Good Morning world language professionals!

It is a pleasure once again to reach out to you all ahead of the end of the first semester. This may be our only update for December and I certainly want to wish you all a wonderful holiday season with family and rest. It is also a time to reflect on our efforts these past 11 months and what we have accomplished together since the beginning of January. What have we achieved together? Here is our highlight reel!

- **Georgia’s 4th annual Dual Language Immersion Institute** (GADII 2017) in July enjoyed record enrollment and was a meaningful and fun event with great presenters and lots of useful materials related to immersion education! We look forward to this year’s GADII July 17-19, 2018. Save the date!
- **Professional Development Page and Webinars** (In response to the growing need to provide equitable quality professional development in the area of World Languages to all Ga. Districts, we have launched a Professional Development Page and have been working to provide information via webinars housed here to all stakeholders in Ga.)
- **Grant with Georgia Foundation for Public Education** (We have partnered with the GFPE to raise funds to support immersion programs and world language education professional development.)
- **Launching the World Language Twitter, Instagram and Facebook Pages** (We have grown to over 1,500 followers and shared over 3,500 posts on all platforms in support of world language programs and information)
- **Seal of Biliteracy** (We have streamlined the reporting process, developed guidance at a glance documents and successfully awarded 1,133 Seals of Biliteracy in 8 different languages in the inaugural year of the program.)
- **International Skills Diploma Seal** (We have streamlined the reporting process, developed guidance at a glance documents, and in April had a wonderful ceremony celebrating the awarding of over 700 ISDS Seals and the program grew with the addition of 17 new High School programs bringing the total to over 80 High Schools in 28 Ga school districts participating in this innovative program for our state and nation!) **Reminder – The Deadline for applications is Dec 15th! Next Friday!**
- **Dual Immersion** (In addition to our GADII this summer, we have launched a mid-year workshop called Dual Language in a Day to take place on Jan 27th from 8-12pm at The Globe Academy. We have seen the announcement of 6 new DLI programs scheduled to launch next year and the first Japanese-English DLI school with a Korean-English School scheduled to open in 2019.)
- **Less Commonly Taught Languages Level 3** (This year, we successfully added an additional course to the state list of world language courses to enable students entering our school systems from other states or countries access to a level 3 credit for languages they have studied)
- **World Language Educator of the Month Program** (We have developed and put in place a first of its kind program to recognize the excellent work of our world language teachers statewide and have awarded 5 teachers in 5 different counties with this award! Please nominate a WL educator via this link!)
- **World Language Leadership Institute** (In response to the growing need to develop structures to coordinate the rapid growth of World Language Programs, Immersion Programs, Seal Programs, workforce applications, coordinate with higher education
and the upcoming standards review in world Languages, we have established this institute to build cohesion and collaboration in WL statewide.)

- **World Language University/College Advisory Board** (We have established an advisory board with direct contact to 27 language programs at colleges and universities throughout Georgia to build collaboration, transparency and synergy K-16)

- **World Language Educator Job Fair in March** (We have established the nation’s first statewide world language educator job fair to take place March 3rd at Whitewater High School in Fayette County from 9am-12pm.)

- **Certification Clarification** (We have partnered with the Professional Standards Commission to develop clarification for the certification routes in Ga – Certification Guidance at a Glance documents- and for our upcoming job fair in March)

- **Fall Newsletter** (This Newsletter is a synopsis of activities underway in World Language Education in Georgia and is available to all stakeholders and we will publish a spring addition in March/April)

- **International Day at the Capitol** (In collaboration with the Georgia Department of Economic Development and the Mayor’s office of Atlanta along with support from USG, TCSG, CULTR and others, we are pleased to celebrate and recognize the impact of Georgia’s International partners and communities both at home and abroad.)

- **3rd annual Atlanta German Business and Education Summit** (This summit celebrated its 3rd year as an event to bring together German business and educational leaders in Georgia. We were honored this year by the presence of our School Superintendent, Mr. Richard Woods.)

