# Increase Learner Engagement and Program Retention with Motivating Language Credentials



#### Linda L. Egnatz, Executive Director, Global Seal of Biliteracy



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# What is a "Seal of Biliteracy" ?

It is recognition awarded to certify language skills in two or more languages.

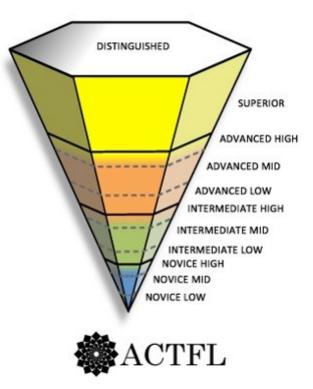
Currently, 38 states and DC offer a "State Seal of Biliteracy" to graduating seniors in public high schools that meet state criteria.



### Why get a "Seal of Biliteracy" ?

A "Seal of Biliteracy" is a way to provide an employer or academic institution PROOF of your level of language skills in TWO languages. The LEVEL is determined <u>via</u> <u>testing</u> aligned to the ACTFL proficiency scale.

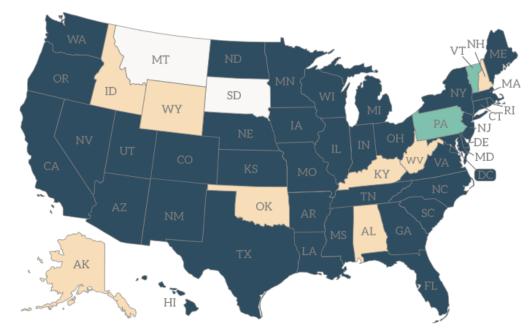
In the United States, one of those languages is English, be it your first or second language.



# The Seal of Biliteracy: Pathway & Target

State Laws Regarding the Seal of Biliteracy

Approved State Seal Under Consideration Early Stages No Seal of Biliteracy, Yet!



**Blue: 38 States and DC have a State Seal program** Yellow or Green: under consideration or early stages **Green: Seals Issued: 38 States, DC & Mexico** Yellow: Applications in Process

MT

WY

CO

NM

WA

NV

ID

UT

ΑZ

OR

CA

Where has the Global Seal of Biliteracy been issued?

IA

MO

AR

MS

Where is the Global Seal? GSB Awards Issued

GSB Applications

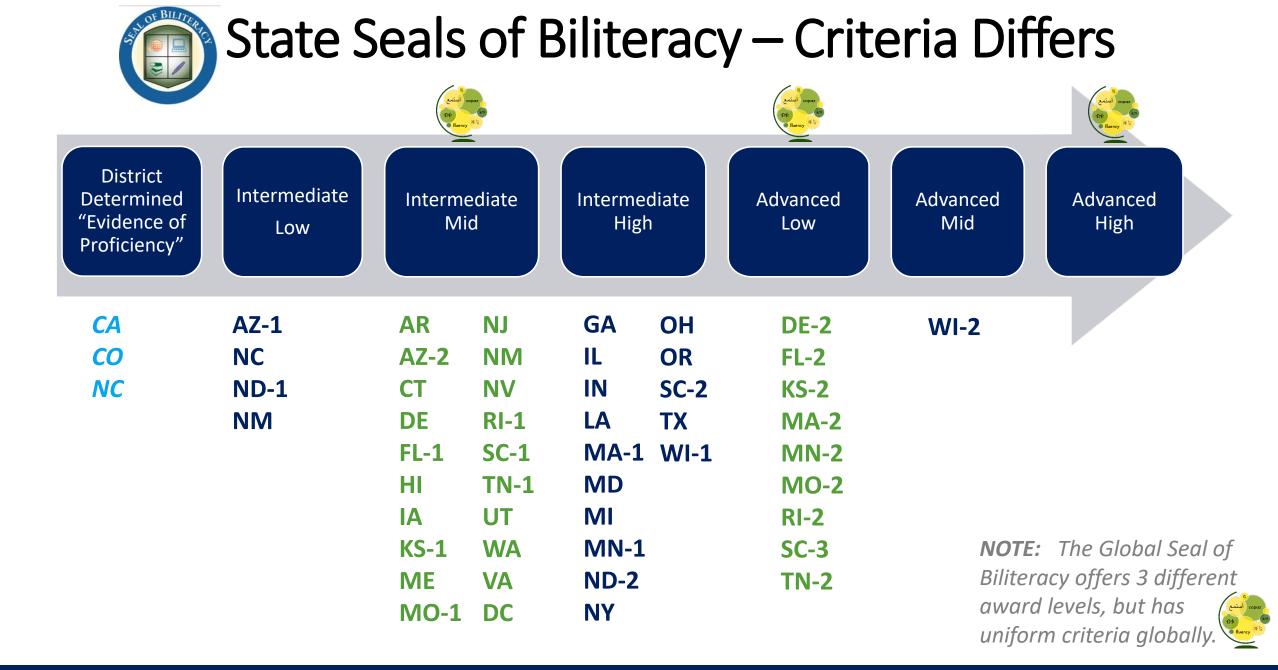
ND

SD

NE

KS

OK



# Why the Global Seal of Biliteracy?

✓ Expands Seal of Biliteracy to those not included in state Seals

Universal proficiency criteria – 3 level Pathway

- Functional Fluency (Intermediate Mid)
- Working Fluency (Advanced Low)
- Professional Fluency (Advanced High)
- Externally validated testing
- Provides a transcript credential to document language skills for work purposes on resume, CV
- Independent Board of Advisors
- ✓ Available to high school, college and adult learners



