mask Making after learning Colors; Chinese-knot Bracelet, Dumpling Making and Cooking, and Lantern Making with a Red Envelope for Chinese New Year celebrations. It melted my heart when one of the students wrote, "my dumpling experience was good. I was feeling down but the joy of everyone I saw brighten up my day. The dumplings were really good and it's cool how food can bring people together the way it did today."



"Tell me and I'll forget; show me and I may remember; involve me and I'll understand." This proverb reflects my students' experience as Chinese Language learners. Lifelong learning happens when students are engaged and involved in real life hands-on activities.

I am thankful and proud to be a teacher and a parent. Teaching is my heart, and I stay in my profession joyfully. I am grateful to have many passionate colleagues and friends who continuously support me especially amid these covid years. Xiexie!!

World Language Positions in Nebraska

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

- 9-12 Spanish teacher, [Kearney Catholic High School](#), Kearney.
- Spanish teacher or world language teachers, [North Platte Public Schools](#), North Platte.
- Anticipated High School World Language (Spanish) teacher, [South Sioux City Community School District](#), South Sioux City.
- Chinese World Language teacher, [Omaha Public Schools](#), Omaha.



- French World Language teacher, [Omaha Public Schools](#), Omaha.
- Spanish World Language teacher, [Omaha Public Schools](#), Omaha.
- 7-12 Spanish teacher, [Creek Valley Schools](#), [Creek valley Schools](#), Chappell.
- 6-8 Part-time Spanish teacher, [Holy Cross Catholic School](#), Omaha.
- 7-12 Spanish teacher, [Wakefield Community Schools](#), Wakefield.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 9-12 French teacher, [Skutt Catholic High School](#), Omaha

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 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 mail list and wish to subscribe to the newsletter, please put your contact information in this [Google Form](#).

