

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT JNCL-NCLIS

Emily Spinelli
Executive Director, AATSP
Board of Directors, JNCL-NCLIS

What does JNCL-NCLIS stand for?

JNCL-NCLIS is the acronym for the Joint National Committee for Languages and the National Council for Languages and International Studies. While the two organizations are affiliated with each other, each has a separate focus.

What is JNCL?

The Joint National Committee for Languages was founded in 1976 as an informal coalition of eight national language associations. Since that time JNCL has grown considerably and is now composed of some 73 member organizations representing more than 300,000 language and international studies professionals. JNCL encompasses virtually all areas of the language profession: the major and less-commonly taught languages, (including classical languages, English, English as a Second Language, and American Sign Language) bilingual education, linguistics, translation and interpretation, research, and educational technology. JNCL functions as a point of reference for the planning of national language policies and the identification of national needs in this area. JNCL is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization affiliated with NCLIS.

What is NCLIS?

The National Council for Languages and International Studies was founded in 1988 with the goal of engaging in public advocacy on behalf of languages and international education. NCLIS works with Congress and the Executive Branch of the US Government in order to translate NCLIS priorities into legislative and policy initiatives. NCLIS also monitors budget and legislation to maintain and augment funding for language and international education programs. NCLIS is a 501(c)4 registered lobbying organization.

Is the AATSP MIWLA a member of JNCL-NCLIS?

The American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese was one of the founding members of JNCL-NCLIS and has been an active member of the organization for many years. As a significant contributor to JNCL-NCLIS, the AATSP has a seat on the Board of Directors. The AATSP Executive Director serves as the official representative of AATSP on the Board and at the Delegate Assembly and Legislative Day meetings in Washington, DC.

Where is JNCL-NCLIS located?

The JNCL-NCLIS Office is located in Washington, DC near the policymakers and governmental agencies related to the teaching and learning of foreign languages.

Who runs JNCL-NCLIS?

William P. Rivers, Ph.D. took over as the Executive Director of JNCL-NCLIS on July 1, 2012. Dr. Rivers 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.

How is JNCL-NCLIS governed?

JNCL-NCLIS is governed by a Board of Directors composed of fifteen representatives from among the member organizations. A President, Vice-President, and Treasurer of JNCL-NCLIS are elected from within the Board of Directors and serve as the Executive Committee of the organization.

Does JNCL-NCLIS hold a conference?

Representatives from the member organizations of JNCL-NCLIS meet each May in Washington, DC for a three-day conference. One day of the annual meeting is devoted to “Legislative Day” when attendees meet on Capitol Hill, learn about important pending legislation related to foreign language education and international studies and then visit the offices of senators and representatives to advocate on behalf of those bills. The remaining two days of the conference are entitled “Delegate Assembly” and time is devoted to further discussion of national policies, trends, and issues related to the profession.