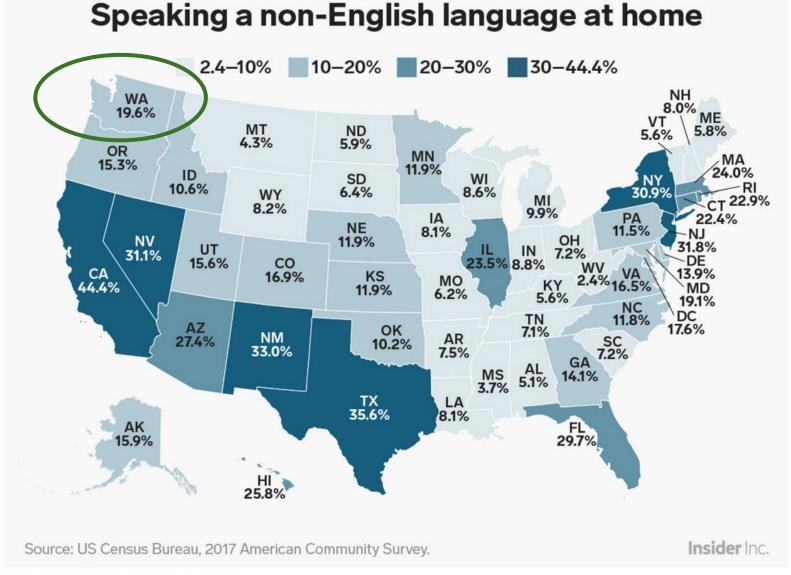




### Heritage Languages are Reaping the Benefits

- Brings heritage communities together ABSA Example
- Creates a tool to build retention, program visibility and efficacy
- Provides a reason to be counted and the numbers are surprising us all!
- They may still be "less commonly taught" but these languages are being "more commonly tested"





Invest in the opportunity for heritage language learners to maintain a natal gift

Business Insider/Andy Kiersz, data from Census Bureau



# What do we learn from the **RESEARCH**?



Received: 2 January 2018 Accepted: 18 February 2018 DOI: 10.1111/flan.12336

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

WILEY 🏶 ACTFL

The Seal of Biliteracy: Successes and challenges to implementation

Kristin J. Davin<sup>1</sup><sup>[6]</sup> | Amy J. Heineke<sup>2</sup> | Linda Egnatz<sup>3</sup>

#### The Challenge

As the Seal of Biliteracy (SoBL) gains momentum, it has the potential to change the landscape of world language education in the United States. Through case studies of three schools, this article explores the following questions: What successes are schools experiencing as they implement the SoBL? What challenges are schools facing in implementation?

#### 9 Focus Groups -- 215 Seniors English Dominant & Linguistically Diverse

• Both groups:

- equally valued bilingualism
- Believed Seal recipients would have advantage
- Lacked knowledge about Seal of Biliteracy
  - Felt they were not informed about program
  - Didn't know about or understand tests
  - Were unaware of college-credit opportunity

## The Seal of Biliteracy: Pathway & Target



#### Success: Motivating for Students

The extent to which you feel each item is a benefit of the Seal of Biliteracy?

	Strongly					
	Disagree		Agree			
Future employment opportunities	4%	5% 14%	23%	54%		
Future career use	5%	3% 14%	25%	54%		
Additional seal on transcript	7%	3% 18%	25%	48%		
College credit	6%	3% 16%	28%	46%		
Ability to travel abroad	8%	7% 17%	25%	43%		
Appreciation of diversity	7%	7% 20%	26%	41%		
Ability to speak to others	9%	12%22%	26%	31%		
Stronger analytical skills	14%	12%29%	22%	24%		
Ability to speak to family	27%	17%22%	12%	22%		
Higher ACT/SAT	34%	15%28%	11%	12%		
Better grades	31%	21%26%	12%	11%		

"Seal of Biliteracy Implementation: Benefits & Challenges, Foreign Language Annals, Davin, Egnatz & Heineke Foreign Language Annals 51(2) · April 2018

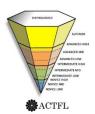
# How do I get a "Seal of Biliteracy"?



