

TIRF TODAY

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Promoting research and best practices to improve the use of English in the emerging global knowledge economy of the 21st century

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Discovering ACTFL's Month of Language Celebration



Editor's note: In this piece, Toni Theisen, President of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL), shares the story behind Discover

Languages® Month. Although ACTFL is a US-based organization, it offers many resources that are helpful to language teachers everywhere.

Discover Languages® is the national campaign developed by ACTFL to raise awareness about the cognitive, academic, social, cultural, and economic benefits that language learning provides. In addition to year-round advocacy, ACTFL and its members focus particular attention on speaking up for language learning during **Discover Languages®** Month every February, during which a variety of special activities are organized.

The need to ambitiously promote the value of language learning is very clear. Such learning offers benefits that will serve students throughout their lives. We live, collaborate, and compete in a world of diverse cultures and multiple perspectives – a world where competence in more than one language is essential to communicating, understanding, and working together.

Every day, American organizations and individuals are conducting business, volunteering, and playing with (and within) countries around the world. In order to live, work, and play together, we all must understand one another's cultural and social backgrounds. The ability to communicate with and learn from people who do not speak English is the key to becoming an active citizen in a global community.

Language learning also promotes cognitive, analytical, and communication skills that carry over into virtually every academic, career, and life skill area. The smartest US-based businesses understand that by investing in world language education programs today, they are ensuring great dividends in the future. The demand for proficient multilingual employees, both at home and abroad, is opening the door to broader career opportunities.

The **Discover Languages® ...Discover the World!** campaign is designed to (1) launch media attention and public awareness; (2) promote and help develop a national policy on foreign language education; (3) underscore the benefits and importance of language learning; (4) encourage and support research on all aspects of language learning; (5) help establish scholarships for future language educators; (6) promote curriculum change by collaborating with national, state, and local educators, as well as government leaders; (7) focus on recruit-

ing and retaining a highly qualified language teaching force; (8) build professional unity on national language issues; and (9) unite various constituencies to encourage advocacy.

For seven years, the **Discover Languages®** campaign has encouraged teachers, students, and parents to promote language learning via polls, art contests, booths at county fairs, marching in parades, and radio broadcasts. Students have advocated for more language learning opportunities by writing to their state representatives, visiting their governors' offices, and encouraging state legislatures to proclaim February as "Discover Languages" Month. The list goes on with the many creative ways language learning has been promoted throughout the years of this campaign. There are many more resources and creative ideas located on the [ACTFL website](#).

One of the favorite activities of the Discover Languages campaign is the [ACTFL student video contest](#). Every year, the quality, creativity, and use of technological effects become more intriguing. Students of all ages take pride in collaborating and creating with peers for a purpose. As stated in the [ACTFL 21st-century skills map](#), students respond to new and diverse perspectives as they use language in imaginative and original ways to make useful contributions. The video contest lets them leave their mark on the importance of language learning in a very personalized way.

Discover Languages® Month is the ideal time to celebrate language learning. It is an experience that has the potential for students to think critically through play, to authentically discover their passion for language learning, and to manifest this play and passion into a personal, powerful, and purposeful message that they willingly share and hope many will see.

Whether the vehicle used to promote languages is the latest high-tech model or a treasured classic, and whether students fuel it with stories and songs or with rap and rhyme, what really matters is that the journey keeps language learning in the forefront. February is the perfect opportunity to support the language teaching profession. Please join us in celebrating **Discover Languages®** Month!

Click on the following links to connect with ACTFL on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), or [YouTube](#).



Click and scroll down to learn more about this image.

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ETS's TOEFL Grants & Awards Application Deadline is February 15th



Pearson's External Research Program Application Deadline is February 28th

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Kathleen Bailey,
Chair of TIRF

The European Journal of Applied Linguistics and TEFL

The European Journal of Applied Linguistics and TEFL

Editor's note: In this piece, Dr. Andrzej Cirocki, Professor of Applied Linguistics at Anglia Ruskin University in the UK, shares information about a new journal in the field of applied linguistics.

