

Ohio's Students See Career Opportunities

Molly Toth
Current Student
Youngstown State University

"My decision to study French has acted as a catalyst for a period of intellectual growth in my life. Studying a foreign language brings a new dimension to one's understanding of one's native tongue, as well as the workings of the globalized world. Because language is the center of culture, the acquisition of another language can serve as a prime example of the kind of interdisciplinary learning emphasized by universities today."

Taylor Sorensen
Union Scioto High School
Current Student
University of Pennsylvania

"Spanish and Italian study skills have helped me in other classes at the university level. Studying another language and its culture has definitely expanded my horizons. I plan to go to medical school after graduating from college, and I know my language experience will benefit me greatly."

Meeting the Need In the Global Workplace

Erin Kelly
Current Student
Ohio University

"Foreign languages allow students to broaden their view of the world around them. It lets us see that there is more to the world than the small town we call home."

Rachel Dixon
Current Nursing Major
Xavier University

"High school Spanish class has really helped to prepare me for college courses. It will open up a lot more doors in the future in the nursing profession."



Contact

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Ohio Foreign Language Association



Ohio's Language Programs Lead to Successful Careers

Dr. Mark W. Himmelein
President, OFLA 2007-08

Language Proficiency

Businesses rely on the ability of employees to adapt to changing environments, and nothing teaches you more about foreign cultures than learning a language! In fact, the ability to communicate includes more than just knowing how and when to use the right words - you also need to learn to be culturally literate in our global environment. Many years ago, working in an international setting meant being employed by a large American firm in a foreign country. Nowadays, you are far more likely to be working for a small or medium sized company right here in the US which is perhaps owned by a foreign firm or which might be doing considerable business with other countries across the globe. Employees who are culturally and linguistically competent are in demand - use any search engine and you'll find thousands of job listings in which foreign language skills are a must!

Need More Information?

Here are two sites that will help you learn more about foreign languages and careers.

www.ofla-online.org

www.actfl.org

Adaptability

Cultural Awareness

What is also great about learning a language is that the skills are transferable - that is, if you have learned one language, you can use these same skills to develop a proficiency in another language and culture.

Moreover, employers know that those individuals who have learned a foreign language are more capable of working with diverse populations and in an international setting.

Dr. Mark W. Himmelein,
President, OFLA

Ariella Brown

BA Business and German
2006 Mount Union College

Along with her business studies, Ariella studied German and a bit of Spanish. After graduation, she was awarded a Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange Scholarship which provided her with tuition and housing at a German university for 6 months. Once she completed her studies, she had a paid internship with the German subsidiary of Louis Vuitton. Since returning to the US, she has worked in the fashion industry.

Technical Knowledge

Communication Skills

Chris Wright

BS Communications
1986 Ohio University

Chris was an On Camera Correspondent for the TV program, "European Journal." He currently manages his own video production company in Cologne, Germany.

Jennifer Lewton Yates

BA Classics
2003 Ohio Wesleyan University

Jennifer is a teaching fellow at Brown University in Providence, RI. She is completing her PH.D. in Classics. Her studies included a summer at the American School of Classical Studies at Athens, Greece.

Matt Swadener

BA Japanese and Spanish
1997 University of Findlay

Matt is employed by Nikko Citigroup LTD, Operations Department in the Securities Reference Data Control Section in Tokyo, Japan.

Productivity