



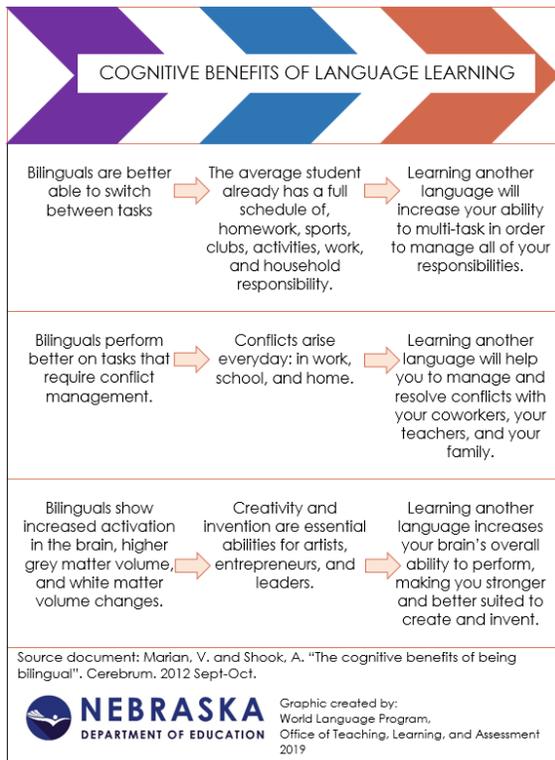
# Nebraska Department of Education

300 Centennial Mall South ♦ Lincoln, Nebraska ♦ 68508

## World Language Review

August 2019

Raising the standard: The cognitive benefits of world language learning



### Cognitive Benefits of Language Learning

As language educators, we can enumerate the cognitive benefits of language learning without thinking twice. However, this list of benefits does not often have its desired impact in advocacy. Our messaging regarding the cognitive benefits of world language learning can change. In debate terminology, we need the "link, brink, and impact". The link is how we benefit from language learning. The brink is how these benefits could be generally beneficial. The impact is the ultimate consequence and must be tied to what matters to us most: basic, psychological, and self-fulfillment needs. Consider relating that list of benefits in terms of how each one has a personal impact on the daily life and expectations of your students. This compilation shows the link, brink, and impact of how language has cognitive benefits that affect us personally.

- [Charlamos: Cognitive Benefits of Language Learning](#)
- [Meet Your NILA Board: Secretary Dr. Jonathan Dettman](#)
- [World Language Standards Update](#)
- [Standards Workshops at ESUs](#)
- [Chansons Françaises en Nebraska](#)
- [New German Language Advisor](#)
- [NILA Annual Conference Special Update](#)



@NDE\_WL



NDE World Language Education @NDE.WL



education.ne.gov/forlg

## Charlamos: *Cognitive benefits of language learning*



This summer, I traveled to Spain on a scholarship to the University of Valladolid's professional development seminar for teachers of Spanish. There I met educators from around the world. I was struck by the tendency of world language teachers to be bold, adventurous, adept at wordplay, precise in expression, and creative in problem solving. In fact, I'm convinced that the cognitive structuring from our language studies actually made us better travelers. Every attention was paid to details, comparing, contrasting, problem-solving, and negotiating. Our language learning not presented the ability to communicate in Spain, it awarded us a greater level of understanding and learning from the experience.

Stephanie Call, World Languages Specialist ♦ 402-471-4331 ♦  
stephanie.call@nebraska.gov

## Meet Your NILA Board: Secretary



Dr Jonathan Dettman, Secretary  
Associate Professor of Spanish,  
University of Nebraska Kearney  
[dettmanjc@unk.edu](mailto:dettmanjc@unk.edu)

### **What was your motivation to become a language teacher?**

My experience as a college student was very positive and personally transformative. A big part of that was learning languages. I had a great deal of admiration for the teachers who had been my intellectual guides, and when I finished college, I contemplated becoming a Spanish teacher. I ended up taking the long route to teaching (through graduate school), but I think post-secondary education is a very good fit for me.

### **Describe your classroom approach in five words or less.**

"I bet you didn't know..."

### **How do you feel Nebraska is raising the standards for world language education?**

Both NILA and NDE are very conscientious about staying informed about best practices and promoting them throughout the state. Since arriving in Nebraska in 2013, I've been impressed by the overall level of professionalism and commitment to teacher education.

### **What would you recommend to educators to build their pedagogy and practice?**

Take time for professional development, even if that means organizing workshops and idea sessions for your colleagues--maybe you're the teacher you're looking for.

