



Nebraska Department of Education

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

World Language Review

2023 Issue No. 9

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 and Yinuo D. Wang for spending the time editing and reviewing the newsletter.

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Congratulations & Celebrations!

November was a good month! At the 2023 NILA Conference, Tammy Cunningham, the Japanese teacher at Lincoln Southwest won the World Language Teacher of the Year Award! Congratulations to Tammy! Thanks for being a role model for World Language teachers and learners!



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At the 2023 ACTFL Annual Conference, Alicia Dallman Shoemaker, a Spanish teacher at Elkhorn Middle School won the 2024 ACTFL Teacher of the Year Award! Congratulations on your well-deserved Award, Alicia, for being the first Nebraskan winner since 2006!

Dr. Aleidine Moeller, just left UNL for her free-style life, won the ACTFL Wilga River Award for Leadership in World Language Education (Postsecondary). Thanks to Dr. Moeller for dedicated 52 years of career to lead and promote World Language Education in and out of Nebraska!



Nebraska Presented at LILL and NCSSFL

Chrystal Liu, the World Language Specialist at NDE, was nominated to represent NCSSFL (National Council on State Supervisors for Foreign Languages) in LILL (Leadership Initiative for Language Learning) Cohort 5. She was elected as the treasurer for the 2024 year for NCSSFL – Nebraska is now presented in both LILL and NCSSFL executive board. Please contact chrystal.liu@nebraska.gov if you are interested in getting nominated to LILL.

Seal of Biliteracy Updates

Seals Awarded and Seal Endorsement

Congratulations to the November Seal Awardees! In November, 108 Nebraska Seals of Biliteracy were awarded to High School Students. Thanks to World Language teachers across the state for supporting students' application process.



Thanks to the Seal Review Board for spending extra hours reviewing all the seal applications! Due to the excessive number of applications in November, the application form was closed at the end of the day on November 1st. The form will be reopened later in December.

Seal Application Tips

Due to the low approval rate of November round (108a approvals out of 478 applications), the NDE World Language Education would like to provide the following tips for reference.

- If students are using transcripts as proficiency evidence
 - o it is recommended that students apply after they get their junior year grades so that they have six semesters of ELA course (or the equivalency).
 - o Regular World Language courses are NOT accepted. The accepted courses include six semesters of (or a combination of) Language

Events with Clickable Links

[Nebraska Seal of Biliteracy Application Form Reopened](#)

December 4th

[NDE World Language Starts Conversations about Collaborations with MDE](#)

December 4th

[Distinguished World Language Scholar Award Nomination due](#)

December 15th

[ESU 11 World Language PD](#)

January 10th

[Distinguished World Language Judge Form Dues](#)

January 10th

[Distinguished World Language Award Student Nominations Due](#)

January 15th

[2024 Spring Guest Speaker 01: CI for Advanced Level](#)

February 19th – 25th

[ESU 4 Conference](#)

February 2nd

[18th UNO Annual Colloquium on Language Teaching](#)

February 10th

[ESU 10 World Language PD](#)

February 14th

[ESU 13 Mid-Winter Conference](#)

February 19th

[2024 Nebraska World Language Week](#)

February 19th – 25th

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



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Course for Language Speakers (e.g., Spanish for Spanish Speakers, Arabic for Arabic Speakers), Honors Courses, AP Courses, and IB Courses. The grade required is C and above.

- Unofficial transcripts showing grades for multiple semesters are accepted, but progress reports are NOT accepted.
- Transcripts need to be uploaded as proficiency evidence for both English and the other language even if the same document is used as evidence for both languages.
- If students are using test results,
 - The documents need to display student's name, test type, and test results.
 - If multiple documents are needed to demonstrate proficiency, please combine the documents into one before uploading.

UNL Site Spring Dates for STAMP 4S Assessment

Thanks to Dr. Nora Peterson for the effort to start the new UNL site for STAMP 4S Assessment. Working with Avant Assessment and UNL administrations, the Department of Modern Language and Literature now opens one day in October, March, and July to host STAMP 4S assessments for the following languages:

- Arabic
- Chinese
- French
- German
- Japanese
- Korean
- Russian
- Somali Maxaa
- Spanish
- Vietnamese



The 2024 Spring assessment dates are January 27, March 2, and June 1. The location is at [301 Burnett Hall](#). Avant Assessment also provided [this prep guide](#) for potential test takers. The sample test can be accessed [here](#).

