



Joint National Committee for Languages  
National Council for Languages and International Studies

## MONTHLY UPDATE

April 28, 2017

### MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Colleagues,

Spring in our nation's capital brings changeable weather, and a tense budget situation on Capitol Hill. In short, appropriations for the Federal Government end today, April 28, and the Congress returned from recess on Monday with four days left to fund the government for the rest of the year. In the past month, we've been meeting regularly with key offices on the Hill to make the case for our programs, and we are cautiously optimistic about appropriations for the rest of the fiscal year, in that all indications are that current funding levels will continue. We ask that you respond to our [policy alert](#), if you haven't already, to remind Congress of the value of what we do and the need for the Federal Government to support it.

Our broader mission of raising awareness and finding allies continues to bear fruit. The report of the Commission on Language Learning of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, [America's Languages](#), has been downloaded more than 25,000 times, and many of our associations are holding town halls and listening sessions to begin the process of developing the strategic recommendations into actionable plans. The Academy will soon announce a structure to assist in this effort; in the meantime, if you have comments or ideas, please send them to us.

In the next month, we will be presenting at several meetings; I will be at the Association of Language Companies conference in Miami, where a team of senior thought leaders will engage the audience on future-proofing for the language industry. I'll be talking about the [Trump administration and its potential impact on our businesses](#), and speaking in a town hall on employee classification challenges at the state level. I'll also be at the Seminar East of the Association of Departments of Foreign Languages, along with Marty Abbott, Executive Director of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages and immediate past President of JNCL-NCLIS. Marty will be part of a plenary with fellow Commissioner, Dr. Rosemary Feàl, and I'll be part of a team presenting a workshop on advocacy. Maria Pulcini will present at the Greater Washington Association of Teachers of Foreign Languages, leading a workshop on advocacy. If you're at these meetings, please come by and talk to us!

Finally, we note that the Trump Administration continues to [fill mid-level political jobs in the Department of Education](#). As the Executive Branch fills in its staff, we will be reaching out to build relationships. Key appointments are still waiting in the Departments of Labor and Defense, but these will come in due time. Our advocacy includes careful work with the Executive Branch, to inform them of the good work of the Language Enterprise, and to build support for our programs and ideas.

With Best Regards,

Bill Rivers  
Executive Director

### MESSAGE FROM THE POLICY ANALYST

Dear Colleagues,

Over the course of the last month, we've held several meetings with key Congressional offices to advocate for our

programs, particularly those programs which had been named for elimination or reduction by the Trump administration's FY18 budget blueprint. The picture of FY18 appropriations is still very much unclear, but we have been heartened by the reception of our message on Capitol Hill.

As those who have attended Language Advocacy Day in the past will recall, it is common for legislators to band together with fellow legislators and submit letters to appropriators that request a specific funding level for a given program. This year, Sen. Schatz (D-HI) led a [letter to Senate appropriators](#) with 22 other signatories requesting a \$6.5 million increase to Title VI/Fulbright-Hays. The [letter to House appropriators](#), led by Reps. David Price (D-NC-4) and Don Young (R-AK), requested level funding for Title VI/Fulbright-Hays and garnered 63 additional signatories, an increase of 20 signatures over the FY17 appropriations letter. This noteworthy outcome was the result of concerted efforts involving JNCL-NCLIS and its members, the National Humanities Alliance, the Coalition for International Education, and others. It is a strong indication for Congressional support of Title VI/Fulbright-Hays.

Locally, we shared last month that we've been working with advocates in Michigan and Florida to fight the coding bills in the state legislatures. Between last month's update and today's, the Maine legislature introduced also introduced a coding bill. Working with ACTFL and JNCL-NCLIS, advocates in Maine mounted a strong defense and were able to defeat the bill in committee. From a national perspective, these bills take a different form in each context, so, while our message and goal are uniform in each case, the strategies our members and partners implement in these local fights are very different. Please consider us a resource in local advocacy endeavors such as these, as we are always happy to provide strategic advice, resources, and connections to strengthen the effort.

Sincerely,  
Maria Pulcini

## POLICY UPDATES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### [Trump issues Executive Order calling for local control of K-12](#)

President Donald Trump announced that he signed an executive order directing U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos to conduct a study to "determine where the federal government has unlawfully overstepped on state and local control," a White House official said. The executive order is "intended to return authority to where Congress intended-state and local entities." One such report is unlikely to have a dramatic impact on K-12 education policy. But the directive is a way for the Trump administration to make it clear it supports local control of schools. Read the [full Executive Order](#) and coverage from [EdWeek](#), [Washington Post](#), and [USA Today](#).

