



Nebraska Department of Education

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

World Language Review

March 2023

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.



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

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NeSoBL Updates: Business and Organization Endorsement

In 2022, two businesses and six organizations have endorsed the Seal of Biliteracy. With the constant effort of NDE World Languages, three more businesses and two more organizations have just endorsed the seal. The businesses that have endorsed the seal are as follows (the three new ones are in red):

- Easyway International LLC.
- Heartland Steel LLC.
- **Language Testing International**
- **Extempore**
- **Phoenix Publishing, INC.**



The two organizations that have endorsed the seal are (the two new ones are in red):

- Education Office of the Embassy of Spain



- Lincoln Chinese Culture Association
- Nebraska Chinese Association
- Nebraska Languages Initiative
- Shaanxi Provincial Commerce Representative Office
- Midwestern Commerce Representative Office of Weinan City
- **CLTA SIG K12**
- **Nebraska Association for Translators & Interpreters**

NDE World Language highly appreciates the businesses and organizations for their support for the Seal of Biltieracy. Official acknowledgement will come soon in social media and NDE News release. World Language teachers, please reach out in your network to spread the word so that more and more businesses and organizations will want to endorse the seal.

Meet New NILA Board – Dr. Chris Jacobs

Name: Christopher Jacobs

University of Nebraska-Kearney

Position: Assistant Professor of French, Italian, Spanish & Linguistics; NILA Vice President

My name is Chris “C.J.”

Jacobs, I am NILA Vice-President. I am currently an Assistant Professor of French, Italian, Spanish & Linguistics at UNK. There, I also run weekly conversation tables in 10+ languages; lead study abroad experiences in France and Italy; and collaborate with other campus organizations to put on the International Food Festival and World Languages Week.



Previously, I taught French, Italian, Spanish, linguistics, and ESL in a variety of contexts, ranging from kindergarten to university. I am an extremely outgoing and entrepreneurial person who seeks to bring people together and never shies away from new opportunities. Thanks to my enthusiasm, collaborative spirit, and marketing and social media savvy, language enrollments, communicative competence, and overall engagement have increased dramatically at UNK in the past three years. As Vice-President of NILA, I will bring my proven record to do the same on a statewide level.

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Events

[ESU16 World Language Workshop](#)
March 29th

[Nebraska Seal of Biltieracy Application dues](#)
April 1st

[2023 NDE Educator Effectiveness Mini-Summit](#)
April 5th

[Webinar 12 Indigenous Language Education by Dr. Buttes](#)
April 5th

[UNL World Language Fair](#)
April 13th

[2023 State Board April Business Meeting](#)
April 14th

[Webinar 7 Process Drama by Ed Cousins](#)
April 15th

[French Immersion Overnight](#)
April 22nd – 23rd, 2023

[Webinar 13 Indigenous Language Education by Dr. Buttes](#)
April 29th

[2023 State Board April Business Meeting](#)
May 5th

[CLTA-NE Network](#)
May 6th

[NDE World Language Advisory Meeting](#)
May 13th

[NDE WL Hub Development Cohort 2](#)
June 27th – 30th

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



Opportunities and Resources for Language Teachers

2024 Central State Language for All Conference Proposals

Central State Conference on Teaching Foreign Languages has been renamed as "Central State Languages for All". The 2024 Conference is now calling for event/session/ workshop proposals. The 2024 conference will be in Minnesota from March 14th to 16th. Please go to [this website](#) to submit a proposal if you are interested in sharing your experience and expertise while networking with teachers from other central states. The submission deadline is June 30th. Please feel free to contact crystal.liu@nebraska.gov if you need support with your proposal.



2023 ACTFL Conference Early Bird Registration

American Council on Teaching Foreign Languages (ACTFL) is the largest professional organization for World Language Education in the United States. The 2023 ACTFL conference will be held November 17-19 in Chicago. Early bird



registration is \$279 for members and \$445 for non-members. Membership is \$45. Early bird registration rate will last until July 12th. The rate will increase after July 12th. If you are interested in attending the 2023 ACTFL conference, please go to [this website](#) to register. If you need help to communicate with your administration, please check [this sample letter](#) for reference.