## Events

♦  
Omaha's Original Greek  
Festival  
Omaha  
August 16

♦  
St. Stanislaus Polish  
Festival  
Omaha  
August 18

♦  
Intercultural Senior  
Center World Bash  
Omaha  
August 22

♦  
México en el Corazón  
Grand Island  
August 23

♦  
La Festa Italiana  
Omaha  
August 30

♦  
Fiestas Patrias 2019  
Omaha  
September 13-15

♦  
Nebraska Hispanic  
Festival  
Lincoln  
September 14

♦  
Thriving Children,  
Families, and  
Communities  
Conference  
Kearney  
September 16

♦  
Tango with Tusks  
Argentine Tango  
Workshop  
Lincoln  
September 20

♦  
135<sup>th</sup> German Day-  
Oktoberfest  
Omaha  
September 20-21

Please email event information  
to  
[stephanie.call@nebraska.gov](mailto:stephanie.call@nebraska.gov)



@NDE\_WL



NDE World Language Education @NDE.WL



education.ne.gov/forlg

# World Language Standards Update

## NEBRASKA WORLD LANGUAGE STANDARDS



Editors met in July to review the results from the Public Input Survey that was available from May to June. In response to the results of the survey, the language of the indicators was clarified to provide more clear and specific learning targets. Specific examples were also provided to support focus groups of language for heritage speakers and for classical languages.

The final draft of the standards was presented at the August meeting of the Nebraska State School Board for a first review. Two individuals spoke during the State Board's public commentary period. Mary Lea Free, Spanish teacher at Norris Public School, read a statement of support from colleague Jacqueline Mohr, Syacuse Dunbar Avoca Schools. Mrs. Mohr wrote, "With the adoption of these standards, the Nebraska Department of

Education is ensuring the world language education in the state remains one of the top in the nation while producing students who are 21<sup>st</sup> Century global learners." Mrs. Free added, "The proficiency levels are well explained. They use a common knowledge that all of our teachers in Nebraska will relate to and use in the classroom." Rebecca Gill Rose, Bennet Palmyra Public Schools Spanish teacher, presented to the Board that, "Today's world language classroom is about real-world production of language and global awareness. These proposed standards speak to this."

It is hoped that the State Board will adopt the standards at the September 2019 meeting. The final draft can be accessed on the [World Language website](#).

## Standards Workshops Coming Soon to Your ESU

The Revised Nebraska World Language Standards offer a greater emphasis on language production, global perspectives, and ownership in language learning. The NDE World Language Education Specialist offers an opportunity to talk about the revised world language standards and their potential impact to districts, to develop standards-based activities, and to collaborate with peers. Expect a fast-paced day with practical ideas, rich discussions, and a wealth of resources. Please enroll through the Educational Service Unit.

ESU 1	21 Apr 20	ESU 6	24 Oct 19	ESU 11	07 Oct 19
ESU 2	22 Apr 20		03 Mar 20		14 Nov 19
ESU 3	19 Feb 20	ESU 7	23 Apr 20	ESU 13	TBD
ESU 4	14 Feb 20	ESU 8	24 Apr 20	ESU 16	11 Mar 20
ESU 5	04 Oct 19	ESU 9	16 Oct 19	ESU 17	10 Mar 20
	20 Feb 20	ESU 10	(see ESU 9)	OPS	20 Sep 20
	05 Mar 20				



@NDE\_WL



NDE World Language Education @NDE.WL



education.ne.gov/forlg

## Chansons Françaises en Nebraska

If you are interested in hosting a French singer in your school, this coming Fall, Eric Vincent will perform in your area during mid-November. Eric Vincent's songs are included in several major textbooks such as "Discovering French Today": Blanc (Level 2) by Valette and Valette (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt), "SAM Contacts: Langue et Culture Françaises, 9th edition" by Valette and Valette (Heinle Cengage). If interested, contact Marie Claude Barbin at [marieclaudobarbin@orange.fr](mailto:marieclaudobarbin@orange.fr). There are still availabilities and we propose a sharing receipts formula allowing the organizer to host a concert without financial risk. Please visit: <http://www.eric-vincent.com/reviews.htm>.

## Nebraska Welcomes New German Language Advisor

Recently, Nebraska welcomed a new German Language Advisor of the Central Agency for Schools Abroad in Nebraska, Leeni Martinkari will be taking over the role of Irene Mrázek, who has returned to Germany.



### **Could you please describe your background?**

After graduating from Freie Universität Berlin and obtaining my teaching degree in German and English, I later added Theatre Studies and received my teaching certificate for School Theatre as well.