- **German Agreement Signed** (On October 4th, at a signing ceremony here at GaDOE, State School Superintendent, Mr. Richard Woods signed a Declaration of Intent with the German Central Agency for Schools Abroad and the Goethe Institute reaffirming Georgia’s ties with these agencies and our close cooperative work encouraging the study of German in Georgia. We also celebrate the renewing of the statewide DSD project and are excited that participation in that program has more than doubled.)

- **Exchange with Nancy Metz** (We enjoyed another successful exchange with our partners from Nancy-Metz. Students from France enjoyed home stays and participated in daily lessons with students at their hosting schools. We look forward to the renewing of this MOU in March of next year!)

- **Georgia Skills Initiative** (The Skills initiative group started the year with a great meeting at Kuehne-Nagel followed by visits to IMS Gears and several career centers around Georgia. The year also included a redrafting of our strategic goals and the coordinating of activities between participating partners and numerous visits with local Chambers of commerce to support apprenticeship programs and the development of workforce initiatives.

- **International Parent Night** (We enjoyed participating in what we hope will be a model for more international nights at high schools across Georgia this past week at South Forsyth High School in Forsyth County. A collaboration with the local school system, school, cultural partners and the Georgia Department of Education.)
And this….is just the beginning. I also find myself thinking about all the spoken language competitions, presentations, district and school programs, GHP, World Languages Day at GSU, Activities with our cultural partners, numerous visits with Consul Generals from a variety of different countries, visiting teachers and students in various programs in over 40 counties and more. The amount of opportunities that we collectively provide our students in the area of world language is much more than this update can handle!

That is our highlight reel but on this final update of the year, we also want to keep it real as we were reminded recently by one of our world language educators of the month. We have accomplished much together, but we are not perfect. We all have our failings (a bloop reel) and the times when we lean on others for support. After over 22 years in the classroom, I have had my less than stellar moments, but I can honestly say that I did my very best for the students in my care and I know that they also tried hard despite the obstacles that they faced as well. Education is the cooperative journey of a group of people. I've never stopped learning how to be a better teacher and indeed, I'm still learning from many of you. I hope you recognize that perfection is not the goal but rather the striving to always become better is. I'll close by wishing you all a wonderful holiday period and a restful break! You deserve it! It has been my honor to serve you this past year and I look forward to next year and all that we will accomplish together!

Now the update!

“Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success.” – Henry Ford

Facebook: Georgia Department of Education World Languages
Instagram: gadoewordlanguages
Twitter: gadoewordlanguages

Programs Spotlight!

International Parent Night at South Forsyth High School - On November 29th, the first International Parent Night was held at South Forsyth High School from 6:30 – 8pm. Hundreds of Parents and students attended the event to listen to speakers from the Forsyth County schools, The Georgia Department of Education, the Alliance Française d’Atlanta, the Goethe-Zentrum Atlanta, Kennesaw State University and the Cumming-Forsyth County Chamber of Commerce speak about the importance of language education and study abroad. Students from the world language programs at SFHS also set up displays at the event and perhaps most powerful of all, student testimonials as to how their study of world languages at SFHS
impacted their life with many of them participating in study abroad opportunities at the university level! We hope that this model is replicated in schools throughout Georgia and we are happy to partner with your school in the planning of future events with the help of Ga’s in-state cultural and university partners! Contact me for specific details or to help set up an event in your school! (pwallace@doe.k12.ga.us)

East Broad Street School in Savannah collected items to send to Puerto Rico as part of the ongoing relief efforts underway there!

**French Cultural Partners support Grady High School French Program** – On November 30th from 11:25 – 1:07 pm, Grady High School welcomed delegates from the French Consulate Atlanta and the Alliance Française d’Atlanta in the Murray Theater to speak with students about the great advantages available to them by becoming proficient in the French language! The program organized by world language teachers Mme Theresa Monye and Mme Marie Felixe D-Mcletchie was an effort to share with students the many benefits for continued French study.

