

## Report on the Annual Delegate Assembly and Legislative Day

### DELEGATE ASSEMBLY

The Delegate Assembly of JNCL-NCLIS met over two half days: From Sunday afternoon, May 20 through the morning of Tuesday, May 22, with Legislative Day on May 21.

Delegates were privileged to hear presentations by a number of persons representing governmental agencies and programs with ties to world languages and international education. Extended briefings were given by government representatives from StarTALK, Title VI/Fulbright-Hays, the National Security Language Initiative for Youth, and the Language Flagship. Briefers covered the operations of the programs, perspectives on future directions, and potential threats to these programs.

The Delegates honored J. David Edwards for his 31 years of service as the Executive Director of JNCL-NCLIS. J. David will retire from his position as of June 30, 2012. He will long be remembered for his effective advocacy for the creation of FLAP.

The new Executive Director William P. Rivers was introduced; he will begin his term on July 1, 2012. Dr. Rivers was chosen in a national search and comes to the organization with substantial expertise in language research and policy. Most recently he served as the Chief Scientist of Integrated Training Solutions, Inc., in Rosslyn, Virginia, from 2007- 2012. As a government contractor, he also served as the Chief Linguist of the National Language Service Corps. Dr. Rivers has more than 15 years of research, development, policy and program evaluation, and management experience in culture and language for economic and national development.

The results of the elections for the 2012-2014 Officers were announced:

*President* – Dr. Ray Clifford, Brigham Young University

*Vice President* - Martha G. Abbott, American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages

*Secretary*: Dr. Antonia Schleicher, National Council of Less Commonly Taught Languages

*Treasurer*: Dr. Peter Krawutschke, American Translators Association

*At Large (2)*: Dr. Jayne Abrate, American Association of Teachers of French

Dr. Dan Davidson, American Councils for International Education

The outgoing President, Dr. Dan Davidson, extended special thanks to Jacque van Houton for her dedicated work as Chair of the Committee for the Future, thanked the members of the Committee for their work, with, and officially adjourned the Committee and its subcommittees.

He then thanked the outgoing officers: Vice President Dr. Emily Spinelli (American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese); Secretary Dr. Antonia Schleicher; Treasurer Jacque van Houten (National Council of State Supervisors of Foreign Language); and at-large members Dr. Ray Clifford and Dr. Jayne Abrate.

The Delegate Assembly ended with reports by the chairs of the Finance and Nominating Committees.

The Delegate Assembly adjourned at 12:00 PM on Tuesday, May 22, 2012.

## **LEGISLATIVE DAY**

On Legislative Day (Monday, May 21, 2012) the organizational representatives of JNCL-NCLIS met on Capitol Hill in the Cannon House Office Building. The morning of Legislative Day was devoted to presentations about the current status of world languages and international education in the 112th Congress. Recurring themes in the presentations were the recent cuts to foreign language programs and the difficulty finding support for foreign language funding in the challenging fiscal climate of the 112th Congress.

The focus for the advocacy of JNCL-NCLIS within the 112th Congress is the following:

**Restoration of FLAP (Foreign Language Assistance Program) (Department of Education)** : The Foreign Language Assistance Program was the only national program supporting foreign language education at the elementary and secondary levels. Funding for the FLAP program was eliminated in the final Fiscal Year 2012 Budget enacted by Congress. **OBJECTIVE:** Restore the funding to FLAP so it continues as an independent competitive grant program.

**Title VI of the Higher Education Act and Fulbright-Hays (Department of Education)** : Title VI of the Higher Education Act, Foreign Language and International Studies, and its overseas component, the Fulbright-Hays Program was recently reduced by 40% (\$50 million). For more than 50 years, these programs have helped students gain expertise in more than 200 foreign languages. **OBJECTIVE:** Restore the previous funding level of \$125.8 million to Title VI.

**Language Flagships Program (Department of Defense)** : Language Flagships is a national model for designing and implementing language programs at the K-12, undergraduate, and graduate levels. Currently the Language Flagships Program funds 24 centers of intensive language instruction at universities across the country and K-16 language programs that offer pathways to superior proficiency starting in the early grades. **OBJECTIVE:** Provide a minimal funding increase so that the Flagships Program can double in size and scope.

**STARTALK Program (National Security Agency)** : STARTALK runs K-16 summer

programs for language teachers and students. STARTALK's goal is to provide innovative language instruction, train language teachers, facilitate 21st century curriculum development, and create effective assessments. **OBJECTIVE:** Provide increased funding to expand the program.

**National Security Language Initiative for Youth** and the **Critical Language Scholarship (CLS) Program (Department of State)** : The National Security Language Initiative for Youth provides merit-based scholarships to students in grades 9-12 to learn critical need languages through overseas summer and academic-year immersion programs. The CLS Program provides scholarships for intensive overseas summer immersion language programs in thirteen critical languages for US undergraduate and graduate students. **OBJECTIVE:** Increase the funding for both programs in order to reach more students.