My latest teaching post was at an Upper Secondary School in Berlin-Weissensee, where I taught German, English and Performing Arts for eleven years, often adding some spark to my language classes using theatre methods. From 2014, I also taught refugee-classes, which were established in many Berlin schools that year. I was also responsible for the school's contacts abroad and coordinated the students' annual study-trips and internships to various European countries. I left the teaching profession in 2016 to work as a German Language Advisor in the region of Ohio, Michigan, Indiana and Kentucky.

### **What is your role as a language advisor?**

I offer guidance for schools that wish to establish a DSD-program (German Language Diploma). I provide professional development workshops for teachers, workshops in cooperation with AATG, professional coaching in cooperation with the Goethe Institute, fun German workshops for students, information on studying in Germany, and every now and then workshops for students with German artists (music or theatre), when these are funded by the German Government. I am looking forward to working together with colleagues in Nebraska, promoting and supporting German language programs.

### **What is your contact information?**

[columbus@auslandsschulwesen.de](mailto:columbus@auslandsschulwesen.de)



@NDE\_WL



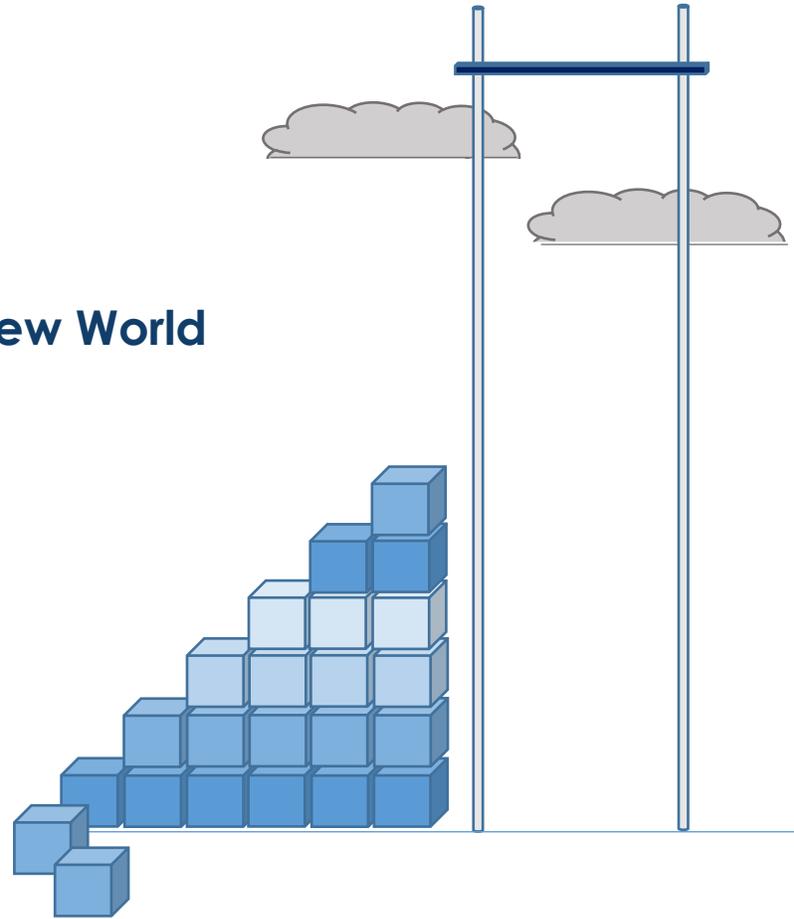
NDE World Language Education @NDE.WL



[education.ne.gov/forlg](http://education.ne.gov/forlg)

# 2019 NILA Conference

## Raising the Bar: Nebraska's New World Language Standards



**October 11-12, 2019  
University of Nebraska  
Kearney**

Free Half-Day Workshop

25 Professional Sessions

Lunch and Keynote

Awards Ceremony

Vendor Exhibits

Association Meetings

Opportunities to Network

Door Prizes

Stuff Swap  
(Bring items to exchange)

### **Friday Workshop with Keynote Presenter Stephanie Call**

World Language Specialist Stephanie Call will introduce the new standards with activities, resources, and methods that are meant to provide practical and effective strategies to meet the bar. Come prepared to participate, to share, and to learn. Expect to have fun. Standards implementation packets will be provided to those in attendance.

The Friday workshop is available at no cost. It is from 1:00 to 4:00 in the Sandhills Room on the first floor of the Nebraskan Student Union. Pre-registration is preferred. Visit

<http://www.nebraskalanguages.org/2019-fall-conference.html>.