



Nebraska Department of Education

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

World Language Review

October 2022

NDE World Language Mission Statement

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.

Thanks to Marissa Payzant (Director of Content Area Standards), Sydney Wolfe (Graphic Designer), and Stacey Webb (professional assistant) for the support of creating the NDE World Language Vision, Mission, and Purpose Visual (on the right). The home page is updated with the new visual.

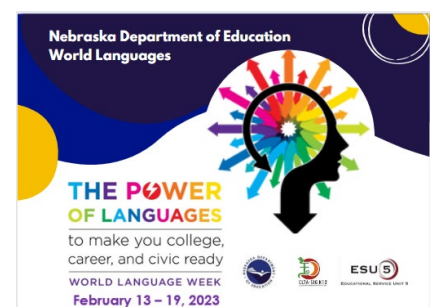


NDE World Language sincerely thanks Ms. Kelly Garcia for spending the time editing and reviewing the newsletter.

- [Invitation to Participate in 2023 WL Week](#)
- [NeSoBL: Applications Due No. 1st](#)
- [Meet NILA Board: Wenli Papkin](#)
- [Opportunities for Language Teachers](#)
- [Opportunities for Language Students](#)
- [Visitor Teacher from Spain Program](#)
- [Teacher Story: Mary Clare Liescheski](#)
- [Technology of the Month: Choice Board](#)
- [Call for Contributions to Future Issues](#)

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 – 19). 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. There are different



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



education.ne.gov/worldlanguage/



[@NDE_WorldLang](#)

activities listed below for teachers and students. Each day of the week will be designated to celebrate one of the languages that are taught in Nebraska public schools.

- Feb 13th – Spanish Day
- Feb 14th – French Day
- Feb 15th – German Day
- Feb 16th – Chinese Day
- Feb 17th – Other Languages Day

Please check [the following descriptions](#) to identify the ways that you can participate.

- **Distinguished Scholar Awards**
 - Teachers will [nominate](#) students by December 27th. Nominated students complete [a submission form](#) that represents their ability and appreciation for language learning by January 20th. Awards will be published during World Language Week, February 13th - 19th.
 - If you are interested in serving as a judge. Please fill out this Form: <https://forms.gle/rgkTpQXdPcvfZ4Sy5>. Once you choose to serve as a judge, you will not be able to nominate your students. Watch for more information about World Language Week and the Distinguished Scholar Award!
 - Please check the flyer for details: <https://bit.ly/3pZ005Q>
- **Participation opportunities for all students**

Teachers are encouraged to request virtual field trips for students to keep students in the language classrooms to participate in the following activities.

 - **Virtual Campus visits (in target language) - language programs in & Outside of the U.S.**
 - All virtual Campus visits (most will be recorded) will be posted on Feb 1st.
 - Teachers need to allocate a time to let students participate at their own convenience
 - **Online interactive games/ activities (Language-focused) - Teachers and students in and outside of Nebraska**
 - All options will be posted by Feb 1st as a webinar format
 - Teachers need to pick the activities and register/ help students to register to participate.
 - **Virtual authentic cultural experience (Culture-Specific) - Teachers and students in and outside of the U.S.**
 - All options will be posted by Feb 1st as in webinar format
 - Teachers need to pick the activities and register/ help students to register to participate.
- **Guest Speaker Webinar**

We have invited three nationally well-known guest speakers for the World Language Week. Teachers need to register ahead of time to participate.

 - [Dr. Aleidine Moeller](#) from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln is going to present how to cultivate intercultural communicative competence

Events

◆

[Fall WL Guest Speaker Series – Eighth Webinar by Ms. Heather Sweetser](#)
3:45- 5:15 pm,
October 12th

◆

[Fall WL Guest Speaker Series – Ninth Webinar by Ms. Lee Perez](#)
10:00 – 11:30 am
October 15th

◆

[Fall WL Guest Speaker Series – Tenth Webinar by Dr Chrystal Liu & Dr. Nick Ziegler](#)
3:45- 5:15 pm,
October 19th

◆

[NILA Pre-conference Workshop](#)
3:00 – 5:00 pm,
October 21st

◆

[NILA Pre-Conference Dinner – Registration \(\\$20\) needed](#)
5:30 pm – 9:00 pm,
October 21st

◆

[NILA Conference](#)
9:00 am – 3:00 pm,
October 22nd

◆

[ESU 9 Teaching & Learning Conference](#)
8:30 am – 3:30 pm,
October 24th

◆

[Fall WL Guest Speaker Series – Eleventh Webinar by Dr. Fei Yu](#)
10:00 – 11:30 am,
October 29th

◆

[NeSoBL Application Due](#)
November 1st

◆

[Fall WL Guest Speaker Series – Twelfth Webinar by Dr. Olha Tytarenko](#)
3:45- 5:15 pm,
November 12th

◆

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



- [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 crystal.liu@nebraska.gov, if you have any questions.

