



Nebraska Department of Education

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

World Language Review

September 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.

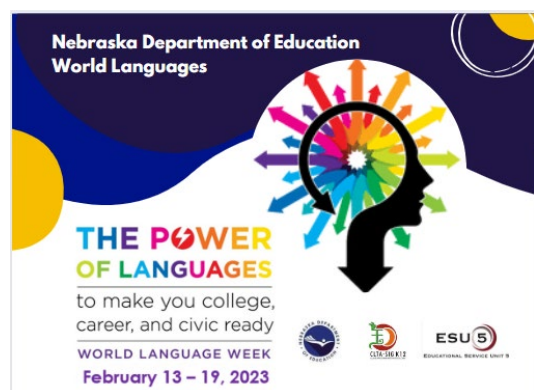
NDE World Language sincerely thanks Ms. Kelly Garcia for spending the time editing and reviewing the newsletter.

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Invitation to Participate in 2023 NE World Language Week

NDE World Language invites all World Language programs, educators, and students to participate in [the 2023 Nebraska World Language Week](#) (February 13 – 19th). The theme is “Lead with Language and Culture.” In addition to Distinguished World Language Scholar Awards, there are more opportunities for world language programs, educators, and learners to participate in the celebration of language and culture. Please check [the following descriptions](#) to identify the ways that you can participate.

- **Distinguished Scholar Awards**
 - **World Language teachers nominate students** for the award
 - Nominated students submit the required materials by January 27th
 - Please check the flyer for details: <https://bit.ly/3pZ005Q>
- **Virtual Campus visits (in target language) - language programs in & Outside of the U.S.**
 - **Language programs** submit proposals to NDE World Languages (crystal.liu@nebraska.gov)
 - Language programs create virtual campus visits in the **Target Language**
 - Language programs lead **students** in virtual campus visits during the NE World Language Week.



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



education.ne.gov/worldlanguage/



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

- Please check the flyer for details:
<https://bit.ly/3BOLAID>
- **Online interactive games/ activities (Language-focused) - Teachers and students in and outside of Nebraska**
 - **World Language teachers** submit proposals to NDE World Languages (chrystal.liu@nebraska.gov)
 - World Language teachers lead **students** in the online interactive games/ activities during the NE World Language Week.
 - Please check the flyer for details:
<https://bit.ly/3Rmsy4L>
- **Virtual authentic cultural experience (Culture-Specific) - Teachers and students in and outside of the U.S.**
 - **World Language programs and teachers** submit proposals to NDE World Languages (chrystal.liu@nebraska.gov)
 - Language programs create virtual campus visits in the **Target Language**
 - Language programs lead **students** in virtual campus visits during the NE World Language Week.
 - Please check the flyer for details:
<https://bit.ly/3pVCXsH>
- **Guest Speaker Webinar**

We have invited three nationally well-known guest speakers for the World Language Week.

 - [Dr. Aleidine Moeller](#) from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln is going to present how to cultivate intercultural communicative competence
 - [Lea Graner Kennedy](#) from ACTFL is going to present a World Language Advocacy Session to increase public awareness.
 - [Arthur Chou](#), the founder of the Seal of Biliteracy will lead a panel discussion on the academic, economic, and social impact of the Seal of Biliteracy.

Please feel free to contact chrystal.liu@nebraska.gov, if you have any questions.

Nebraska Seal of Biliteracy Updates



On August 20th, 65 students were awarded the Nebraska Seal of Biliteracy. It was the first time that a Polish seal was awarded. NDE sent out [a news release](#) to acknowledge the seal recipients.

NDE World Languages reviewed ACTFL Latin Interpretive Assessment (ALIRA) and National Latin Exam and matched the proficiency level. National Latin Exam has been added to the listed of approved assessments for the Nebraska Seal of Biliteracy. Students who have obtained a silver medal for the Intermediate Reading Comprehension Exam of National Latin Exam qualify for a silver seal if English

Events

◆
[Fall WL Guest Speaker Series – Fourth Webinar by Dr. Christopher Jacobs](#)

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

◆
[Fall WL Guest Speaker Series – Fifth 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

◆
[Fall WL Guest Speaker Series – Sixth Webinar by Ms. Yulia Evans](#)

10:00-11:30 am,
September 24th

◆
[ESU 16 World Language Workshop](#)

9:00 am – 3:00 pm
September 28th

◆
[Fall WL Guest Speaker Series – Seventh Webinar by Dr. Sergio Perez](#)

10:00-11:30 am,
October 1st

◆
[Fall WL Guest Speaker Series – Eighth Webinar by Ms. Heater Sweetser](#)

3:45- 5:15 pm,
October 12th

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



proficiency meets the requirement. A gold medal for the Intermediate Reading Comprehension Exam of the National Latin Exam will be accepted as evidence of intermediate-high level of proficiency in Latin, which will qualify students for a gold seal if English proficiency meets the requirement. Advanced level medals in National Latin Exam will qualify students for a gold seal once their English proficiency meets requirement. Please email chrysal.liu@nebraska.gov if you have any questions.

