

Center of Excellence in Foreign Language Instruction

Furman University and USC-Spartanburg

Abstract

The Center of Excellence in Foreign Language Instruction has two goals:

1. Improvement of the current status of foreign language instruction in South Carolina
2. Development of excellence in teaching foreign languages as we approach the 21st century

Based on the major issues and problems in foreign language as identified by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages, six priorities will serve as the unifying structure for the programs provided through the Center of Excellence in Foreign Language Instruction. These priorities are as follows:

1. Public awareness in the profession: Outreach to influentials
2. Pre-service and inservice staff development
3. Using the new technologies in the foreign language classroom
4. Integrating culture and global education into the foreign language curriculum
5. Foreign language instruction in elementary schools
6. Review, expand, and initiate research in foreign language education

As proposed, the Center of Excellence in Foreign Language Instruction will give foreign languages a more prominent role in education in South Carolina. The primary function of the Center will be to enhance the current status of foreign language education by offering a program to meet the needs of pre-service and inservice teachers so that they may improve their competence in and knowledge of current trends in methodology, technology, culture and language use. The Center will also address future needs in foreign language instruction by preparing additional certified teachers, by introducing foreign language instruction in elementary schools, and by examining courses offered through the Center for their possible inclusion in present foreign language teacher certification programs.

South Carolina can ill-afford to maintain the status quo in foreign language instruction. Furman University and the University of South Carolina at Spartanburg are committed to assuming leadership in the promotion of excellence in foreign language instruction in South Carolina.