



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

MONTHLY UPDATE

February 28, 2017

BREAKING NEWS

AAAS Commission on Language Learning Releases Final Report

The Commission on Language Learning American Academy of Arts and Sciences (AAAS) released its final report today, [America's Languages: Investing in Language Education for the 21st Century!](#)

View [the final report](#) and share it with your networks!

Members of the House of Representatives Introduce Legislation to Support K-12 Language Programs

Representatives David Price (D-NC), Don Young (R-AK), Joseph Crowley (D-NY), and Leonard Lance (R-NJ) introduced the World Language Advancement and Readiness Act (WLARA) today, February 28, 2017. The bill would establish a competitive grant program for K-12 language programs to be administered to State and Local Education Agencies by the Secretary of Defense in consultation with the Secretary of Education and the Director of National Intelligence.

Read the [full press release!](#)

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Colleagues,

To those of you who attended Language Advocacy Days, please accept my personal thanks for attending. If you weren't able to attend, we look forward to seeing you at next year's Language Advocacy Days, February 15-16 at the Hyatt Regency on Capitol Hill. A record 128 delegates attended more than 160 meetings on the Hill and in the Executive Branch. The work we do as the Joint National Committee for Languages and the National Council for Languages and International Studies is truly a team effort, and Language Advocacy Days lays the groundwork for ongoing, positive relationships with many offices in the Congress. We will follow up on each and every meeting in the coming months.

Let me recognize as well our staff - Maria Pulcini, Policy Analyst, who manages Language Advocacy Days, and Valerie Turner, our Policy Intern, who worked closely with Maria on every aspect of the event. Their professionalism, hard work, and insight made this a powerful event. If you've not already completed your [evaluation of the event](#), please do so, as we are already working on improvements for next year based on your thoughtful feedback.

In addition, please join with me in personally thanking our volunteers, who provided crucial help: Mary Thron of the Minnesota Council on the Teaching of Language and Culture; Terri and David Marlow of the Ohio Foreign Language Association and the West Virginia Foreign Language Teachers Association; Rachel Sprouse of the Quechua Collective of New York, Trey Calvin of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages, Garrett Michaelson Bradford of the University of Maryland, and Angela Moreino and Liz Eckert of American Councils for International Education. Our volunteers stuffed folders and envelopes, helped delegates during the event, assisted with A/V during the event, and led our active social media campaign, among myriad other tasks.

The relationships we build on Capitol Hill and in the Executive Branch are founded on three key

elements: first, we have a positive story to tell about the impact of language on the national interest, from education to national security to the business world; second, we bring timely and accurate information, and practical ideas, that our political leaders and their staff can use; and, third, we tell our story with enthusiasm and grace. For all of these, thank you.

Looking forward, the Commission on Language Learning of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences releases its report, *America's Languages*, today at the National Press Club, followed by a briefing on Capitol Hill this afternoon. JNCL-NCLIS is proud to have two members of our Board of Directors among the Commissioners - Marty Abbott of ACTFL, and Dan Davidson of the American Councils for International Education, as well as Rosemary Feal of JNCL-NCLIS member, the Modern Language Association. You can [read more about the Commission and its work](#), including release of the report; the report makes a clear case for the impact of language on the national interest, and strong recommendations to improve the national capacity in languages.

Immediately following the presentation of the report, the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages will launch the [Lead with Languages campaign](#). The first of several coordinated actions to follow up on the work of the Commission, Lead with Languages will educate the broader public, and in particular parents and local business and political leaders, about the need for investment in our national language capacity. Stay tuned for Lead with Languages and more national actions!

Once again, thank you for all of your work in the Language Enterprise,

With Best Wishes,

Bill Rivers

MESSAGE FROM THE POLICY ANALYST

Dear Colleagues,

It was a great pleasure to see many of you at Language Advocacy Day earlier this month. We often hear from our contacts on Capitol Hill that the energy and commitment you bring to the event every year has real resonance. As you know, advocacy is a year-round endeavor and it begins with the work you do in your daily lives. We encourage everyone who came to Language Advocacy Day and, more broadly, all those who are passionate about language policy to maintain a collegial relationship with your elected officials. Voice your concerns and your priorities, share actionable data and resources, and consider visiting with the local offices in your district and state independent of Language Advocacy Day. Always feel free to contact us for materials and advice for local meetings. *Advocacy is empowering, and your constituent voice is powerful.*

On a related note, the Commission on Language Learning's final report, entitled *America's Languages: Investing in Language Education in the 21st Century*, will be an indispensable tool in advocacy endeavors following its release. In order to capitalize on the report's release, we'll need your help to share and distribute the final report to your schools, communities, professional networks, and stakeholders. *Stay tuned for more updates on the report's release and how to get involved in its promotion.*

Finally, I'd like to commend our Policy Intern, Valerie Turner, on completion of her internship with JNCL-NCLIS. Valerie has been a steadfast colleague in our operations since October 2016 and was an integral part in the planning and execution of Language Advocacy Day this year. We look forward to Valerie's future successes and wish her good fortune in all subsequent professional and academic endeavors. To Valerie--gracias, merci, and of course, شكرًا جزيلًا!

