“America’s Languages Initiative”

America's Languages Portal: Government Language Programs Advancing Access and Equity

May 20, 2022
Origins

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

FEB 2017 REPORT

America’s Languages: Investing in Language Education for the 21st Century

2015 Commission on Language Learning
AMERICA’S LANGUAGES INITIATIVE

2015-2017 Launch
- AAAS Commission Report
- Working Group
- Advocacy
- ‘Call to Action’

2020-2021: Infrastructure
- Mellon Funding
- Website Development
- America’s Languages Fellows
- University Home

2021-22 America’s Languages Portal
- Public Vetting and Impact Assessment

- Website revision & public launch
- Assessment & Future Strategy Planning
- National Colloquium
• Rhetoric: All of “America’s Languages” & “America’s Learners”

• Mechanism:
  • America’s Languages Working Group & Fellows

• Platform:
  • The Portal (http://americaslanguages.org/)

• Public Assessment & Vetting: National Colloquium
NEW WEBSITE

America’s Languages Portal

Model Programs & Practices
Advancing Access & Equity in U.S. Language Education
America’s Languages Portal

Demonstration
LANGUAGE ENTERPRISE

• Academe
• Government
• Business
• NGOs
• Heritage Communities
• Indigenous Communities
How Should Government Language Programs Participate in America’s Languages?

Goals for this presentation:

• Ensure that you, as Government language leaders are aware of this new national effort.

• Engage in a discussion about how Government programs might participate in this effort.
How Should Government Language Programs Participate in America’s Languages?

As observers

• To support this effort to improve language education in the U.S.
• To evaluate the use of this pool of programs as a potential recruiting source for hiring or participation in Government programs.

As active participants

• To provide models for language programs as a part of the Portal – identify someone to help identify and evaluate programs for this purpose.
How to Proceed

• Do Government language programs fit in this effort?
• If so, how are they to be listed in the Portal?
• If so, how do we encourage programs to apply?
• If they do, would Government language experts serve as AL Fellows responsible for approving programs for the Portal?
• If they do, will the Portal programs serve as models for peers and for resource investment?
The Portal with Government Language Programs

How could we proceed?

• Selection of America’s Languages Fellows from the Government who know:
  • Where the language programs are in the USG: DoD, IC, Agriculture, DODEA, etc.?
  • Which, if any, are interested in recruiting learners in our list of historically underserved?
  • Which programs would want a place on the Portal? What’s in it for them?
THE US GOVERNMENT & AMERICA’S LANGUAGES

If you agree, our response:
• Add a new segment: US Government Language Programs
• Work with a US Government team to:
  • modify the Application Form
  • designate new ALFs
  • Invite applications

Questions?
Comments?
• WITHOUT ACCESS THERE IS NO DIVERSITY OR INCLUSION

• WITHOUT DIVERSITY & INCLUSION, THERE IS NO BILINGUAL USG Community