Connecting the World through Language and Culture

The Key to Enhancing Career Opportunities
Our goals:

• Promote the value of language and cross-cultural proficiency in today’s workforce

• Foster global literacy through interdisciplinary connections

• Increase competitiveness of our students by increasing their awareness of global perspectives

• Encourage interdisciplinary collaboration among faculty of foreign language, business, and other professional schools
Are we preparing students for the future?
The students that sit in today’s classroom will have jobs that have not yet been created.
What skills do 21st century students need to be successful in the future?
THE PARTNERSHIP FOR 21st CENTURY SKILLS
Skills of the 21st Century Learner

What do students need to be successful?

– Mastery of core subjects (including World Languages!)

– The 4 C’s – Critical Thinking, Communication, Collaboration, and Creativity

Students also need to be able to:

- Understand and address global issues using 21st century skills.
- Learn from and work collaboratively with individuals representing diverse cultures, religions and lifestyles.
- Understand other nations and cultures, including the use of non-English languages.
Namaste – One teen’s look at Nepal

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nl5sA_ACfsFM
How can cultural knowledge help students in their future careers?

They will:

• Feel more comfortable with people
• Understand business environment
• Reduce chance for misunderstanding
• Gain respect and credibility
• Work on multinational teams
• Enhance negotiation success
As World Language teachers, How do we prepare students for the global world in which they will live?
ACTFL STANDARDS FOR FOREIGN LANGUAGE LEARNING
Preparing for the 21st Century
The 5 C’s

Communication: Communicate in Languages Other Than English

Cultures: Gain Knowledge and Understanding of Other Cultures

Connections: Connect with Other Disciplines and Acquire Information

Comparisons: Develop Insight into the Nature Of Language and Culture

Communities: Participate in Multilingual Communities at Home & Around the World
We have to connect language and culture in a way that is meaningful to the students we teach.
ACTFL Student Video

Should Have Taken A Foreign Language Class

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5G1L-YpTXWs
How can we motivate students and make language learning relevant?

- Highlight statistics and surveys that show the importance of languages in the workplace
- Show examples of interesting language and cultural blunders in which students can relate
- Showcase examples of the use of language and cultural knowledge in business and in everyday life
How can we motivate students and make language learning relevant?

- Illustrate interesting and fun aspects of other cultures
- Stress connections between the U.S. and target language countries
- Demonstrate the importance of planning ahead and being proactive in finding opportunities for career path development
How can you become advocates for world languages and global competency?

• Promote upper level language classes
• Communicate and collaborate with other academic areas.
• Invite bilingual professionals into the classroom
• Collaborate with school counselors to promote languages.
• **Encourage standards based teaching that focuses on the 21st century skills students need.**
How can we support you?  
(What next?)

- Facilitate communication and collaboration with academies and other departments tied to professional careers (business, health, sciences)

- Provide access to bilingual professionals through our “Global Careers” podcasts. (Under construction)

- Provide practical training on teaching languages for specific purposes

- Supply information and real examples of foreign language use in the workplace for classroom use
Join our communities for support and resources:

Noble website:

- http://nble.org

Global workplace skills ning:

- http://globalworkplaceskills.ning.com
- A community of educators who advocate Language and Culture Skills for the 21st Century Workplace

• A community that brings together professionals across disciplines to collaborate and exchange ideas with the goal of building programs and curriculum that will prepare our students to be global leaders.