# I have to take a test?

WORLD LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT Can be candidate's first/heritage or second language						
APPROVED TESTS & ASSESSMENTS	FUNCTIONAL FLUENCY AWARD WORKING FLUENCY AWARD					
Avant STAMP 4S	5 or higher on all 4 parts (Intermediate-Mid)	7 or higher on all 4 parts (Advanced-Low)				
Avant WorldSpeak	5 or higher on both parts (Intermediate-Mid)	7 or higher on both parts (Advanced-Low)				
Avant Arabic Proficiency Test (APT)	5 or higher on all 4 parts (Advanced - High)	7 or higher on all 4 parts (Advanced - High)				
College Board Advanced Placement (AP) Exam	3	5				
International Baccalaureate (Higher Level)	4	6				
AAPPL Form B administered by Language Testing International	l4 or higher on all 4 parts (Intermediate - Mid)	A-1 or higher on all 4 parts (Advanced - Low)				
Language Testing International ALIRA (Latin)	l4 or higher (Intermediate - Mid)	A-1 or higher (Advanced - Low)				
Language Testing International OPI or OPIc and WPT	l4 or higher on both tests (Intermediate - Mid)	A-1 or higher on both tests (Advanced - Low)				
ALTA Speaking/Listening and Writing Assessment	ILR Score of 1+ or higher	ILR Score of 2 or higher				

https://theglobalseal.com/qualified-tests



THE GLOBAL SEAL - HERITAGE LANGUAGE SYMPOSIUM 2020 UW - L. EGNATZ



# How do you test?

- 1. Select a qualifying test (by language, by level).
- 2. Follow the Rules. You need a neutral proctoring test environment. Many tests are now deliverable online and test results can be available in as little as two weeks.

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\* Global Seal of Biliteracy accepts test scores up to 12 months old.

#### How do I find a test for my

### Language? https://theglobalseal.com/languages



#### The Global Seal of Biliteracy Languages

The Global Seal of Biliteracy is proud to offer a pathway to receive a credential in over 100 languages. Click on a language below to see how to test for the Global Seal of Biliteracy.

Albanian	Finnish	Latin	Slovene
Amharic	French	Latvian	Somali Maay Maay
Arabic	Fulani	Lithuanian	Somali Maxaa
Armenian	Ga	Macedonian	Sorani
Azerbajani (Azeri)	Georgian	Malay	Spanish
Bambara	German	Malayalam	Swahili
Belarusian	Greek (Modern)	Marshallese	Swedish
Bengali	Gujarati	Mongolian	Taiwanese
Bosnian	Haitian-Creole	Navajo	Tajik
Bulgarian	Hausa	Nepali	Tamil
Burmese	Hebrew	Norwegian	Telugu
Cambodian	Hindi	Oromo	Thai
Cantonese	Hmong	Pashto	Tibetan
Catalan	Hungarian	Persian Farsi	Tigrinya
Chin	lbo	Polish	Turkish
Chinese (Mandarin)	Icelandic	Portuguese (Brazilian)	Turkmen
Chuukese	llocano	Portuguese (European)	Twi (Akan)
Croatian	Indonesian	Punjabi (Eastern)	Ukrainian
Czech	Italian	Punjabi (Western)	Urdu
Danish	Jamaican Patois	Romanian	Uzbek
Dari	Japanese	Russian	Vietnamese
Dutch	Kazakh	Samoan	Welsh
English (ESL)	Kinyarwanda	Serbian	Wolof
Estonian	Korean	Serbo-Croatian	Yup'ik
Fante (Akan)	Kurdish Kurmanji	Sesotho	Yoruba
Farsi	Kurdish Sorani	Sinhala	
Filipino (Tagalog)	Laotian	Slovak	

#### Earn your Global Seal of Biliteracy in Vietnamese

The Global Seal of Biliteracy is committed to expanding the opportunity to recognize bilingualism and is proud to offer a pathway to receive a credential in over 100 languages, including Vietnamese. The Global Seal of Biliteracy credential offers a uniform standard to recognize language skills through external testing at levels that are meaningful for academic and workplace environments.

The Global Seal of Biliteracy is proof of your language proficiency in two languages. The program, which meets or exceeds the requirements of all existing U.S. state Seal programs, is separate and can serve all language learners of any age who meet the criteria regardless of how or where they acquired their language skills. Language credentials provide increased opportunities to multiple careers. Whether you're a doctor, law enforcement officer or a student the Global Seal of Biliteracy is for you!