### [New appointments made to the Department of Education](#)

A day after the Federal hiring freeze was lifted, the Trump administration [announced several new appointments](#) to key roles in the Department of Education. Among the new appointees is Jose Viana to the position of Assistant Deputy Secretary Office of English Language Acquisition (OELA), which oversees Title III of ESEA. Viana joins the Department of Education from the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, where he worked as a Title I administrator and as the State Program Administrator for Migrant Education. In addition, James Manning, who was a key figure on the Trump transition team and the former Acting Assistant Secretary for Post-secondary Education during the George W. Bush administration, was appointed as Senior Adviser to the Under Secretary and Acting Under Secretary. In his role under the Bush administration, Manning's portfolio included Title VI of the Higher Education Act.

### [Request for Comments: USED Native American Language Program \(Title VI, Part A of ESSA\)](#)

The Office of Indian Education (OIE) of the Department of Education (ED) requests clearance for the Native American Language (NAL@ED) Program Grant Application authorized under Title VI, Part A, of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as amended. The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), amended the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA); included among those amendments was the addition of the new NAL@ED program in section 6133 of the ESSA. It is a competitive discretionary grant program. The grant applications submitted for these programs are evaluated on the basis of how well an applicant addresses the selection criteria, and are used to determine applicant eligibility and amount of award for projects selected for funding.

**Deadline to provide comments is May 9, 2017**. Visit the [federal register](#) for more information.

### [USED Supporting Effective Educator Development Grant Program](#)

The SEED Program, established under section 2242 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) (20 U.S.C. 6672),[1] provides funding to increase

the number of highly effective educators by supporting the implementation of Evidence-Based practices that prepare, develop, or enhance educators. These grants will allow eligible entities to develop, expand, and evaluate practices that can serve as models that can be sustained and disseminated. Deadline to apply is **June 19, 2017**. Notice of intent to apply must be submitted by May 5. Visit the [federal register](#) for more information.

## LEGISLATIVE WATCH - 115th CONGRESS

### [World Language Advancement and Readiness Act](#)

The bill was introduced in the House on February 28, 2017 and would establish a competitive grant program to support world language education in K-12 schools. The program would be administered by the Secretary of Defense in consultation with the Secretary of Education and the Director of National Intelligence, and would provide three-year grants to LEAs to establish, expand, or improve world language programs. The bill has been referred to the House Armed Services Committee and the House Education and Workforce Committee. [Track the bill](#).

### [Esther Martinez Native American Languages Preservation Act](#)

The bill was introduced in the Senate on February 1, 2017 and in the House on February 16, 2017 and would reauthorize through FY2022 both Esther Martinez grant programs administered by the Administration for Native Americans at the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) - the Native American Languages Preservation and Maintenance (P&M) grant program and the Esther Martinez Initiative (EMI) grant program. It also decreases the required minimum number of enrollees in Native American language nests funded by the grant program from 10 to 5 enrollees, and in the Native American language survival schools from 15 to 10 enrollees. Finally, the bill increases the maximum possible duration of all Esther Martinez grants from three years to five. The bill was reported favorably out of the Senate Indian Affairs Committee and awaits a floor vote in the Senate. In the House, the bill was referred to the House Education and Workforce Committee. [Track the bills](#).

### [Senator Paul Simon Study Abroad Program Act](#)

The bill was introduced in the Senate on March 9, 2017 and would establish a competitive grant program in the Department of Education, for institutions of higher education to encourage the sustainable expansion of study abroad opportunities for undergraduate students in the United States. It is named after the late Illinois Senator, Paul Simon, who encouraged Congress to come together to prepare the next generation of Americans with the global knowledge and skills needed for success in an increasingly interconnected world. The bill has been referred to the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee. [Track the bill](#).

## LANGUAGE LEARNING CHALLENGE

### Would you wager on your language learning abilities?

David Bong, CEO of our member organization Avant Assessment, and Mike Biglan, the CEO of Analytic Spot have placed a bet. After 30 minutes of self-study in Spanish per day for three months, who would show the most growth? The loser would donate \$1,000 to JNCL-NCLIS! Follow David and Mike as they chronicle their Spanish-learning journeys via [blog](#) and [tweet](#)!