Meet Our New NILA Board: Amber Leinart

NATSP President of Nebraska Association of Teachers of Spanish (NATSP)

Works at: Logan View High School

Education: - BA in Spanish and education, UNL

- MA in Curriculum and Instruction, Wayne State



Hello! I am happy to serve as the NATSP president! My goal is to connect our Spanish and Portuguese teachers statewide to create a supportive and uplifting network! As a department of one, along with the freedoms of adjusting curriculum as you see fit, it can also feel isolating. I believe our state standards will continue to guide us in a classroom world of intercultural communication and reflection through comprehensible and compelling input.

I have attended NILA for many years, and I'm very grateful for the friendships and mentors that it has provided.

On a more personal note, my spouse, Trevor, and I have two sons, Christian (15) and Elijah (9) and two dogs, Cruz and Walker. When not in the classroom I am cheering on our boys in their activities, working with the LV Student Council as the sponsor, gardening, working at Mel's Bar, a local bar and grill, or at Canine Country Club, a local boarding kennel.

Opportunities for Language Teachers

The 2022 NILA Conference

The 2022 NILA conference is going to be held in person in Crete High School from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm (central time) on October 22nd, Saturday. The conference theme is "Reconnect, Refresh." The Keynote Speaker is Heather Sweetser, the ACTFL teacher of the year!

The registration fee is \$50. The conference is going to be a great opportunity to reconnect with old friends and to meet new friends. The proposal due date has been extended. Please register [here](#). Please check the NILA (Nebraska International Language Association) website for details and updates: <https://www.nebraskalanguages.org/>



Registration Opens for 2023 CSCTFL

The 2023 Central State Conference on Teaching Foreign Languages will be held March 9-11 at Hilton Columbus Downtown in Columbus, Ohio. The theme for the conference is "Empathy, Equity, Empowerment." Registration is open for attendees. Please check the registration fee in the blue image below and register [here](#). The tentative schedule is [here](#) for your reference.



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



education.ne.gov/worldlanguage/



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



The conference is also calling for papers for the 2023 CSCTFL conference report. Please check [this webpage](#) for details if you are interested in submitting a paper.

Please check the [author guideline](#) and make sure your paper is well prepared. The CSCTFL reports from previous years are [here](#) for your reference. Please don't hesitate to contact chrysal.liu@nebraska.gov if you need help to review your paper before submission.

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 fewer 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

	UNTIL NOV 30, 2022 (EARLY)	DEC 1, 2022- FEB 15, 2023 (REGULAR)	AFTER FEB 15, 2023 (ONSITE)
Regular Attendee	\$170	\$195	\$220
Student* <small>*With proof of full-time undergraduate or graduate status</small>	\$75	\$85	\$95
Presenter	\$120*	*By October 1. Regular registration rates apply afterwards	
Projector Fee	\$50		
Pre-Conference Workshops	\$50, 3-hour workshop \$100 full day workshop		

Opportunities for Language Students

2022 NDE & CLTA SIG K12 Guest Speaker Series

NDE & CLTA SIG K12 resumed the Guest Speaker Series for the fall. There upcoming webinars are listed as flowing:

1. "Maximizing language learning success by maximizing student and teacher flow" by Dr. Christopher Jacobs., 10:00-11:30 am, Saturday, September 10th. Registration link: <https://bit.ly/3bqhuEu>
2. "Interpersonal Speaking and Writing tasks" by Ms. Kellen Browning, 10:00-11:30 am (CT), Saturday, September 17th, registration link: <https://bit.ly/3BJ9Srp>
3. "Movement in the Classroom" by Ms. Yulia Evans, 10:00 - 11:30 am, Saturday, September 24th. Registration link: <https://bit.ly/3zqy8u>
4. "Show What You Know Events (SWYKE): Pluriliteracies through drama" by Dr. Pérez Marrero Antonio Sergio, 10:00 - 11:30 am, Saturday, October 1st, registration link: <https://bit.ly/3QQdr3G>



5. "Content-Based Learning in Language Classrooms" by Ms. Heather Sweetser, 3:45 - 5:15 pm, Wednesday, October 12th. Registration link: <https://bit.ly/3TO53DE>