#### LEARN MORE

#### GLOBAL SEAL OF BILITERACY ACCEPTED TESTS IN VIETNAMESE

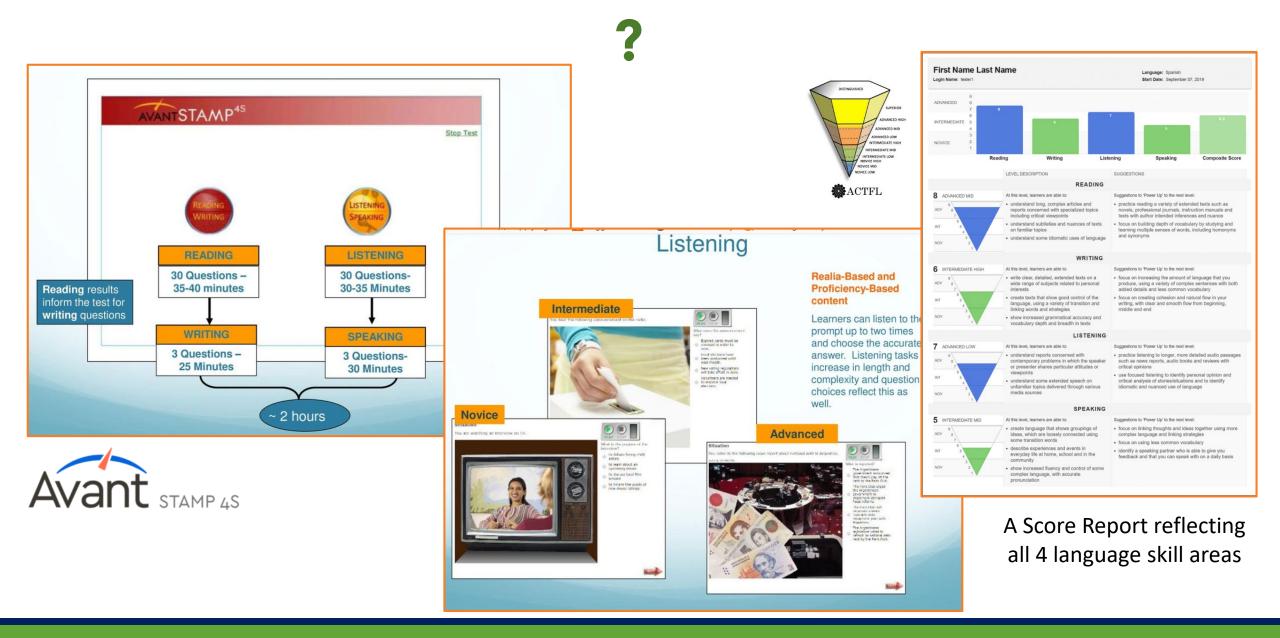
Click on the logo below to learn more about each test.



#### ... over 100 languages

AL - HERITAGE LANGUAGE SYMPOSIUM 2020 UW - L. EGNATZ

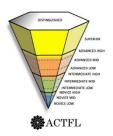
#### What is a Proficiency test like



### What do Proficiency tests measure?

#### Comprehension of Language (what you understand)

Listening Comprehension



Reading Comprehension

Production of Language (what you can create on your own) Writing (sentences, a paragraph, a short essay, an email) Speaking (talking about a topic or having a conversation)

Quantity & Quality of Vocabulary, Length & Organization & Complexity, Ease & Clarity of Expression

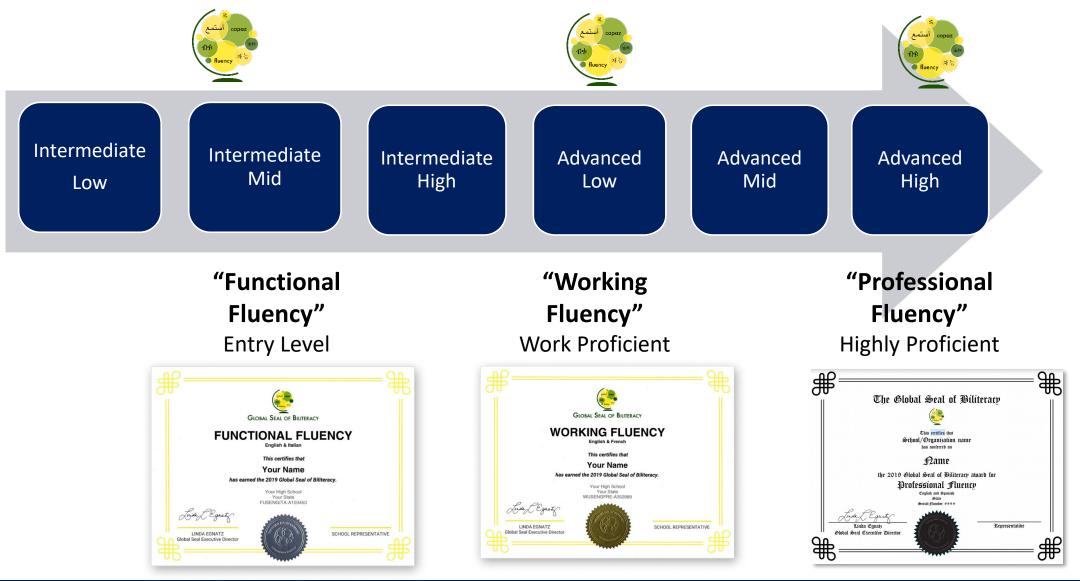
Always use your best and most complete language — Support your Ideas THE GLOBAL SEAL - HERITAGE LANGUAGE SYMPOSIUM 2020 UW - L. EGNATZ