Seal of Biliteracy Materials Updated

Thanks to Susana Lara, the Curriculum Specialist for World Language and Dual Language for the suggestions, NDE World Language updated [the student flyer for the Seal of Biliteracy](#). Compared to the previous version, a QR code has been added for better student access. The Seal of Biliteracy Banner for Schools/ Districts can be accessed [here](#), and the Classroom flyer can be accessed [here](#).

The Office of English Language Acquisition (OELA) at the U.S. Department of Education has released a new Infographic on the Seal of Biliteracy. It is public and informative, and it can be accessed [here](#).

2024 World Language Week

The 2024 World Language Week is February 19th to 25th. The nomination for Distinguished World Language Award is open. World Language teachers are encouraged to nominate your students using [this form](#) by **December 15th**. World language teachers, if you are interested in serving as a judge to review the Distinguished World Language Award student submissions, please use this [form](#) to



indicate your interest by **December 10th**. Nominated students are to respond to this [Google Form](#) by **January 15th**.

. We are inviting teachers to lead online games/ interaction and authentic cultural experiences. During the World Language Weeks, we are going to celebrate language and culture each day.

- February 19th – Spanish
- February 20th – French
- February 21st – German
- February 22nd – Chinese
- February 23rd – World Cultures Day

NDE World Language Education, ESU5, and University of Nebraska-Kearney are working together to create the 2024 World Language Website. University of Nebraska–Omaha is going to offer an online information session for students who are interested in attending UNO (Time and Zoom link to be announced).



Opportunities & Resources

2024 NDE, NILA, & CLTA SIG K12 Spring Guest Speaker Series

NDE World Language is continuing to work with NILA and CLTA SIG K12 to plan the 2024 Spring Guest Speaker Series. The potential speakers and topics are listed below for your reference:

Sarah Hoppers is going to present “Comprehensible Input beyond year 2: Intermediate/ Advanced/IB/AP/College-Credit” at 10:00 am on January 27th – she is going to provide a short version of a workshop she has taught at ACTFL in the past.

Cara Heminger is going to present “Promoting World Languages through Immersion and Competitive Experiences” at 3:45 pm on February 20th – she is going to share her experience of how to expand her program via leading engaging immersion camps.

Dr. Theresa Catalano is going to present “Transvaluating in World Language Classrooms” at 3:45 pm on February 21st – she is going to discuss strategies to utilize translanguaging to engage students in World Language classrooms.

Zoe Jiang is going to present “K.I.S.S: Manage AI Anxiety and Maximize AI Benefits in the Classroom” at 10 am on March 2nd – she is going to share her experience and expertise embracing AI in teaching practice.

Chunmei Guan is going to present “Effective Strategies for Expanding World Language Programs” at 10:00 am on April 13th – she is going to share her experience from starting her program to extending impact across the country.

We have also invited **Paul Sandrock** and **Dr. Aleidine Moeller**, two past presidents of ACTFL, to present in the 2024 Spring Guest Speaker Series. Their topics and presenting dates are still in negotiation. More details will be shared when available.

Professional Development Opportunities by ESUs & NDE World Language Education



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NDE World Language Education is working with ESU4, ESU5, ESU10, ESU11, and ESU13 to provide professional development for World Language teachers. The PD themes are based on teacher feedback provided by ESUs. Please participate in the ones that are close to you and take advantage of the professional networking. The dates are listed below for your reference:

- ESU 11 – January 10th at 412 W 14th Ave, Holdrege, NE 68949
- ESU 4 – February 2nd at Peru State College
- ESU 10 – February 14th at 76 Plaza Blvd, Kearney, NE 68848
- ESU 13 – February 19th Location TBA
- ESU5 – June 13th Location TBA

More details will be shared via Facebook and X (previously Twitter).

Sustain/ Expand Your World Language Programs with J1 Teachers

The Education Office of the Embassy of Spain in the US has set, among its duties, “to support the English-Spanish bilingual programs in the K-12 education system in the United States,” “to offer pedagogical, technical support to teachers of Spanish through the Spanish Resource Centers located at Universities in the U.S,” 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 U.S. 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 US 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 a firsthand experience on the culture of Spain. Candidates will be required to have a teaching license and endorsement to teach in Spain, to have 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 US 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. They 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. So 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, assist with the possible cultural shock. Host schools will also pay 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 shortlisting, 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 US. It will also provide in-service training while the teachers are here, with schools having the opportunity to suggest possible fields for professional development. Furthermore, the Education Office will also monitor teachers to make sure that they can support teachers and schools during the whole process.



What is the teacher status in the US?