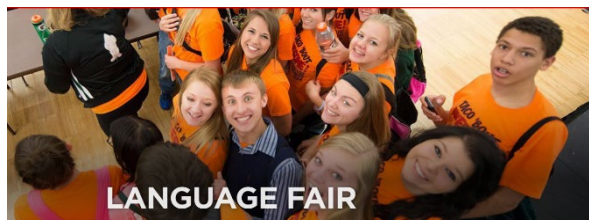
2023 UNL Language Fair & other Opportunities

Dr. Nora Peterson, the chair of the Department of Modern Language and Literatures shared a few opportunities for World Language Learners:

1. Save the Date! Our 44th Annual Language Fair will be held on April 13, 2023. We can't wait to celebrate languages and cultures with you! This year's theme will be

Translation: Building Language Bridges. We will once again be

including a short film category, and we will also have the explicit opportunity for students to share their own creative writing, as well. More information will be coming later this fall, but please do be in touch if you have any questions in the meantime.



2. Please join us UNL's first-ever I ♥ Humanities recruitment event on September 28 from 9am to 2:30pm. Interested high school students and their teachers will be able to choose from various break-out sessions, including for all of our majors (in French, German, Russian, and Spanish). Here's a link to the web page! We'd love to see you and any of your students that you think would thrive in our humanities classes.



<https://cas.unl.edu/humanities-husker>

3. Russian is considered a "critical language" by the US State Department, which means language proficiency is politically relevant skill and in high demand in a wide variety of careers. UNL offers the only Russian major in the state. We are proud to have a robust curriculum and to offer courses that provide in-depth understanding of the Russian language, culture, society, and civilization. In our effort to make our offerings available to high school students, online Russian sections of first-year Russian (RUSS101 and 102) are now available through Nebraska NOW (for the 2023 spring semester). We offer innovative approaches to learning through interactive online tutorials and language games to practice major language skills. Several high school students have already successfully completed our courses and are excited to continue learning Russian at UNL. This Fall, we are launching an initiative to spread a word about the Russian program, and also to give high school students a chance to try Russian through our interactive free mini-lessons. Any teacher who might be interested in adding a 20-minute session of Russian to one of their classes this fall, please contact Dr. Olha Tytarenko (olha.tytarenko@unl.edu) to request a mini-lesson. We are offering two kinds of mini lessons: one on language and one on Russian culture. Both are conducted via Zoom. You are welcome to choose which one to request, or you can request both! Please share this widely with teachers of history, civilization, social studies, political science, etc.! We look forward to virtually visiting your classroom!



UNO Essay-writing Contest

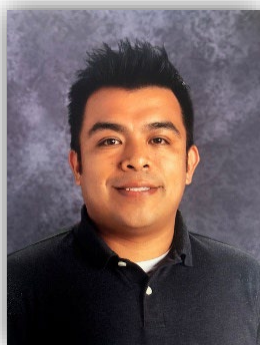
The [MA in Language Teaching](#) (MALT) program at the University of Nebraska at Omaha is hosting an essay-writing contest titled **Why Languages Matter**.

We are inviting juniors and seniors currently enrolled in a(n) heritage/second language/EL class to submit an essay answering this prompt:

'Language courses often make use of music in the target language to introduce students to vocabulary, culture, etc. For you, **as a language learner, what is the role of music in your language learning trajectory? In your essay, explore how music in the target language has been instrumental in your own personal discoveries and explorations.**'

The purpose of this event is to provide students a space to express how language matters to them personally. Essays are to be submitted in the student's target language; they will be reviewed based on content and writing quality. [On the website](#) you can find the rubric and read the winning essays from last year's contest. In addition, we will include a number of playlists that our students at UNO enjoy, and that we think can be useful for your students to explore as part of their writing. Please submit the essays via this [form](#). This [document](#) will provide some details for your reference. Please contact Dr. Claudia García (csgarcia@unomaha.edu) if you have any questions.

Teacher Stories – Oscar Fuentes



Oscar is a Spanish teacher at Grand Island Senior High. He came from Guatemala. Let's learn about the unique story of his life and teaching career.

So, where exactly is Guatemala? This is a common question I get when I say where I am from. The little village where I was born in Guatemala is almost gone due to the civil war during the 80's and agrarian issues. In the 90s my parents moved to the second largest city in Guatemala, Quetzaltenango.

Spaniards changed the name but as locals we still refer to its Mayan name, "Xelaju" or "Xela". Even though I only know a

few words in Mam, the second largest Mayan language in Guatemala, I identify as a Mayan. I completed my education in Xela including college. In Guatemala it takes around 7 or 8 years to get a bachelor's degree. Five years of classes, one year to write a thesis and one more year to prepare for a public and private exam.