### What do Proficiency test scores show?

Reading	Scaled Reading Score	Writing	Listening	Scaled Listening Score	Speaking	Start Time (UTC)	Length	Report
9	792	7	7	651	7	Thursday Aug, 08 2019 06:00 PM	158 min.	View
9	792	8	9	777	8	Wednesday Aug, 07 2019 01:03 PM	180+ min.	View
8	700	6	7	666	6	Thursday Aug, 08 2019 06:01 PM	180+ min.	View
8	735	5	9	777	7	Wednesday Aug, 07 2019 01:11 PM	180+ min.	View
8	735	7	7	666	7	Wednesday Aug, 07 2019 01:05 PM	167 min.	View

Everyone has strengths & weaknesses. When you reach the criteria in all 4 skills, 1 or more skills will probably be at or approaching the next award level . . . so keep practicing and then LEVEL UP to our next award level.

## Creating a Pathway of Awards



### Why is knowing your level important?





#### Your level describes what you CAN DO.

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The American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL), Pearson LLC and Language Testing International, commissioned Ipsos Public Affairs to conduct a survey of 1,200 U.S. employers. The resulting 2019 report, <u>Making</u> Languages Our Business: Addressing Foreign Language Demand Among U.S. Employers

- 9 out of 10 U.S. employers rely on employees with language skills other than English.
- 56% say their foreign language demand will increase in the next 5 years.
- 47% state a need for language skills exclusively for the domestic market.
- 1 in 3 language-dependent U.S. employers report a language skills gap.
- 1 in 4 U.S. employers lost business due to a lack of language skills.





*"Having the seal to show to employers can help significantly in getting a job."* 

"Having the Global Seal of Biliteracy gives me something tangible to notice like okay this is what level I'm at. Then maybe after my study abroad program, I can test myself and see just how much I've increased..."

According to Ana Barajas, University of Oregon
Global Seal "Working Fluency" in English & French
Global Seal "Working Fluency" in English & Italian



# Challenges for Community Heritage Language Programs



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Bulgarian School of Seattle awardees, The Association of Bulgarian Schools in America (ABSA)

- Few community language programs currently assess student performance or growth via external testing (for benchmarks or capstone)
- Heritage language tests may not be provided by public schools; this often disenfranchises heritage language users from State Seal recognition
- Heritage language schools are excluded from most State Seals unless they find public school partners and/or assist with testing their students



# Solutions

for Community Heritage Language Programs



- External testing is flexible and provides validation of language learning. This leads to respect, retention and the possibility of recognition.
- Participate in the Global Seal of Biliteracy program which is open to all learners (even adults in your cmmunity), at any age in any type of language program.

## What makes this game worth playing?



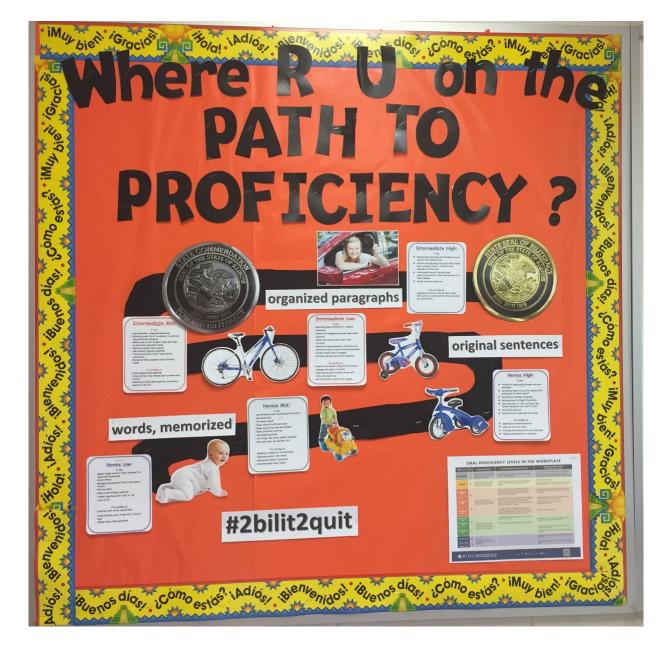
# **#LanguageCredentials** Turn the Trophy into a Tool.

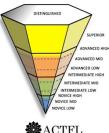
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# **PRO-ficiency Goals**



Moves students from a "Seat Time" mentality to "I'm here to acquire language mentality."





