

# **JNCL-NCLIS**

## **DELEGATE ASSEMBLY AND CONGRESSIONAL VISITS**

### **Washington, DC**

#### **May 9-11, 2013**

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As the Executive Director of the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese, I represent the AATSP at the JNCL-NCLIS Delegate Assembly held each May in Washington, DC. It is always a great pleasure to attend these meetings and advocate on behalf of world language education. (See the article “Frequently Asked Questions about JNCL-NCLIS” for additional information about this national organization.)

The report on the 2013 Delegate Assembly and Congressional Visits of JNCL-NCLIS follows.

## **DELEGATE ASSEMBLY**

The Delegate Assembly of JNCL-NCLIS met over three half days: the morning of Thursday, May 9, the afternoon of Friday, May 10, and the morning of Saturday, May 11.

Delegates were privileged to hear presentations by a number of persons representing governmental agencies and companies with ties to world languages and international education.

### **ACTIVITY REPORT OF JNCL-NCLIS**

Executive Director William P. Rivers provided an Activity Report outlining the accomplishments of the organization since his term began on July 1, 2012. Dr. Rivers reported that JNCL-NCLIS had completed the following:

- Revamped member and external communications
- Revised and rationalized the JNCL-NCLIS fee structure for members
- Began building support for languages and international education in Congress, the White House, and the Executive Branch
- Launched with the Globalization and Localization Association (GALA) a new effort to bring the language industry into the efforts to advocate for language in the nation’s Capital and with the public.

### **PANEL ON THE LANGUAGE INDUSTRY**

A panel composed of four CEOs of language-related firms provided information on *The Language Industry: What it is and What it Needs from the Educational Sector*. The key points emphasized by the panel members focused on the language industry / language enterprise.

- In the past language was not viewed as a job-getting skill except for the teaching profession
- Today language is viewed as a profession
- The language enterprise including translation, interpretation, globalization, and localization companies is growing 3-4 times as fast as the US economy
- \$1.5 trillion of US commerce is connected to the language industry
- Language educators need to train more students to work in the industry; graduates need high proficiency levels in the language and culture
- Language educators need to integrate a career perspective into the world language classroom so students understand the application of their language skills

### **ACTFL STATE ADVOCACY PROGRAM**

Marty Abbott, Executive Director of ACTFL, reported on the ACTFL State Advocacy program; representatives from North Carolina and Texas described the advocacy initiatives in their states and how it helps the national advocacy for world languages and international education.

### **DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR INTERNATIONAL AND FOREIGN LANGUAGE EDUCATION**

**Clay Pell**, the newly appointed Deputy Assistant Secretary for International and Foreign Language Education spoke to the JNCL-NCLIS delegates about his vision for the office. His office will concentrate of the following initiatives in the near future:

- Building bridges to link programs, educational levels, communities, and careers
- Inclusion of more students in language programs including underrepresented groups and community colleges
- Use of technology to connect peers and programs with cultures
- Support of less commonly taught languages
- Assessment to determine how well students are performing and how well programs are teaching

The Delegate Assembly ended with a discussion of the proposed new Bylaws for JNCL-NCLIS and reports by the chairs of the Finance and Nominating Committees.

## **CONGRESSIONAL VISITS**

Congressional visits were scheduled for the afternoon of Thursday, May 9 and the morning of Friday, May 10. Delegates meet with senators and representatives from the state and district where they vote. I visited the offices of the following five Senators and Representatives where I met with legislative aides and staff members:

Congressman Kerry Bentivolio (11<sup>th</sup> District, R-MI)

Congressman Gary Peters (14<sup>th</sup> District, D-MI)

Congressman Fred Upton (6<sup>th</sup> District, R-MI)

Senator Carl Levin (D-MI)

Senator Debbie Stabenow (D-MI)

Discussions during the visits focused on the JNCL-NCLIS legislative priorities (outlined below) and on “The Foreign Language Education Partnership Act,” a bill to be introduced by

Representative Rush Holt (NJ) and Senator Frank Lautenberg (NJ); this new bill will amend the Foreign Language Assistance Program (FLAP) to create a new K-12/higher education foreign language education partnership program. This legislation would provide incentives for creating model programs of articulated, sequenced foreign language instruction from K-12, with the goal of graduating high school students with an advanced level of proficiency.

## **JNCL-NCLIS LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES**

### **US Department of Education**

We welcome the President's FY2014 budget, and applaud the efforts to restore funding to the International and Foreign Language Education (IFLE) programs of the US Department of Education. We note, however, that the additional \$6.9m in funding requested for FY14, bringing the total request to \$80m, is still more than 40% below the FY10 level of \$125m for these vital programs. Moreover, significant and nationally important education research continues to go without funding, as several of the constituent programs of IFLE remain zeroed out. We request funding at the level in the President's budget.

JNCL-NCLIS is disappointed that the Foreign Language Assistance Program was not reinstated in the FY14 budget, and notes that the \$75m request for the Well Rounded Curriculum grants to State Education Agencies falls more than \$400m short of the six grant programs it would replace. JNCL-NCLIS opposes this request and continues to advocate for restoration of the full \$26m funding at the FY11 levels for the Foreign Language Assistance Program.

### **US Department of Defense**

JNCL-NCLIS notes that the \$58m request for the Defense Language and National Security Education Office is \$180,000 below the FY13 level, and more than \$9m below the FY12 level. JNCL-NCLIS is concerned that this reduction will adversely impact the ability of DLNSEO to prosecute its mission. JNCL-NCLIS notes that the shift to the Pacific in DoD priorities as well as the need to focus on other strategic missions as the US shifts away from Southwest Asia will drive additional language requirements for DoD, and that DoD needs to be resourced for this shift. We request robust funding for DLNSEO, the Defense Language Program budget, and the Consolidated Cryptologic Program budget.

### **Department of State**

JNCL-NCLIS is alarmed by the 6.6% reduction in the funding for international exchanges in the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs from FY13 levels, from **\$602m to \$562m**. International exchanges, including programs for US students to study abroad, are a bedrock component of our education in foreign languages, and are invaluable as a tool of informal diplomacy. JNCL-NCLIS calls for the full funding of the programs of the ECA at FY13 levels.