NDE World Language Opportunities



NDE World Language started its Guest Speaker Series in the spring of 2022. The guest speaker series has more than 30 webinars recorded on [this website](#). The topics include lesson planning,

classroom management, strategies to engage students, assessment, project-based learning, cross-cultural communication, technology-enhanced instruction, seal of biliteracy, etc. World Language educators, you are invited to share your experiences and expertise in the 2023 Fall Guest Speaker Series. Please email crystal.liu@nebraska.gov if you are interested.

Free Anti-racism Workshop

Former Middlebury College professor, Eileen Angelini, Fulbright Scholar and Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Palmes Académiques, asked me if she could do free anti-racism workshops for the NU system. I happily accepted, and I am pleased to announce that she will do two (identical) Zoom workshops for us: one on Saturday, Apr. 15, from 9:30 am to 12 pm (hosted by UNO) and the other on Monday, Apr. 17, from 3-5:30 pm (hosted by UNK). You



can register for the UNO workshop [here](#) and the UNK workshop [here](#). The workshops will refer to a Francophone context, but the content will be in English and broadly applicable to an audience of French speakers and non-French speakers.

Opportunities for Students

The 44th UNL Annual Language Fair

The 44th UNL Annual Language Fair will be held on April 13th, 2023 in the Regency Suite at City Campus Union, University of Nebraska–Lincoln.

The competitive events will fall in the following categories:

drama, music, poetry, creative option, poster session,

folk dancing, or short film*. The theme of the 2023 UNL Language Fair is “Translation: Building Language Bridges.”

The following languages will be included in competition: Russian, French, German, Spanish, Chinese, and Japanese.

High school students from across the state studying those languages have the opportunity to demonstrate acquisition of language and cultural knowledge in competitive events.

* New this year. Students/schools unable to attend in person will be able to submit an entry for short film. The tickets and registration will be available soon. For more details, please check the [website](#).

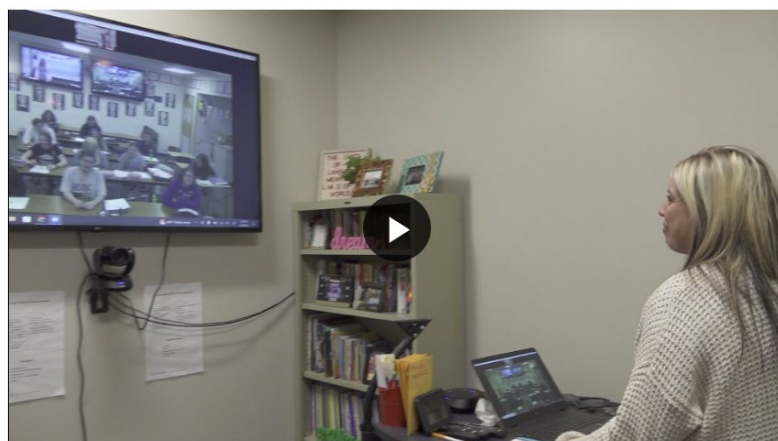


French Immersion Overnight

The Nebraska Teacher Association for French Teachers is sponsoring a French Immersion Overnight event from 11:00 am, April 22 to 11:00 am, April 23 at Camp Carol Joy Holling, Ashland, Nebraska. This program is open to all French students grades 9-12 in Level II to Level V. A student fee of \$80 includes 3 French meals, snacks, overnight lodging, activity fees, and prizes. Please contact Cara Heminger vis cheming@lps.org if you have any questions.

ESU 5: Addressing the Teacher Shortage through Distance Learning

Across the State, and the Nation, we are experiencing an acute **Teacher Shortage**. World Language Education is among the Content Areas hardest hit.



According to the 2022 NDE Technology Profile data, **27% of School Districts in the State do not have a World Language Teacher on Staff and must rely on Distance Learning** to provide World Language offerings. Compounding the problem, the pool of World Language



Teachers continues to shrink. Data from NDE's Education Directory shows **the number of World Language Teachers in our State shrank 24% from the 2021-22 Academic Year to 2022-23**. Rural School Districts are most heavily impacted.