# Why are there Multiple Levels ?

#### **ORAL PROFICIENCY LEVELS IN THE WORKPLACE**

ACTFL		ACTFL Level	ILR	Language Functions	Corresponding Professions/Positions*	Examples of Who Is Likely to Function at This Level
		Distinguished	5 4	Ability to tailor language to specific audience, persuade, negotiate. Deal with nuance and subtlety.	Foreign Service: Diplomat, Contract Negotiator, International Specialist, Intelligence Specialist	<ul> <li>Highly articulate, professionally specialized native speakers</li> <li>Language learners with extended (17 years) and current professional and/or educational experience in the target culture</li> </ul>
		Superior	3	Discuss topics extensively, support opinions, hypothesize. Deal with linguistically unfamiliar situations.	University Language Professor, Financial Services Marketing Consultant, Foreign Area Officer, Lawyer, Judge, Court Interpreter	• Welledwated eative speakers Physician, Human Resources Communications Consultant,
114	ROFESSIONAL LUENCY (A-H)	Advanced High	2+		Physician, Human Resources Communications Consultant, Financial Services Senior Consultant, Quality Assurance Specialist, Marketing Manager, Financial Advisor, Broker, Military Lingvist, Translation Officer	Financial Services Senior Consultant, Quality Assurance Specialist, Marketing Manager, Financial Advisor, Broker, Military Linguist, Translation Officer
		Advanced		Narrate and describe in past, present, and future. Deal effectively	Banking and Investment Services Customer Service Representative, Fraud Specialist, Account Executive, Medical Interpreter, Patient Advocate, Court Stenographer, Court Interpreter, Human	<ul> <li>Heritage speakers, informal learners, non-academic learners who have significant contact with language</li> </ul>
		Mid		with an unanticipated complication.	Resources Benefits Specialist, Technical Service Agent, Collections Representative, Estimating Coordinator	K–12 Language Teacher, Nurse, Social Worker, Claims Processor,
11\$	ORKING LUENCY (A-L)	Advanced Low	2		K–12 Language Teacher, Nurse, Social Worker, Claims Processor, Police Officer, Maintenance Administrator, Billing Clerk, Legal Secretary, Legal Receptionist, 911 Dispatcher, Consumer Products Customer Services Representative, Retail Services Personnel	Police Officer, Maintenance Administrator, Billing Clerk, Legal Secretary, Legal Receptionist, 911 Dispatcher, Consumer Products Customer Services Representative, Retail Services Personnel
		Intermediate High			Fire Fighter, Utilities Installer, Auto Inspector, Aviation Personnel, Missionary, Tour Guide	
		Intermediate Mid	1+	Create with language, initiate, maintain, and bring to a close simple conversations by asking and responding to simple questions.	Cashier, Sales Clerk (highly predictable contexts), Receptionist	Fire Fighter, Utilities Installer, Auto Inspector, Aviation Personnel, Missionary, Tour Guide
X		Intermediate Low	1	responding to simple questions.		Cashier, Sales Clerk (highly predictable contexts), Receptionist
		Novice High	0+	Communicate minimally with		in Grades K-6
Poster ownloadable at		Novice Mid Novice Low	0	formulaic and rote utterances, lists, and phrases.		<ul> <li>Language learners following 2 years of high school language study</li> </ul>
www.actfl.org		*The levels of proficienc	y associate	d with each of the positions above are minimal leve	ls of oral proficiency based on task analyses. The minimal levels were determined by s	ubject matter experts from companies and agencies who use ACTFL proficiency tests.

\*The levels of proficiency associated with each of the positions above are minimal levels of oral proficiency based on task analyses. The minimal levels were determined by subject matter experts from companies and agencies who use ACTFL proficiency tests.



## **University Students**

News Sports Entertainment Life Opinion Business



**UO students prove their proficiency to earn biliteracy seal** 

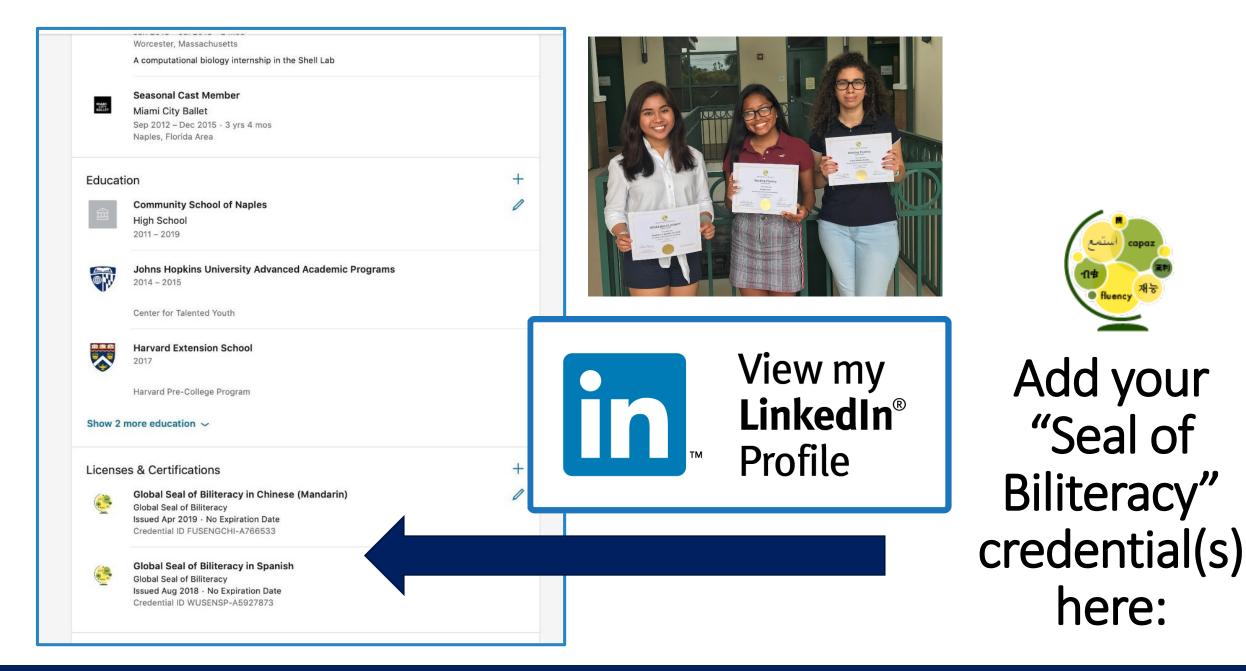
232 University of Oregon students earned their Global Seal language credentials, including Ana who was recognized in French and Italian. May 2019



