Taking Action: World Languages, Policymakers and Your Government

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Old Dominion University

CALICO Conference
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Outline

- Introduction
- Language Advocacy Day and Delegate Assembly 2019
- Legislative Priorities/Asks in the 116th Congress
- Appropriations Priorities
- State and Local Advocacy
- Resources
Founded in 1972, JNCL, a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization, advances language and international education by:

- Working with our members to identify needs and set policy priorities
- Raising awareness of language as a profession with the public, government, business, and media
- Maintaining an active social media campaign to disseminate actionable information on language policy
Established in 1988, NCLIS, a non-partisan trade council, lobbies on behalf of language and international studies with the Legislative and Executive branches of the US Government:

- Monitors budget and legislation to maintain and augment funding for language and international education
- Works with Congress and the Executive branch to translate JNCL-NCLIS priorities into legislative and policy initiatives
- Keeps members abreast of legislative and policy developments affecting languages and international education
- Facilitates state and local support for its state and regional members
- Works with member organizations to develop effective advocacy plans
Organization Overview

- JNCL-NCLIS represents +130 member organizations (more than 300,000 language professionals)

- The Language Enterprise
  - Foreign language education associations
  - Language companies
Mission Statement

- to ensure that all Americans have the opportunity to learn and use English and at least one other language

- to advance the language profession in the U.S.

- to raise awareness about the importance of language and international education to the national interest.
GOALS

Through advocating for the language enterprise in the U.S., JNCL-NCLIS works to

- facilitate the free movement of people, information, and ideas
- build up mutual understanding and acceptance of cultural and linguistic diversity
- promote the personal development of the individual
Language Advocacy Day & Delegate Assembly

- Congressional visits with a focus on legislative priorities
  - +120 House Meetings
  - +80 Senate Meetings
  - +7 External Meetings
  - 160 attendees representing 42 states

- Congressional debriefings, updates on issues with guest speakers, panel discussions, break-out sessions to help develop policy recommendations

- Business meeting
Legislative Ask #1: World Language Advancement and Readiness Act - H.R. 1094

- A Bill introduced in the House on February 2, 2019

- Authorize competitive 3-year grant program
  - Establish high-quality world language programs in K-12 schools
  - Administered by the Secretary of Defense (with Secretary of Education and Director of National Intelligence)
  - 75% of funds reserved for world languages critical to U.S. national security interests
  - Support Local and State Educational Agencies
  - Partnership with Higher Education
  - Effective use of technology (computer-assisted instruction, language labs, etc.)
  - Professional Development

- Referred to the subcommittee on Military Personnel, 20 co-sponsors
Legislative Ask #2: The Biliteracy Education Seal and Teaching Act (BEST Act) H.R. 3716

- A Bill to establish or improve Seal of Biliteracy programs:
  - Introduced by Rep. Julia Brownley [D-CA-26]

- Award renewable two-year grants to states
  - Department of Education
  - Recognize high-level student proficiency in speaking, reading, and writing in both English and a second language
  - Official academic transcripts
  - Permanent seal or other marker on secondary school diplomas

36 States and Washington DC have approved a statewide Seal of Biliteracy
Referred to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce
Legislative Ask #3 - The Senator Paul Simon Study Abroad Program Act - S. 1198

- A Bill to prepare students for success in the modern global economy:
  - Introduced by Senator Richard J. Durbin [D-IL] April 11, 2019

- Establish competitive grant program:
  - Department of Education for Institutions of Higher Education
  - To ensure that significantly more students graduate college with the international knowledge and experience essential for success in today’s global economy
  - Included as part of a well-rounded education

Referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
4 co-sponsors
Legislative Ask #4: Esther Martinez Native American Languages Preservation Act - S. 256

- A Bill introduced in the Senate, January 29, 2019 by Senator Tom Udall [D-NM]
- Amends the Native American Programs Act of 1974 to provide flexibility and reauthorization to ensure the survival and continuing vitality of Native American languages.
- Increases the maximum duration of grants
- Program is reauthorized through FY2024
A Bill to reauthorize Title VI of the Higher Education Act of 1965 in order to improve and encourage innovation in international education by extending:

- National Resource Centers
- Foreign Language and area Studies Fellowships
- Language Resource Centers
- Undergraduate International Studies and Foreign Language Programs
- American Overseas Research Centers
- Centers for International Business Education and Research

 Introduced by Senator Todd C. Young [R-IN] on February 6, 2019
Referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
Appropriations Priorities: Title VI/Fulbright-Hays (IFLE)

- NCLIS recommends funding of $100m for these programs in FY20
- Title VI (domestic programs)
  - grants and fellowships to institutions of higher education
- Fulbright-Hays (overseas programs)
  - Develop language and research capabilities

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U.S. Department of Education
Title VI & Fulbright-Hays Budget, FY10-16