ESU 5 houses an Educational Hub of seven World Language Educators who currently serve over 400 students across 16 Public School Districts in our State through Distance Learning. We connect with our partners schools live everyday. Providing partners access to high quality world language education, program data indicates **our students enjoy our classes, are motivated to learn, value learning the second language, and succeed at acquiring it**.

Interested in learning more about Our Program and the Impact we are having across the State? Check out this recent [News Channel Nebraska Segment](#).

Interested in Joining Our Team? ESU 5 is currently accepting applications for Spanish Teachers. [Learn more here](#).

Teacher Stories – Hanihani Traore Moundiba

I am a French teacher at Lincoln Northeast and Lefler middle school. I am a multilingual and multicultural person. I speak three local languages from my West African home country which are Bwamu, Dioula and Mooré. I am a perfect bilingual (French-English) person. I know some German from taking it as a foreign language in high school and college. I am usually very calm, observant, not showing a smiling face. Yet I am kind, full of joy and lovely inside. My research focus is on translanguaging. I love observing my students use their linguistic repertoires during class.



I love French as a language, because it is complex and beautiful if you grasp its essence. It is known as a poetic language, but there is more to it than just that. The French language has a soul and if you fall in love with it, you will feel delighted learning it or teaching it as a world language. It's a "je t'aime, moi non plus" feeling kind of thing. It will be a wrong perception to just think you are trying to acquire or teach a target language. I would say learning French is embracing a journey where you learn a second culture, a future job eventually, and encounter a soul mate for life! For, once you connect with the language, you win a life skill!!!

Growing up I learned French as a language of instruction. Hence, all my academic experience from elementary to college was in French. I got inspired by French culture, literature, and philosophy. And I can tell you how inspired I become when I am in class, because I want to share this beautiful language with my students. I want them to embrace it, love it and own it despite the challenges they might face. I tell them that if I learned it and possess it now, they can do the same. Sometimes, I think I am too passionate about it. What really makes me the teacher I am beside all my sources of inspiration, I would confess it is the student population I have in my classes.



Seeing myself as a resource for them is my greatest motivation; Knowing that I can answer their questions, meet their needs where they are makes my days even when challenges occur in class. As far as collaboration is concerned, I must confess that I would not be successful without my colleagues from the World Language department, my supervisors from both the building and the District. I am so grateful for this win-win collaboration.

A good world language teaching is basically meeting the learners where they are, a bit like the ZPD of Vygotsky, then provide the required support they need, and see them rising to the next level. When I see a student who possesses a chunk of knowledge of the target language, that's the best satisfaction for me as a teacher. I then feel that my learners are getting it and owning it.

There is a lot to do to improve my teaching practices. Like I mentioned earlier, I am sometimes a bit passionate about teaching French and I tend to believe that all my learners love it the way I do. I need a little adjustment at this level to make my learners feel comfortable joining me in the exploration of the language. I also need to inject some fun activities, because if you ask my students, they will probably tell you that I am too focused on providing them with the standard ways of learning, with less fun. I love the concept of learning by playing, yet I have a hard time making a nice combination of both. Another thing that I might work on is also showing more of happiness and excitement to my learners, because I take teaching too academically when I am in class and tend to forget that I have teenagers who love to have fun even when they are in class.

I strongly hope that if my learners do not become passionate about French as I am, at least, I hope they complete the two or three years program as skilled French language speakers, who will always remember this linguistic asset and use it to their advantage wherever they are.

Technology of the Month: [ChatGPT](#): Friend or Foe?

ChatGPT has been a vigorously discussed topic ever since it was released by OpenAI. What is ChatGPT? Here is how ChatGPT introduced itself responding to the prompt "Provide a general description of ChatGPT in an informative tone in 150 words."