**Webinar Spotlight!**
Recently, we enjoyed sitting down virtually with our dear friends from the French Consulate of Atlanta and the Alliance Française d’atlanta to do a webinar highlighting the great variety of programs and support they offer for French teachers and students in Georgia. To view this webinar please follow this link. It may take a moment to load because it was so full of information from both of these great cultural partners. You can also access the webinar on our professional development page as well as view the pdfs of their presentations via the links below.

French Consulate of Atlanta
Alliance Française d’atlanta

**Teacher Spotlight!**

Congratulations to Mrs. Sarah Downey, who was honored in a ceremony at her School, Coastal Middle School in Savannah Georgia, on Monday, November 27th as the Georgia World Language Educator of the Month for November. Mrs. Sarah Downey is an 8th grade Spanish teacher (Language Acquisition) at Coastal Middle School in Savannah, GA an IB MYP World School. She grew up in Spain, spending her childhood in
Madrid, Malaga, Murcia, and Ibiza. On the weekends she enjoyed visiting Morocco. She moved to the United States in 1993. Mrs. Downey studied in Sewanee, the University of the South and received her BA in Spanish from Armstrong Atlantic State University. She has been teaching Spanish at CMS for the last nine years. Mrs. Downey has also held the positions of assistant coach for tennis and head coach for cross country at Coastal. Mrs. Downey is enjoying raising her three-year old son in Savannah. A special thank you as well to Mrs. Schuster-Jones, Principal of Coastal Middle School and to Dr. Mark Linsky, World Language Coordinator for Savannah-Chatham Schools for their help in organizing the surprise!

- Congratulations as well to Mrs. Linda Chinn, Spanish teacher at Woodland High School in Henry County Ga, who was honored in a ceremony at her school, this past Tuesday, December 5th! Mrs. Chinn has been teaching Spanish for 24 years and graduated as valedictorian from Clarke Central High School in Athens, Georgia. She then graduated with honors with a B.A. in Spanish from Davidson College in Davidson, North Carolina. In 2000, she earned her M.A. in Spanish from Middlebury College. In 2008, she completed her Ed.S. in Curriculum and Instruction and in 2014, she completed her gifted endorsement for the state of Georgia. Special thanks to Mrs. Shannon Ellis, Principal of WHS and Mrs. Morrison, world language coordinator for Henry County Schools for their help in organizing the surprise!

Job Announcements!
- Spanish Teacher 9-12 (Hampton High School)
- Spanish Teacher 6-8 (Hampton Middle School)

- Please let us know of any world language teachers receiving awards statewide, we would very much like to join with you in celebrating their accomplishments!
- Likewise, if you know of a program in Georgia that deserves to be highlighted, please contact me at pwallace@doe.k12.ga.us)
Quick Announcements!

- **Deadline for ISDS School applications is Dec 15th!** Applications are now available for the International Skills Diploma Seal program. Schools that are interested can find out more information [here](#). A link to the school application is also available on that page or contact me directly at [pwallace@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:pwallace@doe.k12.ga.us) *(We have recently completed a new guidance at a glance document for the International Skills Diploma Seal! You can access it [here](#)!)*

- **Nominate a deserving world language educator** in Georgia to be recognized as the World Language Educator of the Month. Do so [here](#).

- **AATSP-GA Composition Contest Announcement** – to participate this year…
  - You must renew your AATSP-GA dues for the 2018 calendar year
  - The contest is open to all secondary students (middle and high school) currently taking Spanish.
  - You can now proctor your own essays and we are hoping to have a digital and paper option this year.
  - You can pick a date in **February** to hold the contest for your school.
  - Registration fee is $7 and this process will begin in **January**, so look out for an email after winter break with details!
  - Each level of Spanish will have different prompts, so if you have ideas for me, please email Mrs. Ratliff at: [elsieratliff@gmail.com](mailto:elsieratliff@gmail.com).