**You're invited to join the challenge!**

Avant Assessment is offering pre- and post-challenge STAMP or WorldSpeak assessments to those willing to undertake a similar challenge! The assessments are available in a range of languages:

#### **STAMP (Four skill online assessment)**

Arabic  
English  
French  
German  
Hebrew  
Hindi  
Italian

#### **WorldSpeak**

Filipino (Tagalog)  
Somali Maay Maay  
Somali Maxaa  
Vietnamese  
Yup'ik

Japanese  
Mandarin  
(Simplified and Traditional)  
Russian  
Spanish

Contact Maria Pulcini for more details: [mpulcini@languagepolicy.org](mailto:mpulcini@languagepolicy.org)

## READER'S CHOICE

*The top language news in March 2017, according to readers of our weekly NewsBrief.*

### [Breaking school language barriers](#)

04/11/2017

In southern California's Brawley Union High School District, students newly arrived from Mexico study math and science using a university-developed curriculum written in Spanish. In the Omaha Public Schools, bilingual picture books created by district staff supplement the education of students who speak the Karen language of Burma. Despite research showing that native-language instruction improves the achievement of English learners, such localized efforts seem more exception than rule. [Read more.](#)

### [The language industry in the Trump administration](#) (GALA Guest Blog by Bill Rivers)

04/11/2017

Having just returned from my sixth GALA Language of Business Conference in Amsterdam, I've had time to reflect on all of the conversations there with GALA members and attendees. One theme recurred: what does the Trump Administration mean for the language industry? More accurately, what do I think it means, given the role I have at the Joint National Committee for Languages, working in Washington, D.C., on behalf of the Language Enterprise? [Read more.](#)

### [Bilingual children outperform native speakers by age 7](#)

04/10/2017

Children who speak English as a second language outperform their native speaking classmates in a range of academic tests by the age of seven, despite lagging behind when they start school, research has shown. A study looking at the educational development of children of migrants reveals that while they are behind their monolingual peers at age five, they scored higher in maths and writing tests after just two years later. Academics from the University of Sydney tracked the development of 19,000 UK infants up to the age of 11, which showed that those who spoke more than one language had higher cognitive development scores. [Read more.](#)

### [Employee language proficiency helps global businesses compete, says new joint study by Forbes Insights and Rosetta Stone](#)

03/30/2017

According to a new report released today by Forbes Insights, "Best in Class: How Enterprises Succeed with Language Learning Programs," with more companies expanding globally, having a multilingual workforce has become a critical success factor and businesses are taking action to provide employees with language learning resources. Businesses with multilingual teams reported seeing a positive impact across various areas, such as improved reputation within specific geographic markets and on a global scale. Employees also reap the benefits of language proficiency with improved performance, confidence and increased engagement at work. [Read more](#) or [download the report](#).

## SAVE THE DATE: 2018 LANGUAGE ADVOCACY DAY

Language Advocacy Day  
&  
JNCL-NCLIS Delegate Assembly

**February 15-16, 2018**  
Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill

Registration will open in September.

## UPCOMING MEMBER EVENTS

ASLTA 2017 Conference	<b>June 28-July 1, 2017</b> Salt Lake Marriott Downtown at City Creek Salt Lake City, UT <a href="https://aslta.org/aslta-9th-biennial-conference/">https://aslta.org/aslta-9th-biennial-conference/</a>
AATK 2017 Conference	<b>June 29-July 1, 2017</b> University of Southern California Los Angeles, CA <a href="http://dornsife.usc.edu/eascenter/aatk/">http://dornsife.usc.edu/eascenter/aatk/</a>
LSA Linguistic Institute	<b>July 5-August 1, 2017</b> University of Kentucky Lexington, KY <a href="https://lsa2017.uky.edu/">https://lsa2017.uky.edu/</a>
NNELL Summer Institute	<b>July 7-9, 2017</b> The Grand Summit Hotel Summit, NJ <a href="http://nnell.org/summer-institute-2017/">http://nnell.org/summer-institute-2017/</a>

If your organization/ company is a member of JNCL-NCLIS and you'd like to share events in our Monthly Updates, please contact [Maria Pulcini](#).

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