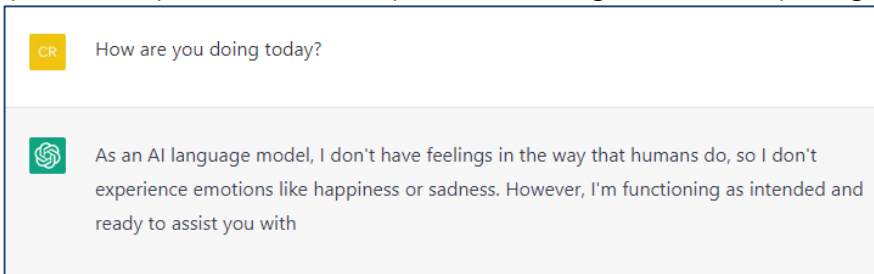
ChatGPT is an advanced language model developed by OpenAI, based on the GPT-3.5 architecture. It is one of the largest and most powerful language models in the world, with 175 billion parameters. ChatGPT is designed to generate human-like responses to text prompts, and it can understand and generate text in multiple languages. The model has been trained on a massive amount of data from the internet, including books, articles, and websites, which allows it to understand a wide range of topics and respond with a high degree of accuracy.

ChatGPT has many potential applications, including language translation, chatbot development, and content generation. Its advanced capabilities have the potential to revolutionize the way we communicate and interact with technology. As an AI language model, ChatGPT is constantly learning and improving, which means its



accuracy and effectiveness will continue to increase over time. Overall, ChatGPT is a cutting-edge technology that has the potential to transform many industries and aspects of our daily lives.

Many concerns arise due to the potential challenges that ChatGPT might bring to World Language Education. ChatGPT is capable of generating text on required proficiency level. For example, ChatGPT generated a paragraph based on the



prompt "Describe Yu Xiao's typical school day at high school in novice high Chinese in first person" within a minute. ChatGPT is also capable of generating more

pieces of text responding to the same prompt. Many teachers would ask the following question: how to address the problem if students use ChatGPT to generate their homework? An open discussion about ChatGPT with is recommended so that teachers and students are on the same page about do's and don't about ChatGPT. Texts generated by ChatGPT is very likely error-free, which is quite different from student work. Next, ChatGPT identifies itself as an AI tool, and it does not have feelings or emotions (see the screenshot). Therefore, it would be helpful to add requirements to include personal feelings and emotions in writing assignments, which will make it difficult for ChatGPT to "do the homework" for your students. Then, it is also recommended that teachers start the students with pencil and pen for any writing assignments for the first draft before going digital. Another recommendation is to have students to create mindmap before they write and use the mindmap to guide their writing. Also, asking students to present or read their writing and share the process of writing would help.

The rapid advancement of AI tools is inevitable, and world language teachers need to embrace the change so that challenges can be transformed to opportunities to enhance teaching and learning in world language classrooms. Here are a few ideas to take advantage of ChatGPT for your reference:

1. Use ChatGPT to generate additional reading materials based on student needs. Many teachers have to create materials on their own even when they have textbooks in order to provide adequate practice for students.
2. Use ChatGPT to provide cultural information to save time searching on the internet. For example, ChatGPT generated detailed description of "Zhua Zhou (celebration of first birthday in Chinese culture) responding to the prompt "Describe first birthday celebration in Chinese culture"
3. Use ChatGPT to generate sample writings for student in class and lead a discussion about the writing so that students have an idea of what is expected. In this way, you are sending out the message that you are familiar with ChatGPT, which will more or less discourage students from using it for their homework.
4. Provide different samples generated by ChatGPT and ask students to compare and contrast, discussing different expressions used and how those expressions will influence the understanding of the audience.
5. ChatGPT can also be used to provide ideas and activities to engage students to learn certain topics. For example, if you type in "provide activities to



engage students to learn about directions", and ChatGPT will generate a whole list of ideas for your reference.

6. Encourage students to interact with ChatGPT using the same topic and share what they learned from ChatGPT.

Help Needed to Support NDE World Language

In order to better support world language teachers to integrate technology, NDE WL has invited Dr. Guy Trainin at UNL to do a research surveying current use of technology for World Language teachers. The results will be used to inform future plan of technology integration support. NDE World Language would really appreciate if you could take 5-10 minutes to fill in this survey:

https://unleducation.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_7aE9Wo4Dv7ZTZly. Please ignore this message if you have already responded. Thanks a lot!

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!

If you are not on the email list and wish to subscribe to the newsletter, please put your contact information in this [Google Form](#).