- Teachers, please check out the scholarship opportunities from SCOLT! They are listed [here](#).
• New study from Rand Corp & American Councils reaffirms benefits of Dual Language Immersion Programs for improving English literacy! Read the study

Dual-Language Programs Boost Student Achievement in English, Study Finds

By Corey Mitchell on November 22, 2017, 7:45 AM

English-language learners assigned to dual-language-immersion classrooms in the Portland, Ore., school district were more likely to be classified as English proficient by 6th grade when compared to peers enrolled in traditional classes, a new study by the RAND Corp. found.

The research team also determined that the district’s dual-language students significantly outperformed their ELL who were not in dual-language classes peers on English-reading skills—by nearly a school year worth of learning by the end of middle school.

Those are two of the key findings of a four-year, randomized trial of the district’s dual-language program by RAND, along with the American Councils for International Education, and Portland schools.

• Are you interested in submitting a proposal for next year’s ACTFL in New Orleans? Here is the link to do so! Here are some tips on writing the proposal.

• French students are invited to participate in the Louis Francois Centre for UNESCO’s international visual arts competition and the French language poetry competition. All participants’ work will be conserved in our artotheque, ‘Memories for the future’, as a recording of the creativity and talent of young people. International visual arts competition
  2018 theme: « Peace, to live together in harmony » Submission deadline: 24 February 2018 (100 winners)
  International French language poetry competition
  2018 theme: « In search of equality » Submission deadline: 31 January 2018 (50 winners)

• Forsyth County Schools is a site for FLAVA’s interactive virtual workshop series: https://flavaweb.org/workshops/ These are free workshops for any World Language teachers from the state of Georgia held in Forsyth County. We will provide a certificate of attendance to all registered attendees. You can register via the link below!
  https://flavaweb.org/workshops/workshop-registration/

• Save the dates for your students to participate in the FLAG Spoken Language Contests! You can find out more about these events here. Deadline is January 15, 2017.

• Award of Excellence – Every year the Goethe Institute via their program, Step into German, provides opportunities for students to win an all-expenses paid, three-
• A week chaperoned trip to Germany including flight, a German language course, meals and accommodations. Find out more here. Deadline is Dec 15th.

• The public diplomacy campaign “Deutschlandjahr” (Year of Germany) is coming! Starting in October 2018, Germany and its deep ties with the U.S. will be on display all around America. Help us celebrate by submitting ideas for projects that showcase our countries’ partnership in the areas of culture, education, science, and business. Proposals are due by January 20, 2018.

• Congress Bundestag Exchange Scholarship available for German students. Application and more information available here. Deadline to apply is Dec 15th.

• EF Tours is sponsoring a scholarship for teachers to participate in an immersion trip to Madrid! Fill out the attached application for this Educator-focused tour that EF is sponsoring to showcase their Language Immersion tours and the impact that they can have on the Foreign Language programs. For more information contact Mrs. Terri Trautwein at teri.trautwein@EF.com – Deadline is Dec 15th!

• The Qatar Foundation International (QFI) has the Classroom Resource Enrichment Grant (CREG) which provides a small grant of up to $1,000 intended to help supplement K-12 Arabic teachers at public or charter schools in the United States and Canada. The due date for the second round of applications is December 12, 2017. Future rounds have due dates of February 13, 2018, and April 10, 2018. For more information click here.

• On Feb 9th, I am delighted to offer in collaboration with Middle Georgia RESA and with Middle Georgia State University the first of hopefully many workshops related to statewide initiatives and understanding and using ACTFL’s proficiency standards and recently revised can-do performance indicators in the classroom. Registration is available online http://www.ciclt.net/sn/resa/recl_application.aspx?ClientCode=mgresa&CL_ID=104340

• The AATSP is offering teachers a scholarship to spend some of summer 2018 in Chile, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Mexico, Peru, Spain, or Ecuador! Application deadline is Dec 31, 2017. Complete information at https://buff.ly/2yyvijZy

• The date of Georgia’s (and the nation’s) first statewide World Language Job Fair has been set for Saturday, March 3rd from 9am-12pm at Whitewater High School in Fayette County. Districts wishing to host a table at the job fair can apply to do so via this link.
• **Save the Dates! February 9-11, 2018. AATSP Spanish Immersion Camp! More information at this [link](#).**

• **The ATTSP Spanish Immersion Camp** will be held from Feb 9-11. You can find out more information by following this [link](#).

