



SCFLTA 'YEAR OF LANGUAGES' UPDATE

MARCH FOCUS – CONNECTING LANGUAGES TO OTHER AREAS

No matter what career path one takes, it is likely that the knowledge of languages will be useful and, in many cases, necessary. In order to conduct business worldwide, corporations are finding that it is important to be able to understand the language and culture of one's clients. It is important for students to know that no matter what area they intend to study or what training they intend to get after high school or college, the knowledge of languages other than English will be important.

NATIONAL EVENT

- The national event this month will focus on people who have used languages in their careers on a daily basis. It will be hosted by the University of Missouri in St. Louis on March 30 and will be videotaped for later downstreaming from the Year of Languages Web site. Additional details will be available on the Web site soon.

LOCAL EVENT SUGGESTIONS

- Encourage teachers to plan an interdisciplinary unit between the foreign language classes and another content area during this month.
- Download or order the MLA brochure entitled "Why Learn Another Language?" and distribute them to students. The brochure is available for download at http://www.adfl.org/resources/lang_brochure.pdf
- Encourage teachers of other content areas to highlight notable people from the countries whose languages are taught in your school. The music program might highlight Spanish or German composers while the Science department highlights the contributions of French scientists throughout the years.
- Organize an interactive panel discussion around the topic of "What to do with language after high school". Invite school alumni who are using languages in their fields to come and talk with current students either through a formal panel discussion or informally in individual classes.

ONLINE RESOURCES

- Careers in Foreign Languages (compiled by Harding University)
<http://www.harding.edu/forlang/Careers.html>
- Careers in Foreign Languages (from Indiana University)
<http://www.iupui.edu/~flac/FLCareers.html>
- Career Paths at the NSA
http://www.nsa.gov/careers/careers_1.cfm

"QUICK TIP" TO SUPPORT THE YEAR OF LANGUAGES

- Add the Year of Languages Web address to your email signature.