NeSoBL: Applications Due Nov. 1st

The current round of NeSoBL application is due on November 1st. Please continue to encourage students to apply. There are a few things that need to be communicated to the students concerning the application process.

- Transcripts without student names will not be accepted.
- Students need to apply for themselves and upload transcripts. The test results won't be automatically sent to NDE World Languages for review.
- Students need to submit the form before closing the window, otherwise the data won't be imported to the system.
- Students need to use their personal email. School emails might block the letters and certificate sent from NDE.
- Students need to submit requested materials within three business days once they receive an email requesting additional materials. Otherwise, their application will not be processed until the next review round.



Please email crystal.liu@nebraska.gov if you have any questions.

Meet Our NILA Board: Wenli Rapkin

Mrs. Wenli Rapkin is the president of the newly founded Chinese Language Teacher Association of Nebraska (CLTA-NE). She is a Mandarin Chinese teacher with a Master's degree in Foreign Language Acquisition from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Early in her career, in 2011, she taught mathematics at Lincoln Public Schools and has been teaching Mandarin since 2015. Mrs. Rapkin is active in the Chinese communities in Lincoln and Omaha, and loves teaching about her culture and language to high school students. She is eager to expand the reach of the Chinese Language Teachers Association of Nebraska and promote the Mandarin language to a growing number of students in our state. She is now teaching Mandarin in Omaha at Marian High School.



Opportunities for Language Teachers

The 2022 NILA Conference

The 2022 NILA conference is going to be held in person at Crete High School 9:00 am – 4:35 pm, Saturday, October 22nd. The conference theme is "Reconnect, Refresh." The Keynote Speaker is Heather Sweetser, the ACTFL teacher of the year! Heather is going to provide free Pre-conference workshop from 3:00 – 5:00 pm on Friday, October 21st. Registration is needed to participate in the pre-conference workshop. The pre-conference collaboration dinner requires registration with \$20. It is from 5:30



to 9:00 pm, which will be a social networking opportunity to get reconnected with old friends and making new friends. The general registration fee is \$50. Presenter registration is \$30. Please register [here](#). Please check the NILA (Nebraska International Language Association) website for details and updates: <https://www.nebraskalanguages.org/>

2022 NDE & CLTA SIG K12 Guest Speaker Series

NDE & CLTA SIG K12 resumed the Guest Speaker Series for the fall. The upcoming webinars are:

1. "Culturally responsive strategies to use with English Language Learners (ELLs)" by Lee Pérez, 10:00 am – 11:30 am, Saturday, October 15th. Registration Link: <https://bit.ly/3QJgtH0>
2. "Leading with Cognition: How to Implement the Nebraska WL Standards" by Dr. Chrystal Liu & Dr. Nick Ziegler, 3:45 pm – 5:15 pm, Wednesday, October 19th. Registration link: <https://bit.ly/3RinsGi>
3. "The Use of Multimodality in World Language Classrooms" by Dr. Fei Yu, 10:00 am – 11:30 am, Saturday, October 29th. Registration link: <https://bit.ly/3BLDEdX>
4. "The flipped classroom model, and interactive online instruction" by Dr. Olha Tytarenko, 10:00 am – 11:30 am, Saturday, November 12th. Registration link: <https://bit.ly/3CFWBQp>

Call for proposals - 17th Annual Colloquium on Language Teaching at UNO

The 17th Annual Colloquium on Language Teaching seeks to create a community of language teachers and learners, promote networking and collaboration, and encourage research in the field of language teaching and learning. We invite proposals for presentations in all areas related to language pedagogy and research, including:

- Context-based learning (literature, civilization, history, math, etc.).
- Language teaching and technology.
- Project-based learning (e.g., service-learning).
- Teaching the five Cs: Communication, Cultures, Connections, Comparisons, Communities.
- Working with non-traditional language learners.

We encourage proposals for instruction at all levels (K-12 and higher education) and of all world languages and ESL/EFL.

DEADLINE: Proposals must be received by Sunday **October 30th, 2022**.

Submission Process: Submit a 250-300 word abstract, with title, and a second page with references.

- Remove any identifying information in the abstract itself (abstracts go through a blind review process).
- Submit your proposal via: <https://form.jotform.com/222136122530137>

The event is free and open to the public, but we do require registration: https://unomaha.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJcrodOGprz8rHdQ9WbQXWsZp4_JHd4MmRMr0

The conference will be held online to allow greater access to those who cannot attend in person.