The European Journal of Applied Linguistics and TEFL (EJATEFL) is a new, refereed scholarly publication which aims to disseminate information, knowl-

edge, and expertise in the broad area of applied linguistics in Europe and beyond. A strong preference is given to contributions relating to second language acquisition, foreign language pedagogy, teacher training, and classroom innovation. It is a biannual periodical, printed in May and November.

EJATEFL will produce a **special issue** on research, pedagogy, and practice involving new and mobile technologies in teaching languages. The following sub-themes serve as a guideline, but can be expanded: blended teaching and learning; mo-

bile devices (e.g., tablets, digital music players, laptops, and smartphones) in language teaching; social networking media (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, and Google+) in language teaching; student response systems (e.g., clickers and software programs on students' laptops); learning management systems (e.g., Blackboard or Moodle) in teaching languages; wikis, blogs, and other user-generated interactive tools; emerging concepts like "The Flipped Classroom;" Skype and other chat facilities in the classroom; and language learning software and self-authored systems such as LessonLAMS. The deadline for submissions is August 1, 2013.

Manuscripts should be 5,000 to 7,000 words to be considered for publication. The articles submitted to EJATEFL should not have been published elsewhere, nor should they be submitted simultaneously to another journal. For information about article submissions, please [click here](#). Inquiries regarding subscriptions should be directed towards lin-com.europa@t-online.de.

Eighth International Conference on Language Teacher Education

The National Capital Language Resource Center, in conjunction with The George Washington University's Graduate School of Education & Human Development and The Center for Advanced Research on Language Acquisition, will be hosting the Eighth International Conference on Language Teacher Education: *Preparing Language Teacher Educators to Meet National and Global Needs*.

Designed for practitioners and researchers involved in the preparation and ongoing professional development of language teachers, the conference will address the education of teachers of all languages, at all instructional and institutional levels, and in many national and international contexts in which such training takes place. These contexts include English as a second or foreign language instruction; foreign/modern/world language teach-

ing; bilingual education; immersion education; indigenous and minority language education; and the teaching of less commonly taught languages. The conference aims to address four major themes: (1) the knowledge base of language teacher education; (2) social, cultural, and political contexts of language teacher education; (3) collaborations in language teacher education; and (4) practices in language teacher education.

The conference will be held from May 30 to June 1, 2013 at the Foggy Bottom campus of The George Washington University in the Cloyd Heck Marvin Center. Although the call for proposals deadline has already passed, more information about types of sessions, explanation of themes, and more can be found by [clicking here](#).

IJIELTR: Special Issue on Listening Pedagogy & Assessment

The International Journal of Innovation in ELT and Research (IJIELTR), a new journal in the field of ELT, plans to publish a special issue featuring research and pedagogical articles on the teaching of listening and its assessment in September 2014. This volume is expected to contribute to our growing understanding of the importance of listening in the ESL/EFL curriculum and learners' language and communication skills development. These papers will highlight new research continuing in established traditions of listening research. They will also explore promising areas of listening research which can point to future studies.

Authors interested in contributing to this volume should first submit an abstract to the Chair of the guest editorial team. All abstracts will be reviewed by the guest editors, and full papers will be reviewed by the guest editors and other invited reviewers before the final selection is made. The submission deadline date is March 31, 2013.

For more information about the IJIELTR and the journal's special issue, please [click here](#). If you have any inquiries about the special issue, please contact the Chair of the guest editorial team, Christine C. M. Goh, by writing to her at christine.goh@nie.edu.sg.

Report from the Chair — The Year Ahead

Happy New Year! 2013 promises to be a busy year for TIRF.

The first big TIRF event will be the publication of our newest commissioned study. The topic is online language teacher education. The paper will be launched with a presentation at the TESOL Convention in Dallas, Texas this coming March. Denise Murray, the author, will be our lead presenter.

In April, there will be a TIRF panel presentation at the IATEFL Conference in Liverpool, England. TIRF Trustees Mike Milanovic, Michael Carrier, David Nunan, Mitch Legutke, and I will share our perspectives on challenges and solutions related to English and the 21st-century workforce. Trustee Jun Liu will be a key-note speaker at the conference as well.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who supported TIRF last year and to encourage you to stay in touch through 2013. I appreciate the support of our volunteer Trustees, as well as everyone who has contributed to TIRF through a donation or by sending resources for our website.

Kathi Bailey