In Millions USD

Title VI

Fulbright-Hays

FY10
Enacted
$15.6

FY11
Enacted
$7.5

FY12
Enacted
$7.5

FY13
Enacted
$7.1

FY14
Enacted
$7.1

FY15
Enacted
$7.1

FY16
Request
$9.1

FY16
House
$7.1

FY16
Senate
$3.6

Title VI/Fulbright-Hays

- $53.7m or 43% funding reductions and program eliminations since FY11
  - 25% fewer nationally recognized resource centers
  - 18% fewer undergraduate and doctoral fellowships
  - Fewer training opportunities for students and teachers
  - Fewer outreach activities to government and business
Programs Authorized Under Title VI of the Higher Education Act

American Overseas Research Centers
Business and International Education
Centers for International Business Education
Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowships
Institute for International Public Policy
International Research and Studies
Language Resource Centers
National Resource Centers
Technological Innovation and Cooperation for Foreign Information Access
Undergraduate International Studies and Foreign Language Program
Appropriations Priorities: National Endowment for the Humanities

- NCLIS supports the proposed funding of $155m for FY19 and requests $167.5m for FY20

- Proposed FY20 funding Bill (5/14/19) includes $167.5M - a $12.5m increase

- NEH provides support for
  - research
  - education
  - preservation
  - public programs in the humanities (including world languages)

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<th>(in millions of dollars)</th>
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<td>152,849</td>
<td>155,000</td>
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National Endowment for the Humanities

- Division of Research Programs
  - Individuals and collaborative teams

- Division of Education Programs
  - Program and curriculum development
  - Professional development opportunities for K-12 and higher education faculty

- Office of Digital Humanities
  - Developing new technologies for humanities research, teaching and learning, public engagement, open access publishing, digital culture

- Division of Preservation and Access
  - Documenting Endangered Languages

- Congressional Affairs *

CALICO-21
Appropriations Priorities: National Science Foundation

- NCLIS requests robust funding for FY20
- NSF’s budget will increase 4% for FY19
- NSF is the funding source for 24% of all federally supported basic research by universities
- NSF funds important linguistics and language sciences research
  - Social, Behavioral, and Economic (SBE) Science Division

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Progress?
Progress!

- Language Advocacy Day 2019 - Most successful to date
- Seal of Biliteracy (36 in place)
- Senate resolution to recognize and honor the successes of Native Women
  - 2019 International Year of Indigenous Languages
- Commission on Language Learning 2017
- Global Talent Survey 2015
- “World Languages and Technology” - Policy Paper on technology and languages to the White House, Office of Science and Technology Policy (IALLT and CALICO) 2014
- Visits to the Executive Branch & Congress
American Academy of Arts and Sciences

- Commission on Language Learning

- Examine the current state of language education in the U.S.
  - academic settings, government programs, workplace enrichment
  - Identify best practices and opportunities for improvement
  - Leading research

Q1. What actions should the nation take to ensure excellence in all languages as well as international education and research, including how we may more effectively use current resources to advance language attainment?

Q2. How does language learning influence economic growth, cultural diplomacy, the productivity of future generations, and the fulfillment of all Americans?
Key Recommendations of the Commission:

1. **Increase the number of language teachers** at all levels of education so that every child in every state has the opportunity to learn a language in addition to English.

2. **Supplement language instruction** across the education system through public-private partnerships among schools, government, philanthropies, businesses, and local community members.

3. **Support heritage languages** already spoken in the United States, and help these languages persist from one generation to the next.

4. **Provide targeted support and programming for Native American languages** as defined in the Native American Languages Act.

5. **Promote opportunities for students to learn languages in other countries** by experiencing other cultures and immersing themselves in multilingual environments.
“Another potential area of investigation for researchers is whether the decline in enrollments for 2013 and 2016 may be attributable in part to the loss of government funding for international education. Combined funding for National Resource Centers, Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowships, Title VI, and the Fulbright-Hays Program dropped from $195,437,000 in 2010 to $123,250,000 in 2016, a 36.9% decrease. This issue and others are still be be understood.”

- Looney, D., & Lusin, N. (February 2018)
Take Action

- The NewsBrief Weekly
- Monthly Legislative Updates
- Advocacy Action Alerts
- Language Policy Blog
Advocacy Alert:

Esther Martinez
Native American Languages
Preservation Act

Dear Language Advocate,

Congress is currently considering legislation to reauthorize programs which support language preservation efforts in Native American communities. The Esther Martinez Native American Languages Preservation Act, S. 254 in the Senate and H.R. 1169 in the House, 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.

The reauthorization would also decrease 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 legislation would increase the maximum possible duration of all Esther Martinez grants from three years to five.

Native languages are endangered. Experts estimate that all of the approximately 148 Native languages that are still spoken are at risk of extinction within the next 50 to 100 years. The loss of these languages would deal a significant blow to our shared American and global heritage, but tribal communities are
Calling all language organizations:

We have big news, advocates! The Paul Simon Study Abroad Act is being introduced THIS THURSDAY and we’re asking our entire community to join us in supporting it! You’ll remember that the Simon Act was one of JNCL-NCLIS’ key “legislative asks” during Language Advocacy Day 2019.