Event contact information:

Dr. Cecilia Tocaimaza-Hatch ctocaimazahatch@unomaha.edu





Free Workshop offered by Department of Foreign Languages and Literature

Dr. Ramón J. Guerra, Associate Professor, English Department at UNO is going to present a workshop on *Diversifying Content and Construction: A “Teaching Latina/o Literature” Course and Teacher Development* on November 5, 2022 at 10 am -11 am at UNO campus, Arts and Sciences (ASH) 101.

This is a hybrid event, which means that we will meet in person in ASH 101 but we will also run a zoom meeting for those who wish to watch Dr. Guerra’s presentation.

Please register for this **free** event using this

link: https://unomaha.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0pceCqz4uGdxx9ovislBEeRP_qGPquZlj

Opportunities for Language Learners

UNL Russian Mini Courses via Zoom

Dr. Amber Aulen is offering free mini online courses this fall. Students who want to learn Russian but not sure about whether Russian is the right choice can join her online and learning more about the language. Dr. Amber offers five 30-minute mini-lessons from September to November. Zoom meeting ID is: 91547562682, and the passcode is Russian! Please check this flyer for more information.



Russian 101 Course 2023 Spring at UNL

The flyer is green and white. At the top, it says 'to understand the war, you have to know its language' with a map of Russia. Below that, it says 'LEARN A LANGUAGE THAT IS CRITICAL TO OUR NATIONAL SECURITY AND MAKE YOUR RESUME STAND OUT IN THE JOB MARKET!' with a globe icon. In the center, it says 'LEARN RUSSIAN ONLINE (SPRING 2023) RUSS 101' and 'contact Olha Tytarenko for more information olha.tytarenko@unl.edu'. It also says 'Available to high school students through Nebraska Now'. Under 'We offer:', it lists: 'Interactive online classes and instructions', 'Online language games and activities', 'Project-based assignments', 'Full immersion in language and culture', and 'Interactive vocabulary practice'. At the bottom, it says 'Department of Modern Languages and Literatures' and has a large 'N' logo.

The Department of Modern Language and Literature is offering online Russian 101 course in the spring 2023. The course will be online and available to high school students through Nebraska now. They will offer:

- Interactive online classes and instructions
- Online language games and activities
- Project-based assignments
- Full immersion in language and culture
- Interactive vocabulary practice

For more information, please contact

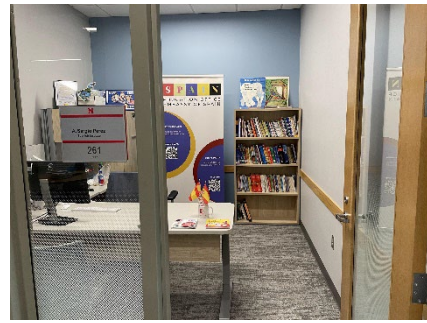
olha.tytarenko@unl.edu.

Visitor Teacher from Spain Program

The understanding between the peoples of two nations starts with the opening of channels of communication. These channels of enriching two-way communication acknowledge the differences, but also promote the discovery of the historical and cultural connections between two countries. This brings about an enriching, global appreciation of the present and a development of world-readiness competencies.



In this report, Spain is a friendly country, with a long history of partnership with the United States of America, [dating back to the birth of the United States](#). The Education Office of the Embassy of Spain in the USA and Canada has set, among its duties, "to support the English-Spanish bilingual programs in the K-12 education system in the United States and Canada," "to offer pedagogical, technical support to teachers of Spanish through the Spanish Resource Centers located at Universities in the U.S and Canada," as well as "to promote the Spanish language and culture in the U.S./Canadian education systems." The Visitor Teachers Program serves as a key tool to fulfill these duties while providing support to schools in Nebraska. The Education Office of the Embassy of Spain in the USA and Canada has had an Education Advisor in Nebraska for the last twenty-two years, managing the Visitor Teachers Program throughout most of this period.



What is the Visitor Teachers from Spain program?

It is a cultural exchange program by which highly qualified teachers from Spain come to the USA to teach Spanish language and/ or content subjects through Spanish. Visitor teachers will also provide opportunities for the school communities to connect with schools in Spain, as well as to give first-hand experience about the culture of Spain. Candidates will be required to have a teaching license and endorsement to teach in Spain, a minimum of two years teaching experience and to be competent to communicate in English.

How does the selection process work?

The Education Office of the Embassy of Spain in the USA and Canada will run an initial selection process, guaranteeing that all candidates meet the requirements. Then, according to the needs stated by the schools, the Education Advisor will provide a complete profile (CV, transcripts and/ or certificates, as requested by the school) and if considered appropriate, the school or school district will run the necessary screening process and interviews. There is no obligation to hire, as with any other candidate. We will commit ourselves to look for the best candidates, who meet the school needs.

What does it entail for a school to host a visitor teacher?