• Applications are now being accepted for the Congress-Bundestag Exchange Program (CBYX) Please visit [this site](#) for more details!

• **Upcoming World Language Event dates to be aware of.....**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>December 8th</td>
<td>Deadline for registering for the State German Convention</td>
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<td>December 12th</td>
<td>Deadline for student applications for <a href="#">CBYX Scholarship</a></td>
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<td>Deadline for 2nd round of <a href="#">Arabic scholarships</a> from QFI</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 15th</td>
<td>Deadline for Schools to apply to offer International Skills Diploma Seal</td>
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<td>Deadline to register students for the January administration of the <a href="#">AATG German Exams</a> levels 2-4</td>
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<td><a href="#">Award of Excellence 2017</a> (German) Application deadline.</td>
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<td>Deadline to apply for Scholarship from EF Tours for Immersion trip</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 31st</td>
<td>Deadline to apply for AATSP <a href="#">Summer Scholarship for Teachers</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>January 15th</td>
<td>Deadline for teacher applications for <a href="#">SCOLT Scholarships</a></td>
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<td>January 21st</td>
<td>AATG Sprachbad</td>
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<td>January 27th</td>
<td>DLI in a Day at the Globe Academy in Dekalb</td>
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<td>February 1st</td>
<td>Schools notified of application status to offer ISDS</td>
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<td>February 2-3</td>
<td><a href="#">German State Convention</a> in Covington</td>
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<td>February 9th</td>
<td>Focus on ACTFL’s Proficiency Guidelines and the Revised Can-Do</td>
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<td>Performance Indicators (Middle Georgia Workshop)</td>
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<td>February 9-11</td>
<td><strong>AATSP Immersion Camp</strong></td>
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<td>March 3rd</td>
<td>Georgia World Language Job Fair at Whitewater High School 9am – 12pm.</td>
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<td>FLES/MS/HS FLAG Spoken Language Contest (Savannah Area)</td>
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<td>March 8-9</td>
<td>Georgia World Language Leadership Institute</td>
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<td>March 9-10</td>
<td><a href="#">GAOME Dual Language Symposium</a> in Athens</td>
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<td>March 15-17 2018</td>
<td><a href="#">FLAG/SCOLT conference</a> in Atlanta</td>
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<td>March 20th</td>
<td>International Day at the Capitol</td>
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<td>March 24th</td>
<td>MS/HS FLAG Spoken Language Contest (Metro Area)</td>
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<td>April 14th</td>
<td>MS/HS FLAG Spoken Language Contest (Albany Area)</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 15th</td>
<td>Deadline for reporting of International Skills Diploma Seal</td>
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<td>April 24th</td>
<td>Tentative date for ISDS Awards Ceremony at the DOE</td>
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<td>April 28th</td>
<td>FLES FLAG Spoken Language Contest (Metro Area)</td>
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<td>July 17-19</td>
<td>Georgia Dual Language Immersion Institute</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 1st</td>
<td>Deadline for 1st reporting cycle for the Seal of Bilteracy</td>
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This information and more is available via the professional development calendar on our webpages and on our professional development page [here](http://www.sermeiss.org). If you have any events that need to be added, please let me know.

**Additional Opportunities for teachers**

- The Southeast Regional Middle East and Islamic Studies Seminar is pleased to offer travel grants up to $500 to attend “SERMEISS in Medieval Spain: Guided Tour of the Lands of Al-Andalus” June 7–19, 2018. This educational trip will provide an on-the-ground exploration of Christians, Muslims and Jews in Medieval Southern Spain, led by Dr. Andrew Kurt, Assistant Professor of History at Clayton State University (Morrow, GA). Please visit [http://www.sermeiss.org/spain-travel](http://www.sermeiss.org/spain-travel) for more information.

