



# Multilingual Michigan = Pure Opportunity

## Michigan is...

- + Among the top 3 states, with Detroit the #1 city, for **foreign direct investment (FDI)**
- + Home to more than 800,000 **bilingual** speakers of English AND an additional language
- + Proud of our many **Native American** communities, but Ojibwe languages are endangered → NALRC
- **Losing language programs** in K-12 and higher ed – recently Aquinas, Albion, Central Michigan U
- Facing a drastic **teacher shortage** in English as a second language (ESL) and world languages
- + Using Title VI funds to support **strategic languages** through the National LCTL Resource Center (MSU)
- + A “Top Producer” of HEA **Fulbright** winners (MSU)



MI World Language Association  
[www.miwla.org](http://www.miwla.org)

## Seal of Biliteracy

Recognizes *Both* Languages as Assets

- In all 50 states as of 2024
- Established in 2018 for MI K12 but no state or federal funds for assessments
- Earned by 1,880 MI students in 44 languages last year



See [Michigan.gov](http://Michigan.gov) > Seal of Biliteracy or [www.sealofbiliteracy.com/faq](http://www.sealofbiliteracy.com/faq)

## Making Languages Our Business

[www.LanguageConnectsFoundation.org](http://www.LanguageConnectsFoundation.org) > Language & Careers

High demand for multilingual employees in **healthcare, trade, construction, technology**, etc. 97% of employers need language skills **domestically** and 73% **internally** ~ 25% have **lost** business due to **skills gap** (ACTFL-IPSOS Survey, 2019)

### Top Export Markets for MI



[www.exportmi.org/target](http://www.exportmi.org/target)

## JNCL-NCLIS Michigan Delegates

**Daryl Biallas** | Executive Director of Central States Languages for All and Spanish educator

**Anthony Grubbs, PhD** | Department Chair, Romance and Classical Studies | Michigan State University

**Seth Killian** | Lingco Learning Labs Co-Founder and CEO

**Julie Foss, PhD** | Saginaw Valley State University

**Amanda Lanier, PhD** | Michigan State University + National LCTL Resource Center (Team Lead)

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## PRIORITY REQUESTS

Details for each item of legislation on attached one-pagers

### Support reintroduction of proposals for:

- World LEAP Act – primary FL programs (DoE)
- BEST Act | Bilingual Education Seal and Teaching → for Seal of Biliteracy
- Sen. Paul Simon Study Abroad Act
- Language Education Data Enhancement Act and AREA

### Funding appropriation for existing programs:

- WLARA | World Language Advancement and Readiness Grants (DoD funded)
- NALRC | Native American Language Resource Center
- Title III funding for Dual Language and Immersion
- Title VI HEA/Fulbright-Hays support for Language Resource Centers and overseas educational programs

### Join the America’s Languages Caucus

Along with: Rep. Jen Kiggans (R-VA), Rep. Jimmy Panetta (D-CA), Sen. Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV), Sen. Brian Schatz (D-HI)

Program Development → Credentialing  
↑ Data Collection → Global Experience ↓