Click below to add your organization’s name to the supporter list urging cosponsor this legislation.

Join ACTFL, NAFSA, the National Education Association and more than 80 others in supporting study abroad opportunities like this one! Deadline is Wednesday, April 10.

MFLA needs your help to defeat HB1211

February 25, 2019

To all language advocates in Virginia:

Please take IMMEDIATE ACTION and write/contact your House Delegate and your Senator regarding HB2125, let them know why this legislation should be rejected or amended to continue to require World Language instruction for any pathway to the Advanced Diploma.
Advocacy

**Legislative Action Center**

- Online advocacy program provides up-to-date policy alerts
- Find officials and committee assignments
- Send pre-composed letters to key Representatives and Senators
State and Local Level Advocacy

- Provide sender information
- ACTFL tracks usage
  - Letters sent
  - which office
  - improves level of engagement
  - indicates most active states

- One central location
- Continuous flow of information
- Tremendous capability to advocate for world language issues
January 17, 2018

Ms. Betty Facer  
320 Llewellyn Mews  
Norfolk, VA 23507-1839

Dear Ms. Facer:

Thank you for contacting me about funding for international education and foreign language studies. I appreciate hearing from you.

Congress is responsible for passing a budget and funding our government to strengthen our economy and responsibly invest in our nation’s future. It is critical that we return to a regular budget and appropriating process. Government shutdowns, whether real or threatened, destabilize our national economy and harm both those who depend on critical federal programs and hard-working American families, including those of federal employees and private sector workers.

The House and Senate Appropriations Committees are engaged in the process of writing appropriation bills to fund education, national defense, health care, transportation investments, and other critical programs for the fiscal year that will begin on October 1st, 2017. I am involved in this process and have written and contacted Senate appropriators about many Virginia priorities. It’s important that these spending bills, which propose to fund critical government programs and to eliminate non-performing programs, be completed on time.

I am hopeful we can avoid budgetary uncertainty and continue to invest in education, innovation, and the infrastructure that will help businesses, families, and our economy. Thank you again for contacting me.

Sincerely,

Tim Kaine
Take Action!

- Write letters & use social media
- Invite elected officials to your institution
  - student activities
  - effective methods
  - grant-funded projects
  - innovative technology
- Create and share newsletters
- Become a peer reviewer
- Know what community-wide issues resonate with this office. What issues are important for the voters in that district?
- “Commonwealth Coffee”
- Attend school board meetings
- Stay informed of the issues
- Get colleagues involved!
For example:

- Visiting Alumni Lecture Series (VALS) & Hampton Roads Economic Development Alliance

- Language in Motion ODU
  - K-12 & Higher Education
  - Service-Learning Course
  - Outreach Program

- University Public Relations Specialist
For example:

- ACTFL Lead with Languages campaign - Erin Whelchel, Outreach Manager

- ODU Advocacy 2019
  - Current students
  - Alumni
  - Community
The U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations

**Democratic Members**
- PATRICK LEAHY – Vice Chairman, Vermont
- PATTY MURRAY, Washington
- DIANNE FEINSTEIN, California
- RICHARD J. DURBIN, Illinois
- JACK REED, Rhode Island
- JON TESTER, Montana
- TOM UDALL, New Mexico
- JEANNE SHAHEEN, New Hampshire
- JEFF MERKLEY, Oregon
- CHRISTOPHER COONS, Delaware
- BRIAN SCHATZ, Hawaii
- TAMMY BALDWIN, Wisconsin
- CHRIS MURPHY, Connecticut
- JOE MANCHIN, West Virginia
- CHRIS VAN HOLLEN, Maryland

**Republican Members**
- RICHARD SHELBY, Chairman, Alabama
- MITCH MCCONNELL, Kentucky
- LAMAR ALEXANDER, Tennessee
- SUSAN COLLINS, Maine
- LISA MURKOWSKI, Alaska
- LINDSEY GRAHAM, South Carolina
- ROY BLUNT, Missouri
- JERRY MORAN, Kansas
- JOHN HOEVEN, North Dakota
- JOHN BOOZMAN, Arkansas
- SHELLY MOORE CAPITO, West Virginia
- JAMES LANKFORD, Oklahoma
- STEVE DAINES, Montana
- JOHN KENNEDY, Louisiana
- MARCO RUBIO, Florida
- CINDY HYDE-SMITH, Mississippi
Resources

● JNCL-NCLIS - http://www.languagepolicy.org/

● ACTFL - https://www.actfl.org/advocacy/legislative-action-center

● Who Are Your Elected Officials
  https://www.usa.gov/elected-officials


● Commission on Language Learning :
  https://www.amacad.org/content/Research/researchproject.aspx?i=21896
Questions?
Discussion?
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Thank you.

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bfacer@odu.edu