CARLA’s 20th:
Improving Language Learning & Teaching

Elaine Tarone
Director
Why should Americans know more than one language (English plus ...)?

1. Improved cognition and thinking skills

2. More creativity

3. Economic competitiveness
1. Improved Cognition

Research shows adding a second language improves:

• the brain’s executive control and working memory (Bialstok 2001)

“If you have two languages and you use them regularly, ... every time you speak, both languages pop up and the [brain’s] executive control system has to sort through everything and attend to what’s relevant in the moment. ... bilinguals use that system more, and ... regular use ... makes that system more efficient.” (Bialystok, 2013)
1. Improved Cognition

- clarity of thinking in decision-making (less bias) (Keysar et al, 2011)

- (for older learners) delay of onset of dementia and Alzheimer’s (Bialystok et al, 2004, 2007)
2. More creativity

• Research also finds that multilinguals have higher levels of creativity (Kharkhurin 2012)
3. Economic competitiveness: “The world is flat”
3. Economic competitiveness

The case of Utah

• Utah created more tech jobs than any other state

• Their secret economic weapon: Utah has more foreign language speakers than any other state

• Utah govt. funds a huge dual language immersion program, guided by a Foreign Language Roadmap

• Result: Tech and security companies are relocating to Utah.

“Utah’s Silicon Slopes” (Henn, NPR, 3/12/12)
• **THE MISSION**: To improve U.S. national capacity to teach and learn world languages effectively ... for learners of all ages, K-16+

• **THE MEANS**: By providing excellent resources and professional development for second language educators and administrators
CARLA—THEN

• CARLA began in 1993 with Title VI Language Resource Center funding from the U.S. Department of Education

• Skeletal staff, housed in a broom closet
CARLA—NOW

• One of 15 USDE Title VI Language Resource Centers (LRCs)

• National leader in second language education

• Huge impact
Improving language teaching and learning for all, K-12 and up

- Through models of content-based language instruction, including language immersion

- Schooling conducted through the medium of a foreign language as well as through English
Minnesota Mandarin Immersion Collaborative
Green Languages at UMN
Conference on Cultures & Languages Across the Curriculum

The University of Minnesota Center for International Business Education and Research (CIBER) supports the integration of language and culture study in the business curriculum. We serve students, faculty, and professionals in gaining critical skills for practice around the world.

Faculty and K-16 Teachers

- Content-Based Language Instruction
  - Chinese, Korean, Japanese, Spanish, and Arabic

Business Professionals

- Business Language Course Development
  - Spanish, Chinese, and French

Students

- Language and Culture for Education Abroad
  - Language and culture of foreign language and business
  - Business Language Scholarships

Chinese Language and Culture for Professionals

- Business Language for Professionals
  - Half-day Chinese language and culture orientation

K-12 Language for Business and Policy

- K-12 Language for Business and Policy
  - Business Language Conference

Business Language Conference

- Business Language Conference
  - April conference on business language teaching and research

What is CIBER?

- A resource for businesses, educators, researchers, and students
Partnering throughout the State

Where would language teaching and learning be without CARLA’s work? CARLA has been the “go to” resource for language teachers not only in Minnesota but nationwide for the last 20 years!

Ursula Lentz, Minnesota Dept. of Education
Developing quality language teachers
Professional Development Participants 1993-2013

- Summer Institutes
- International Conferences
- Workshops
- Cohort Programs
- CARLA Presentations

I can’t even begin to count the number of people that have been impacted by the outreach of the CARLA institutes, the LTE conferences, the brown-bag presentations, and research and teaching collaboration that has occurred over the last 20 years. I know that the attendees of these events have come away with a renewed sense of their ability to teach language learners.

— Karen Lybeck, Minnesota State University-Mankato
Reaching out to the nation

• More than 14,000 teachers have participated in CARLA programs and events – 94% from the US ...
Reaching out the World

... and 6% (840) from 67 countries around the world!
Sharing our resources with the world

In one year alone, CARLA’s 8,500 web pages had:

- 1 million visits
- 644,000 downloads

(LRC Report 2012)
CARLA Website Downloads

- Assessment (VAC, VIB and MLPA) 19%
- Immersion (ACIE Archives) 17%
- CoBaLTT (Lessons/Units and Modules) 16%
- Articulation (Proficiency Tasks/Units) 14%
- Conference Documents 8%
- Maximizing Study Abroad 7%
- CARLA Working Papers 6%
- Less Commonly Taught Languages 4%
- Learner Language 3%
- Strategies (Research Papers) 3%
- Institutes 1%
- Speech Acts 1%
- Culture and Language Learning 1%
- Technology 1%
Virtual Assessment Center
Where Korean is Taught
Learner Language: Tools for Teachers

- Online multimedia activities invite teachers to understand and use research on the learning of:
  - Chinese
  - Japanese
  - Korean
  - Persian

- PDF downloads: 23,277 last year
Technology & Second Language Learning

- Tech Integration Modules
- Extensive Wiki Site
  - Information
  - Demonstration
  - Practice
- Online courses on how to teach language online
Enhancing language and culture in study abroad
Preparing the next generation

• CARLA Graduate Assistantships

Dr. Julie Sykes
Now Director, CASL
(our sister LRC in Oregon)

"CARLA was instrumental to my professional development as a graduate student and continues to provide valuable resources for language educators around the country. I will always be grateful for the resources provided as well as the support and resources entrusted to me during my graduate work."
Preparing the next generation

• CARLA Fellowships

“... 54% of [UMN graduate student] respondents reported that a lack of funding prevented them from attending a conference.” (Survey by Council of Grad Students, UMN, 10/11/13)

• Make a pledge to the CARLA Fellows Fund!
External Funding

CARLA has brought in over $7.4 million dollars to the University of Minnesota.
It takes a village

CARLA has enjoyed funding support of many units across campus, including:

- College of Education and Human Development
- College of Liberal Arts
- General College
- Global Programs and Strategy Alliance
- Office of the Vice President for Research
- System Academic Administration Office
Imagine a world in which..

• All students had the opportunity learn two or three languages in addition to mastering their native language...

• Communication and understanding were as valued as getting a high score on a standardized test...

• Language teachers were treated like the heroes they are!
Together, we can make it happen!
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