



## California State University Systemwide Priority Projects for FY 2008

### Strategic Language Initiative (SLI)

Recent global crises have highlighted the critical need for strategic and diplomatic expertise in major world languages, as well as less spoken languages of global “hot spots.” The deployment of military forces has underlined the essential role of linguists able to communicate with multilingual populations and provide translation, interpretation and cultural competencies in the field, in strategic planning and in intelligence. In addition, the U.S. Departments of Defense and State have called for a collaborative federal and academic effort to fill critical national foreign language shortfalls. The large heritage language communities in metropolitan areas like southern California represent a largely untapped resource for helping to meet these needs.

No single university has the resources to meet this rapidly changing need for global and regional expertise in a wide range of world languages. National efforts have concentrated on developing flagship programs in languages such as Chinese, Arabic, Russian, and Korean, and creating demonstration materials for offering languages online. These efforts must be expanded to increase fluency exponentially in critical professions. Collectively the southern California campuses of the CSU system are collaborating to provide an innovative approach to intensive language learning that can serve as a model for other metropolitan consortia. These universities serve the most linguistically diverse populations in the country, with large heritage communities near different campuses, and collectively enroll over 100,000 students each year. Initial participating campuses are **CSU Long Beach, CSU Dominguez Hills, CSU Fullerton, CSU Los Angeles, CSU Northridge and CSU San Bernardino.**

The CSU collaborative has created a program that can integrate language learning with professional majors and career opportunities, and serve as a national model for:

- Training modules in critical world languages for professional majors such as political science, computer science, international studies, business, and engineering
- Language instruction designed to bring students to high levels of proficiency (2+ - 3, depending on the difficulty of the language) through intensive summer, in-country immersion programs and use of language in academic majors

#### CSU Campuses

Bakersfield • Channel Islands • Chico • Dominguez Hills • East Bay • Fresno • Fullerton • Humboldt • Long Beach • Los Angeles • Maritime Academy • Monterey Bay  
Northridge • Pomona • Sacramento • San Bernardino • San Diego • San Francisco • San José • San Luis Obispo • San Marcos • Sonoma • Stanislaus

- Graduating a substantial body of students with the fluency to communicate professionally in critical world languages in local and international areas of high need
- Curriculum and instructional delivery designed for urban, commuter campuses with large heritage language student bodies
- Multi-campus collaborations in language offerings, creating practical means of making less commonly taught languages accessible to students on different campuses throughout a large metropolitan region
- Development of online teaching and testing materials

In its initial years, the consortium is offering a model that will include intensive instruction for heritage speakers and students at the intermediate level in Arabic, Chinese, Farsi and Korean, with the following model:

- Intensive residential summer program on a host campus in Arabic, Chinese, and Farsi, or non-residential program in Korean (beginning Summer, 2007)
- Academic year follow-up on the home campus, including online and weekend instruction, academic study in major subjects in faculty tutorials (2007-2008)
- Summer intensive immersion study abroad, or local study and internship in government, business or a heritage community (beginning in 2008)
- Competency testing and evaluation, career guidance and optional cumulative project

The funding CSU is requesting (\$3 million from the Defense-wide O&M, Budget Activity 3, Training and Recruiting account) will help SLI address many DOD language goals. Participating CSU campuses have also been working with the National Security Agency and the Director of National Intelligence to assist with unique language instruction. Funding SLI will help provide the necessary foundation for the more specialized language instruction envisioned by our nation's defense and intelligence agencies.

Additional information:

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