



JNCL-NCLIS Delivers briefing to Congressional Staff on the Impact of Foreign Languages

For Immediate Release

On April 1, 2014 JNCL-NCLIS, at the request of Representative David Price (NC-4), hosted a briefing to staff in the House of Representatives. The briefing, "The Educational and Economic Impact of Foreign Languages" highlighted the intersection of language education with business demands and economic competitiveness. Helga Fasciano, Special Assistant for Global Education for the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction was selected as the first speaker to offer an overview of the position and impact of foreign language programs in North Carolina. North Carolina is notable for its impressive array of dual-language immersion programs throughout the state, which were featured examples in a study of the impacts of two-way immersion programs released last year.

Following Ms. Fasciano, Hans Fenstermacher, CEO of the Globalization and Localization Association (GALA) made the case for the huge demand in the language industry for a language-qualified workforce. "Language-plus," he says is the skill set of the 21st century. International businesses need workers with STEM, management, and other skills *plus* language and intercultural communication facility in order to function in the global arena.

Finally, Dr. Richard Brecht, Co-Director of the American Councils Research Center, shared the progress and early results of a collaborative effort between the Anglophone nations of the United States, Britain, Australia and New Zealand to address their shared language deficit dilemma. *Languages for All* hopes to establish a strategic plan to achieve the goal of exposing all children to foreign language and global awareness in order to support a pipeline of language learning that supplies the industry demand and fuels scholarship in language and international studies.

JNCL and NCLIS represent the language profession to the United States. As professional organizations in teaching, translation, interpreting, testing, research, and many other fields, we raise public awareness of language as an enterprise vital to national well-being. The language enterprise employs 500,000 Americans who work to foster mutual understanding and who deserve continued public support. Additionally, we advocate with the United States Congress and Executive Branch for all programs that support foreign language and international education. Learn more at our website, www.languagepolicy.org.

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Joint National Committee for Languages · National Council for Languages and International Studies
P.O. Box 386
Garrett Park, MD 20896
202-580-8684
www.languagepolicy.org