Kind regards,
Maria Pulcini

REVIEW OF 2017 LANGUAGE ADVOCACY DAY

This year's Language Advocacy Day and Delegate Assembly was the largest in JNCL-NCLIS history, both in terms of the number of attendees and the footprint made on Capitol Hill. Visit our website to read the full conference report!

For photos of the event, including the reception and meetings with Congressional offices, visit the [Facebook album](#). If you have not yet shared your photos from the event, please share them with [Maria Pulcini](#). We'd love to use them in our social media communications and in promotions for next year's event.

We would like to offer special thanks to this year's Platinum sponsors, [Qatar Foundation International](#) and [Brigham Young University](#). We are grateful for the continued support.



LANGUAGE NEWS: READERS' CHOICE

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

[English Language Learners: How your state is doing](#)

(02/23/2017)

About 1 out of every 10 public school students in the United States right now is learning to speak English. They're called ELLs, for "English Language Learners." There are nearly 5 million of them, and educating them - in English and all the other subjects and skills they'll need - is one of the biggest challenges in U.S. public education today. As part of NPR's reporting project, 5 Million Voices, the team set out to gather up all the data and information they could find about who these students are and how they're being taught. Here's NPR's snapshot. [Read more.](#)

[The bilingual brain: One size doesn't fit all](#)

(02/09/2017)

Over the last few years, you may have noticed a surfeit of articles covering current research on bilingualism. Some of them suggest that bilingualism "sharpens the mind," while other titles are clearly intended to provoke more doubt than confidence: "Is Bilingualism Really an Advantage?". Despite all the fuss that has been made about the "bilingual advantage," most researchers have moved on from the simplistic "is there an advantage or not" view: Rather than asking whether bilingualism per se confers a cognitive advantage, researchers are taking a more nuanced approach by exploring the various aspects of bilingualism to better understand their individual effects. [Read more.](#)

[Why multilingualism is good for economic growth](#)

(02/03/2017)

The economic impact on the US - or any other country - that closes off its trade barriers with countries that are different to it would be enormous. Language matters on a large-scale national level and at the level of smaller businesses. One famous cheese steak shop in Philadelphia, Geno's, used to refuse sales to customers placing their orders in languages other than English. Its sign announcing this to customers was only taken down in 2011. When just one small business decides to take this closed approach, the effect on the wider economy is negligible. With the election of Donald Trump to the presidency, however, there now is a resounding protectionist sentiment in the US - which could have a much bigger effect on the economy. [Read more.](#)

[Congress asks for travel-ban waiver to let Iraqi translators into U.S.](#)

(1/30/2017)

Lawmakers on both sides of the aisle pleaded with President Trump on Monday to carve out an exception to his new executive order for Iraqi citizens who contributed to the U.S. war effort, and are now in danger of being left in danger in that war-torn country. Thousands of translators who helped out American troops have already been brought to the U.S., but more are still trying to get here - and some of them seem to have been snagged by the new Trump policy, which imposes a temporary ban on most visitors from seven Muslim-majority countries and temporarily halts all refugee admissions. [Read more.](#)

SAVE THE DATE: 2018 LANGUAGE ADVOCACY DAY

Language Advocacy Day

&

JNCL-NCLIS Delegate Assembly

February 15-16, 2017
Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill

Registration will open in September.

UPCOMING MEMBER EVENTS

SWCOLT Annual Conference	March 2 - 4, 2017 Skirvin Hotel Oklahoma City, Oklahoma http://www.swcolt.org/conference
CSCTFL Annual Conference	March 9 - 11, 2017 The Palmer House Hilton Chicago, IL http://csctfl.org/conferences/2016conference.html
IIE Conference: Best Practices for Internationalizing Your Campus	March 14, 2017 Florida International University Miami, FL http://www.iie.org/en/Who-We-Are/News-and-Events/Events/2017/Best-Practices-Conference-2017
SCOLT Annual Conference	March 16-18, 2017 Orlando Airport Marriott Orlando, FL http://scolt.org/index.php/conferences/future-conferences
2017 MIIS Monterey Forum	April 1-2, 2017 Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey Monterey, CA http://www.miiis.edu/academics/programs/gstile/montereyforum/welcome
NNELL Summer Institute	July 7-9, 2017 The Grand Summit Hotel Summit, NJ http://nnell.org/summer-institute-2017/

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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