### **SENATE HEARING ON FOREIGN LANGUAGE CAPABILITIES**

The focal point of Legislative Day was the Senate Hearing on “A National Security Crisis: Foreign Language Capabilities in the Federal Government” before the Senate Committee on Homeland Security Governmental Affairs, Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management, Chaired by Senator Daniel K. Akaka (D-HI). Three panels of witnesses, organized by JNCL-NCLIS and several of its members, testified on the importance of language learning for national security and the global economy, the shortage of foreign language professionals in the military and government agencies, and the need to increase funding for the array of federal programs that constitute the vital pipeline for foreign language at all levels.

The first panel consisted of witnesses from the US Department of Education, the US Department of State, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the US Department of Defense. All of these witnesses spoke about the value of foreign language to their Departments and to the national interest. The representatives from the Department of Defense, the FBI, and the State Department spoke at length about the specific programs funded by their departments, and how those programs relate to the overall national need for highly skilled foreign language speakers.

The second panel provided a forum for the private and educational sectors to respond. Dr. Dan Davidson, President of JNCL-NCLIS, testified on behalf of the need to retain the programs outlined above. Dr. Allan Goodman, President of the Institute for International Education, spoke about the need for skilled speakers of foreign languages, based on his participation in the task force of the Council on Foreign Relations. Mr. Andrew Lawless, representing the Globalization and Localization Association, gave testimony on the size and activity of the language industry in the US, and gave extensive statistics on its contribution to the nation's economy. The language services industry generates more than \$15 billion per year in revenue, employs some 190,000 full time workers averaging \$81,000 year, and enables more than \$1.5 trillion of the US economy.

The third panel illustrated the pipeline of federal programs, with witnesses who had participated in foreign language programs from elementary school (FLAP), high school (National Language Security Initiative for Youth - NLSI-Y), and college (NSEP). The panel was in essence a living reminder of the pipeline, starting with Shauna Kaplan, a fifth-grade student from Fairfax County, VA; she spoke about her very positive experiences in her

Chinese classes and her desire to use Chinese in her career. Ms. Michelle Dressner and Mr. Jeffrey Wood, who studied in Russia and China, respectively, on the NSLI-Y program under the auspices of the American Councils for International Education (a long time JNCL-NCLIS member) testified about their experiences and how their perspectives have changed from their sojourns abroad. The panel concluded with testimony from Army Major Gregory Mitchell, who was a Boren Fellow in the mid 1990s and has continued to sue language throughout his career.

Witnesses at the hearing were:

#### Panel I

- **The Honorable Eduardo Ochoa**, Assistant Secretary for the Office of Postsecondary Education, U.S. Department of Education
- **The Honorable Linda Thomas-Greenfield**, Director General of the Foreign Service and Director of Human Resources, U.S. Department of State
- **Dr. Laura Junor**, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Personnel Readiness, U.S. Department of Defense
- **Ms. Tracey North**, Deputy Assistant Director, Intelligence Division, Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Department of Justice
- **Mr. Glenn Nordin**, Principal Foreign Language and Area Advisor, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence, U.S. Department of Defense (representing the Director of National Intelligence)

#### Panel II

- **Mr. Andrew Lawless**, Member of the Globalization and Localization Association and Chief Executive Officer, Dig-IT Strategies for Content Globalization
- **Dr. Allan Goodman**, Member of the Council on Foreign Relations' Task Force on U.S. Education Reform and National Security, and President, Institute for International Education
- **Dr. Dan Davidson**, President of American Councils for International Education and Elected President of the Joint National Committee for Languages and the National Council for Languages and International Studies

#### Panel III

- **Ms. Shauna Kaplan**, 5th Grade Student, Providence Elementary School, Fairfax County, Virginia
- **Ms. Paula Patrick**, Coordinator of World Languages, Fairfax County Public Schools
- **Ms. Michelle Dressner**, 2010 Participant, National Security Language Initiative for Youth Program
- **Mr. Jeffery Wood**, 2010 Participant, National Security Language Initiative for Youth Program
- **Major Gregory Mitchell**, US Army, 1995 Fellow for the David L. Boren Fellowship Program

**To view the entire Hearing or download testimony:**

Visit the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs website to view the video of the Hearing or to download the testimony of each of the twelve witnesses, visit <http://www.hsgac.senate.gov/subcommittees/oversight-of-government-management/hearings/a-national-security-crisis-foreign-language-capabilities-in-the-federal-government>.

There is a wealth of information on this site that can be used for advocacy for world languages.

### **RECEPTION HONORING SENATOR AKAKA**

Senator Daniel K. Akaka (D-HI) has been a long-time friend and supporter of foreign languages and international education. At the end of 2012, he will retire from the Senate seat that he has held since 1990. Following his last Senate Hearing (See Senate hearing on foreign language capabilities above), JNCL-NCLIS honored Senator Akaka with a reception in his honor held in the Hart Senate Office Building. He was presented with a book of tributes written by teachers and students who had participated in programs he had supported while a Senator.