**Useful links for Language Teachers**

- AATF Youtube video playlists [https://www.youtube.com/user/aatfrench/playlists?view_as=subscriber](https://www.youtube.com/user/aatfrench/playlists?view_as=subscriber)
- Be global read initiative pictures from the US DOE [https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/iegps/globalready.html?utm_content=buffer29a9&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter.com&utm_campaign=buffer](https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/iegps/globalready.html?utm_content=buffer29a9&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter.com&utm_campaign=buffer)
- Are they talking with each other or at each other? [http://www.path2proficiency.com/interpersonal-are-they-talking-with-each-other-or-at-each-other/](http://www.path2proficiency.com/interpersonal-are-they-talking-with-each-other-or-at-each-other/)
- Highlight reel or highlight real? [http://www.path2proficiency.com/highlight-reel-or-highlight-real/](http://www.path2proficiency.com/highlight-reel-or-highlight-real/)
- America the Bilingual – The CEO and the polyglot [https://soundcloud.com/americathebilingual/5-america-the-bilingual-podcast-the-ceo-and-the-polyglot](https://soundcloud.com/americathebilingual/5-america-the-bilingual-podcast-the-ceo-and-the-polyglot)
- Big list of classroom discussion strategies [https://www.cultofpedagogy.com/speaking-listening-techniques/](https://www.cultofpedagogy.com/speaking-listening-techniques/)
Related local news

- Campbell High School’s International Fest 2017 See the video https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bvbP8I2gJmY&list=PLJ3LDNHg8nInDDUEw-ByeMmcw-Aju7K9R&sns=tw
- Article on awarding of World Language Educator of the Month to Mrs. Downey at Coastal Middle School in Savannah! http://savannahnow.com/news/your-good-news/2017-11-30/chatham-county-spanish-teacher-earns-state-honor
- Coastal Georgia Group talks business in Germany http://businessinsavannah.com/bis/2017-12-02/first-time-coastal-georgia-group-talks-business-germany

At the same time, Clark said, the push for computer science should not be viewed as either/or with foreign languages. He said Georgia Tech is ‘looking for students who demonstrate that international vision and interest,’ and that he finds many of those applicants who are taking AP computer science in high school are also pursuing foreign language instruction as advanced levels.

More than half of Georgia Tech students participate in study abroad, he noted, and 10 percent of undergraduates are from outside the United States. "We are intent upon enrolling students who in high school chose to seek out that global perspective," he said.

Links to articles related to World Language education.

- The languages that take the most and least time to learn via the Foreign service https://qz.com/1139699/the-languages-that-take-the-most-and-least-time-to-learn-per-the-us-foreign-service/
- As Texas tops 1 million English Learners a local university has a plan https://www.dallasnews.com/opinion/editorials/2017/11/28/texas-bilingual-teacher-shortage-intensifies-need-grow-solutions
• Study abroad scholarship opportunities [https://www.usnews.com/education/scholarship-search-insider/articles/2017-11-09/6-worthwhile-scholarships-to-fund-study-abroad?src=usn_tw](https://www.usnews.com/education/scholarship-search-insider/articles/2017-11-09/6-worthwhile-scholarships-to-fund-study-abroad?src=usn_tw)

• Translated into Navajo, star wars will be! [https://www.npr.org/2013/06/20/193496493/translated-into-navajo-star-wars-will-be](https://www.npr.org/2013/06/20/193496493/translated-into-navajo-star-wars-will-be)

• The demand for Multi-lingual capitol from Mr. Bill Rivers [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fxRx8FDbB8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fxRx8FDbB8)


• Spanish majors have portable skills for the global workforce [https://www.ucdavis.edu/majors/spanish/what-can-i-do-with-spanish-major/#button](https://www.ucdavis.edu/majors/spanish/what-can-i-do-with-spanish-major/#button)


Thank you for all that you do!

Patrick