The visitor teacher will be another member of the teaching staff at the school. Therefore, visitor teachers will be hired under the same conditions as any other staff member. During the first year of teaching, as is normally the case with newly arrived teachers, there needs to be a mentoring process with more emphasis on the possible cultural shock. Host schools will also pay for the sponsoring fees, to [Cordell Hull Foundation](#).

What is the Education Office's role?

The Education Office guarantees the availability of candidates while there is a need of Visitor Teachers through a yearly call for candidates in Spain. After an initial selection, through a conscientious supervision of requirements, schools will be offered candidates that match their stated needs. With those teachers who are actually hired, the Education Office will also run training activities to make sure that the cultural shock is mitigated as much as possible, and that they have an initial pedagogical introduction to the differences in their contexts here in the USA. It will also provide ongoing training while the teachers are here, with schools having the opportunity to suggest possible fields for professional



<https://www.facebook.com/NDL-WL/>



education.ne.gov/worldlanguage/



@NDE_WorldLang

development. Furthermore, we will also monitor teachers to support teachers and schools during the whole process.

What is the teacher status in the USA?

Candidates, after they are offered a contract or a letter of intent to hire, will undergo a process to be granted a J1 Visa, which will give them the required status to work in the USA for a limited number of years (maximum of five years). In the case of Nebraska, it is [Cordell Hull Foundation](#) who sponsors these Visas. Upon their return to Spain, these teachers will apply what they have learned in the USA in the Spanish Educational System.

What are the fees?

The Education Office of the Embassy of Spain in the USA and Canada is a governmental body and will not charge any fees for our work. The schools will only need to [pay the fees](#) for the sponsoring of the teachers' visas.

You can find more information in the [Visiting Teachers from Spain program general guidelines for school and districts](#).

If you are considering the possibility of hiring Visitor Teachers from Spain and would like to have more information, please, [complete the survey in this link](#).

Teacher Stories – Mary Clare Liescheski

My journey to French teaching began as a student in a high school French class. I took French all four years of high school, and it was always my favorite class. When I started my bachelor's degree at the University of Nebraska - Lincoln in Psychology and Pre-Law, I always chose to take French classes because of how much I enjoyed it. After receiving encouragement from various people in my life, I sort of fell into a study abroad program in Besancon, France in 2008 with a fabulous professor and a group of 17 other UNL kids. We had a wonderful semester, and I still use photos from that time to promote Study Abroad and travel in my own classroom. I loved the experience so much that I switched my major to French, still not knowing exactly what to do with that degree. After graduation, I accepted an exchange position teaching English at the Université de Paris-Est, Marne-la-Vallée in order to live in Paris and work on my spoken French. After this magical year abroad, I started my M.A. in Modern Languages and Literature at UNL, and I began teaching French to beginning undergraduate students through my graduate assistantship. Somewhere around this time, I was recruited to teach one Middle School class in Lincoln Public schools while working as a busy grad student. This was a crazy-hectic-busy year, but it changed my outlook on teaching! I totally fell in love with teaching younger students who still want to have fun in the classroom.



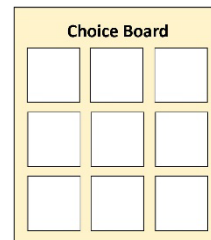
Fast forward to today – I am in my 9th year teaching Middle School and High School classes at DC West in Valley, NE. My classroom at DC West emphasizes communication and grammar, and we try to have fun while we learn! As the only French teacher in the district (and one of only three World Language teachers!) I enjoy ample freedom to adapt my French curriculum to the interests of my students. Valley, Nebraska is a small town to the west of Omaha, and my students are so curious about the world around them! We take time to address every burning question that is raised about French and Francophone culture, and I love my "Song of the Week" activities that allow French 3 and 4 students to discover French-language music from across the globe. Other than that, my curriculum includes many technology-based projects that allow students to be creative and showcase



their new French skills using our district's one-to-one iPads. In an effort to share my love of Paris, I try to take (Covid permitting) a group of students to France every two years, and I find travel to be the most fulfilling and impactful aspect of my role as educator. Lately, travel has been minimal of course, but I enjoy spending time with my husband and two toddlers at our home in Omaha.

Technology Tool of the Month: Choice Board

Choice board has been a popular tool for teachers to allow for students' choices and differentiate learning. Students will be provided with different choices to learn the same content/ skills or to demonstrate learning. For example, three options for reading practice, three options for listening practice, and three choices for speaking practice for students to choose from. Students only need to pick one practice for each type. In April, NDE World Languages invited Dr. Le Kang presented "Technology-enhanced Choice Board for Chinese Classroom". The [recording](#) is here for your reference. Dr. Kang's shared [her slides](#) and an [example](#). Google Doc and Google Slides are always used to create choice board. Here is a [Google Doc Choice Board template](#) for your reference.



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 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 to 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](#).

