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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

[Senate Hearing Addresses Benefits of Overseas Immersion for the Work Force of the Future](#)

(PRWeb)

Senior government officials and leaders in international education were convened on Monday to testify before the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia, chaired by Hawaii Senator Daniel Akaka. The purpose of the hearing, entitled "A National Security Crisis: Foreign Language Capabilities in the Federal Government," was to examine the short-fall in personnel prepared to fill language-designated positions within the U.S. Departments of Justice, Defense, State and other agencies, as well as learn about the effects of federal programs designed to increase the number of Americans skilled in priority world languages and regional knowledge.

NATIONAL

[House authorizes Department of Defense's new spy service](#)

(The Hill)...Pete Kasperowicz

The House approved the Intelligence Authorization Act, H.R. 5743, in a 386-28 vote. The bill authorizes 2013 spending at the CIA, Defense Intelligence Agency, National Security Agency, FBI and other intelligence agencies. Within the Defense Department, it also authorizes the Defense Clandestine Service, which is meant to broaden DOD's intelligence-gathering abilities beyond countries where U.S. forces are engaged, and allow for some cooperation with the CIA. Rep. Sam Farr (D-Calif.), stating that those assigned to lead the development of training, tools and methodologies in support of cybersecurity should be reminded to include foreign language and culture in the development process.

[More Pre-K Programs Needed for Dual-Language Learners](#)

(Education Week)...Lesli A. Maxwell

[A new report](#) from the Center for American Progress that urges policymakers at levels—especially the feds—to maximize on the

investments being made in public preschool programs to serve disadvantaged children. Specifically, the early childhood education experts whose ideas are captured in the report call for building "more federal, state, and local capacity to meet the increasing demand for culturally and linguistically appropriate services for children who are dual-language learners."

[What Is the Social Value of Learning a New Language?](#)

(Forbes)...Gregg Fairbrothers & Catalina Gorla

In thinking about [Success and Social Value](#), we are exploring organizations that aim for a social benefit in addition to a financial return. We are most interested in *what is success in creating social value*. Helene Rassias-Miles is the daughter of John Rassias and Executive Director of [Dartmouth College's Rassias Center for World Languages and](#)



[Cultures](#). Over the past 50 years the Rassias Method® has been used at Dartmouth College and other

universities, and most recently with [Worldfund](#), a [New York](#)-based NGO with offices in Mexico and Brazil, teaching English to thousands of students and adults.

[3 including one Indian built power glove that translates sign language into spoken words](#)

(The Economic Times)

Three Cornell University engineering students including one from India, Ranjay Krishna, have built a power glove that translates [sign language gestures](#) into spoken words making a step closer for better communication between those who understand the language and those who don't. An improved version of the product, which was originally developed in five weeks with a budget of mere \$75 dollars, could be used for operations such as driving cars by flexing fingers as opposed to using a steering wheel, the Indian innovator Krishna told ET.

INTERNATIONAL

[To Learn Arabic, You Have to Walk the Walk](#)

(The Chronicle of Higher Education)...Marielle R. Risse

I have been asked several times at my university in Oman to do a brief "cultural introduction" to native speakers of English from North America and Europe who have come to improve their Arabic. I start by mentioning that there is a large difference between learning how to speak a language and learning how to navigate a culture. Then I segue into a discussion of how to dress appropriately. My watchwords are: no knees or elbows on display in public. Usually, at this point, several of the listeners look angry, disbelieving and/or bored, especially the men wearing tight, casual T-shirts and women in spaghetti-strap underwear shirts. I say what I have to say and leave, wondering why people bother learning Arabic if they are so clearly uninterested in aligning themselves with cultural expectations. Most Arab women around the Persian Gulf leave their houses in large, black, shapeless cloaks with scarves that cover all or some of their hair. Most Arab men here appear in public in spotless, ironed *dishdashas*. As Christina Paulston, a sociologist who has written about language education, says, it is "possible to become bilingual without becoming bicultural."

BYU-based Arabic language program receives grant

(The Universe)...Kristen Christensen
The National Middle East Language Resource Center at Brigham Young University, in collaboration with the Utah Arabic K-12 Teacher Association, has been awarded a \$25,000 grant by the Qatar Foundation International. "This grant will make it possible to create an Arabic K-12 curriculum that will be made available online for teachers nationwide," Maggie Nassif, NMELRC administrative director, said in a press release.