During my time in college, I began working for a language school that teaches students from around the world. The school offers language classes half of the day and volunteer projects the other half. At my school most of the students were U.S. Medical students, social workers and others who wanted to improve their Spanish and learn about Guatemalan culture. I met my wife in this school in 2010 and we spent two years in a long-distance relationship. The rest is a love story! A good reference to our experience and how I came to the U.S. could be the show "90 Day Fiancé" (without the drama)!

When I came to Nebraska, I started to work on my wife's family farm. Working outside was not easy, especially during winter or summer. In my city in Guatemala the weather stays around 70 degrees, so you can picture my face when I experienced my first snow or heat wave. I worked with my father-in-law for almost four years until I was able to transfer my college credits. My two options were an MBA, as I have a bachelor's degree in business, or a master's in education. I



decided to do a Master of Arts in Language Teaching and Acquisition and get my teaching certification at UNL. I took classes with students from around the world who wanted to teach in the U.S. My first classes weren't easy, my English was still improving, and everything was new culturally. I really enjoyed the program and working with Dr. Moeller, Dr. Catalano, and Dr. Viesca. It was a unique experience, and they really impacted my way of thinking about education.

Since I live in Aurora, I student taught in Grand Island Senior High. This was a good opportunity for me because I was able to get the experience I needed working with emergent bilingual students for my ELL endorsement as well as my World Language endorsement. At the end of my student teaching, Grand Island Senior High offered me a position as Spanish teacher. I started working with Spanish IV and Heritage Spanish speakers. Both classes are dual credit and we're currently looking at AP and Seal of Biliteracy test options.

Heritage Spanish speakers' class is for students who speak Spanish as their first or home language. We have a large number of students that speak and understand Spanish already and this class helps them with reading and writing to prepare them for a more professional level. I normally have between seven to ten countries represented every year. I've worked with students that were born in the U.S., Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Costa Rica, Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador, Cuba, Dominican Republic, and Spain. Besides readings and novels about these countries, we practice formal essays, speeches, discussions, and culture is the key aspect to foster a multicultural environment. We look into the history of Latin America and try to explain poverty and issues such as immigration, discrimination, illiteracy, gangs, and indigenous cultures. Some students bring their own story or the story of a past generation to create an environment where we understand our identity as Spanish speakers and we learn from each other.

My Spanish IV class, normally with more English as their first language speakers, is a class where we focus on the four elements of language, reading, speaking, writing, and listening. Using comprehensible input, novels, some grammar and games, students become more fluent in listening and speaking. We also write essays using a structure and the goal is to understand global issues and answer the question, what is our role as students/people to help others? Literature gives them vocabulary and the cultural aspects of the countries we analyze helps us make suggestions on how to create a better world. Every outcome is welcome as long as the students try and show growth. Both classes are infused with the idea that education is an important factor to understanding our world and is the key to helping others and ourselves.

My name is Oscar Fuentes and I work for Grand Island Senior High. I teach Spanish IV (dual credit) and Spanish speakers II (dual credit).

My wife, Marcy Fuentes, works for Hampton public schools. She is a half time Spanish teacher and half-time librarian. We have three children, Tiago (5) Matias (3) and Elena just turned one year old.

Technology Tool of the Month: Quizlet Refresh

By Mary Clare Liescheski

Quizlet has become a mainstay for years in many world language classrooms! It is simple, free for both teachers and students, and can be used on any technology device. With a free account, a teacher can create Classes for students to join easily and vocabulary study sets within those classes. A "study set" pairs terms in the Target language with either a corresponding term in L1, a definition in the TL, or simply a picture. Once you establish your vocabulary study set, which takes only minutes, your students can access digital flashcards, matching games, and practice quizzes to make practice more fun. If you are teaching vocabulary from a specific textbook



unit or a common theme, there are also numerous study sets that have already been created by other teachers. You can search existing content and modify anything to suit your own needs. This extra practice can really help struggling students who just need more exposure to the written words in the target language.

Quizlet Live offers a whole-group experience where students race to correctly match up vocabulary terms, either individually or in randomly selected teams. Quizlet Live is much easier to prepare than some of the other group-quiz games because it only requires an existing study set to play. It's a great warm-up or sponge activity because it encourages every student to engage!

The Quizlet logo consists of the word "Quizlet" in white, bold, sans-serif font, centered within a solid blue rectangular background.

If you have questions about getting started with Quizlet, you can check out this [video](#) or Quizlet.com! There is both a web-based version of the site and a free app for iPads.

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 to get connected with other teachers and programs.
- When you have professional learning needs.
- And more!

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