UO senior Ana Cecelia Barajas is part of the first class of recipients of the Global Seal of Biliteracy, which shows proficiency in speaking another language. Barajas earned an advanced-level seal for Italian and French in June 2019.







THE GLOBAL SEAL - HERITAGE LANGUAGE SYMPOSIUM 2020 UW - L. EGNATZ

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### The Seal of Biliteracy: Benefits to Students

**"It gives you a motive to finish.** Before I was like why am I in this class?

"Seal of Biliteracy Implementation: Benefits & Challenges Foreign Language Annals, Davin, Egnatz & Heineke Foreign Language Annals 51(2) · April 2018



Michele Aoki presents the Global Seal of Biliteracy Working Fluency in Japanese to Georgia Gray, Seattle Public Schools - 2019

- Credentials matter
  - Early Admission
  - College Applications
  - Job Resumés / CV

Help students
 articulate their skills

### Scholarship Potential



Austin Martin (OH) Global Seal of Biliteracy in Spanish "Functional Fluency" awardee - 2018

#### "Functional Fluency" (I-M) Global Seal earns \$3,750 Scholarship

Austin Martin (2019) received a certificate from the Global Seal of Biliteracy program. He reported that he entered the Global Seal information into his resume on Naviance, and he contacted the **Office of Admissions at Michigan State** to reevaluate his application and documents. Austin immediately received in his Ohio Spartan Grant an increase from the original \$11,250 to \$15,000 because of his biliteracy recognition.

-- Archbishop Moeller HS Magazine



# High School Transcripts & College Credit for Seals of Biliteracy



In some states a State Seal of Biliteracy counts as OFFICIAL High School Language Credits on the high school transcript.

In 5 states, a state Seal of
 Biliteracy receives COLLEGE
 CREDIT at state universities.





NDA EGNATZ

# Student Driven Engagement and Results

"When students say . . . I know the program is working."

o"Señora, How is my speaking score? Will I have the Global Seal?"

- $\circ~$  "I added my Global Seal Credentials to Linked In"
- "My college asked for my Global Seal information."
- "Can I have my STAMP scores from last year so I can work on my scores and get the global Seal?"



Parthena Draggett, Chair Department of World Languages and Cultures Community School of Naples Co-Author of TEMAS (Vista Higher Learning)





ALBUQUE equity & inclusion ROUF

ONE

"The New Mexico standard is Intermediate-Low (Level 4), but lots of our students score higher than that," she says. "The Global Seal of Functional Fluency (Intermediate-Mid) and Working Fluency (Advanced-Low) are great credentials for kids that can save them money in college tuition or give them a leg up in the job market."

> Jessica Villalobos, Senior Director Albuquerque Public Schools Office of Language and Cultural Equity

2018-19 New Mexico State Seal

- 286 State Seal (IL)
- All Spanish

Fall 2019 Global Seal

- 181 Functional Fluency (IM)
- Spanish, German
- 7 Working Fluency (AL)
- Spanish, German

Spring 2020 Global Seal

- 191 Functional Fluency (IM)
- Spanish, German, French, Japanese
- 38 Working Fluency (AL)
- Spanish, German
- Includes 10.8% of Functional Fluency awardees who "Leveled Up"

11%





# The Polish example



With Chicago Consul General Piotr Janecki

- Collaborators [Marzanna Owinski (Piast Institute, MI), the Consulate of the Republic of Poland in Chicago, the Polish Teachers Association and Avant Assessment ] worked together to create the Polish STAMP 4S Test so that an estimated 30,000 students of Polish could earn a Seal of Biliteracy.
- These students may now be able to access either their State Seal, the Global Seal of Biliteracy or both!