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 US for a limited number of years (maximum of five years). In the case of Nebraska, it is the [Cordell Hull Foundation](#) who sponsors these Visas. Upon their return to Spain, these teachers will apply what they have learned in the US in the Spanish Educational System.

What are the fees?

The Education Office of the Embassy of Spain in the US is a governmental body and will not charge any fees. 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 – Rebecca Spangler

My journey as a language student started in high school Spanish. While studying at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, I had a Spanish minor as I explored a few different majors. When I finally landed on Spanish education, I had the opportunity to work with Dr. Moeller and many of her fabulous graduate students. I met so many future colleagues and lifelong friends through this program. In the summers, I worked for Dr. Moeller as an administrative assistant and also a classroom management instructor for the StarTalk and Confucius Institute programs.

As an undergraduate, I studied abroad in Valparaíso, Chile. My student teaching experience was with the fabulous Katie Hayes at Pius. I will forever be thankful for her guidance and mentorship as I began my career as an educator. I spent the first





seven years of my career back home in Des Moines, Iowa working at larger high schools with diverse world language departments. I also taught adult English Language Learners in the evenings at the local community college. In 2014, I started my Master's Degree through Southern Oregon University's program for Spanish language teachers. For three summers, I lived and studied in Guanajuato, México. This program helped me grow as an educator, improve my own language proficiency and form a network of Spanish

teachers across the United States. I am very thankful that we still do a lot of online collaboration together!

In 2019, my husband and I got married and I moved to Nebraska. I was hired at Conestoga Jr/Sr High School, which is also our home district. As a teacher, I work hard to make language class comprehensible and fun for each and every student



in the classroom. Conestoga is currently able to offer two dual enrollment Spanish courses through Southeast Community College. Another passion of mine is student travel. Last summer, I took a group of 28 from Conestoga to Panama and Costa Rica. This was my sixth trip with students and was an awesome experience for everyone involved. If any teachers have any interest in starting a travel program, please reach out. I would be happy to answer any questions and share experiences.



While there are many things I love about being at a small school, it has been challenging to be a department of one. I miss collaborating with other world language teachers in person, and currently collaborate a few times a year with Jessica Holz at Louisville. If you are also a department of one in southeast Nebraska, please reach out if you would like to join our collaboration days!

Technology Discussion of the Month: A few Tools to Spice up Student Engagement

Allowing different ways to demonstrate learning would always motivate and engage students. We are going to discuss three tools that can be used to add to your tool box to engage students.

[Ifaketextmessages](#) is a web tools to generate text message images for student-created conversations. It allows three students to participate in the conversation. Students can work together to create conversations using speech bubbles in different colors. The tool also allows students to edit displays for battery, connection, and settings.

This tool can also be used to create semi-authentic conversations as reading resources for students. The screenshot on the left shows a conversation in Spanish created using this tool.



generated.

Social media could be or potentially be a great platform for authentic communication for language learning, however, social media also brings many complications and problems for schooling. [Fakebook](#) allows teachers to create a closed "social media" platform to engage students in authentic communication that social media can provide without the potential problems from real social media.

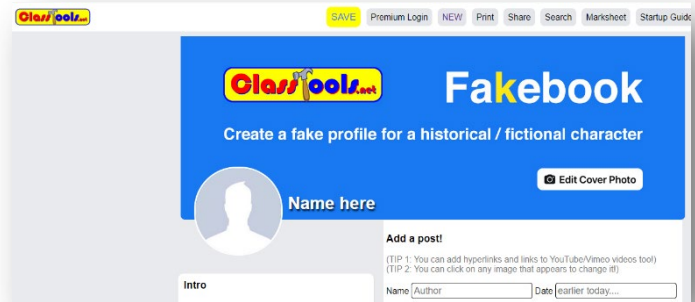
Students can create their own account and friend each other and the teacher. It is important that the links to their account be recorded and saved appropriately so that students, their peers, and teachers can log on and interact with each other.



This [AI Infographic Maker](#) helps to create infographic. Once a topic put is put in the search bar, the platform will generate a draft infographic with different templates to choose from. In addition, users are able to edit and personalize to make the draft their own. The graphic below shows how a draft infographic is



Teachers can set up routine networking requirements, requiring students to post based on prompts and responded to posts from their peers. It can also used to keep journals to record what students can do and are willing to share in their learning journey. It is also encouraged to use Fakebook to share what students find out about the culture they are learning to generate interest and conversation on cultural exploration.



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 or 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 to 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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