### Polish School participation in the Global Seal of Biliteracy

- Helena Modrzejewska Polish School in Yorba Linda, CA:
  - 5 students Functional Fluency award
  - 1 student Working Fluency Award



- Adam Mickiewicz Polish School in Minneapolis, MN:
  - 1 student Working Fluency Award



- Fr. J. Dąbrowski School in Orchard Lake, MI:
  - 7 students Functional Fluency Award



- John Paul II School in Hamtramck, MI:
  - 1 student Functional Fluency Award



## What One Japanese Heritage School said...

*"This award is the FIRST official award that Orange Coast Gakuen, Japanese heritage language school in Southern California, will present to our students.* This award will motivate our students to continue learning Japanese language and culture at our school on Saturday, which is challenging when our students have many events in their families and schools on weekend. I am sure the students who receive the award and their family will be very proud of their effort of learning Japanese for so many years, from Kindergarten to high school levels. I am proud of them, too.



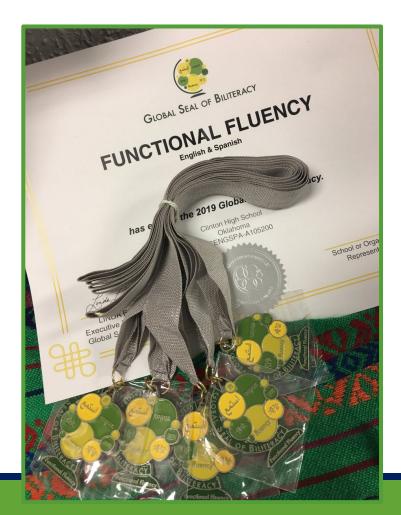
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I am so happy that you have established the award that communitybased heritage language schools can present to their students."

> Masako Douglas, Professor Emeritus of Japanese Department of Asian and Asian American Studies, California State University Long Beach



### **MAXIMIZING OPPORTUNITY** Benefiting Community Heritage Language Programs



- $\checkmark\,$  Create additional BUZZ and EXCITEMENT for students and parents
- ✓ Add VALUE to language programs with a universal meta-credential
- ✓ Gave schools and association PRESS and MEDIA VISIBILITY
- ✓ Provides students in program with **COLLEGE-CREDIT OPTION**
- ✓ VERTICALLY ALIGNS language programs and <u>MOTIVATES</u> students to excel
- ✓ Testing provides FORMATIVE FEEDACK to schools, teachers and parents
- ✓ Make ACHIEVEMENT the focal point of a School Event or Conference

A good program needs GREAT PROMOTION

#### School website

- Posters and Announcements:
  - Program Benefits
  - □ When / How to be Tested
  - Celebrations
  - "Poster-Kid Successes"

#### Celebrations – Award Programs

- Parents
- Administrators
- Community
- Media and PRESS

#### Social Media

# FREE RESOURCES ONLINE www.theglobalseal.com



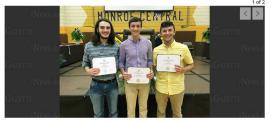




←	Global Sea 773 Tweets	l of Biliteracy		Follow
	$\Diamond$	174	♡ 10	≏
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High achievement for six biliterate Monroe Central students

By Beth Moland, For The News-Gazette Aug 1, 2019



Six Monroe Central student have accomplished an educational feat that few their age can claim. David McDonald, Jeremiah Deffendall, Coen Formanek, Meghan Gillespie, Jacob Deffendall and Samantha Roderick have earned the Seal of Billteracy, which makes them proficient in the English language and Spanish.

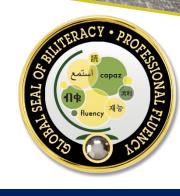
Many students take language classes in high school, but those earning this honor become skilled through countless hours of work and testing to be able to read, write, listen and speak fluently in each language.

"Only about two present of traditional four-year second language learners in the U. S. achieve this," said MC Spanish teacher. Jenna Gonzalez de la Vega. "Forty percent of our four-year Spanish students earned it over the past two years. eSaleR

Submit Your News

### The Seal of Biliteracy: Celebrations!





WORKING FLUENCY English & French This certifies that Your Name

# The Bulgarian example

#### Providing a Seal of Biliteracy opportunity has resulted in the formation of ABSA: The Association of Bulgarian Schools in America



- 49 Bulgarian Schools have come together to form an association ABSA
- The group is working to encourage Bulgarian speakers to work together to support students who want a Seal of Biliteracy
- The Bulgarian Ambassador, Mr. Tihomir Stortchev, has taken an active role in supporting Bulgarian language learners in the U.S., as has the Chicago Consul General,





The Association of Bulgarian Schools in America (ABSA)



Share the Seal of Biliteracy opportunity with a language learner you know.



# Increase Learner Engagement and Program Retention with Motivating Language Credentials



#### Linda L. Egnatz, Executive Director, Global Seal of Biliteracy



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