



Tarheel Highlights

- ▶ **Tarheels Abroad:** For the third year in a row, UNC-Chapel Hill had a higher percentage of undergraduates studying abroad than any other U.S. public research university. In 2003-2004 (most recent year for which data is available) 1,362 UNC-Chapel Hill undergraduates studied in other countries for academic credit. To read more: [click here](#).
- ▶ **Second Language a Basic Skill:** "To be bilingual in this global age is going to be – if it isn't already – a basic skill," said DPI Associate Superintendent Elsie Leak, speaking to the NC Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee on February 8.

National Notes

- ▶ **Americans Want Global Education:** A national survey of more than 1,000 Americans shows overwhelming support for global preparedness and cultural awareness for students. Among the findings:
 - 94% understand that part of preparing for a more global society is learning about cultures from around the world.
 - 90% believe it's important to ensure that future generations have the skills and knowledge needed for a more interconnected world.
 - 92% agree that knowledge of foreign languages enhances job competitiveness for future generations.To read more about the NAFSA Association of International Educators survey, [click here](#).
- ▶ **Foreign Relations Chair Pushes Student Exchange:** U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar, Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, has introduced legislation to develop a U.S.-Poland Parliamentary Youth Exchange Program. Senator Lugar said:

This Is What It Looks Like: Global Education at Work in NC



Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools (WSFCS) boasts the longest continuing foreign language program in the state. For its commitment to K-12 foreign language for more than 40 years, WSFCS has been designated North Carolina's first "Global Communicators School District." The award, given jointly by the State Board of Education and North Carolina in the World, was presented to School Board Chair Donny C. Lambeth and Superintendent Donald Martin on

January 24. "It's our job to prepare young people for the future – a future that is becoming more global every day," Superintendent Martin said. "Our elementary foreign language program provides students with a multicultural experience that helps them understand and interact positively with our growing non-English speaking population."

Ashley Elementary Magnet School offers a dual immersion Spanish program that teaches the curriculum in both English and Spanish, beginning in kindergarten. Research shows that this method results in an exceptional degree of language proficiency for all students in both languages by the time students complete fifth grade.

All students in the district begin learning either French or Spanish in third grade or sooner, and have the option of continuing that language through middle and high school. German is taught at one middle school and Japanese and Latin are offered at several high schools in addition to Spanish and French. Plans are underway to add Mandarin Chinese next fall.

More information: David Williams, North Carolina in the World, 919-417-1777 or williamd@kenan-flagler.unc.edu.

Photo Caption: (L-R) Superintendent Don Martin, Ashley Elementary School Principal Brenda Butler, North Carolina in the World's David Williams, Foreign Language Program Specialist Leslie Baldwin and School Board Chair Donny Lambeth celebrate WSFCS' designation as the state's first "Global Communicators School District."

Progress Report: North Carolina in the World

Advancing Public Policy

The NC Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee devoted a session to global education on February 8. Leaders in the state's international education movement used the opportunity to talk about achievements and challenges in preparing students for 21st century success.

- Center for International Understanding Executive Director Millie Ravenel asked the committee to help make global education a policy priority for North Carolina. "We need you to say to us, loud and clear, 'Move on this!' 'Get it

"Student exchange programs do more than benefit individual scholars and advance human knowledge. Such programs expand ties between nations, improve international commerce, encourage cooperative solutions to global problems, prevent war, and give participants a chance to develop a sense of global service and responsibility." (SOURCE: Congressional Quarterly, February 6, 2006)



Business Perspective

"If we want to attract businesses to North Carolina, we now have to prove that our workers are capable of competing globally. This means having not only technical skills, but also the ability to interact with and understand people from different parts of the world."

**Charles A. Hayes, Pres. & CEO
Research Triangle
Regional Partnership**

Business Profile

The Research Triangle Regional Partnership is a public-private partnership of economic development agencies working collaboratively with the NC Department of Commerce to market the 13-county Research Triangle Region of North Carolina worldwide for the economic benefit of its communities.

done!' Without a clear, articulated vision from the legislature and State Board of Education, we will not make the progress we need to make."

- DPI Associate Superintendent Elsie Leak released data showing:
 - Fewer North Carolina elementary students are enrolled in foreign language classes today than a decade ago.
 - 306 North Carolina students are enrolled in Chinese language classes.
 - 26 are enrolled in Russian language classes.
 - No students are enrolled in Arabic language classes.

Legislative Response: Rep. Richard Glazier said: "I think we need to act and we need to act this year." Sen. Kay Hagan said: "We're ready to move."

DPI and other international education stakeholders will answer legislators' requests to provide a budget for moving global education forward so that more students have the knowledge, skills and perspectives needed to thrive in the global economy.

Linking Higher Ed & K-12

The UNC Board of Governors endorsed the importance of North Carolina in the World in January when it re-affirmed Internationalization as a key point in its Long-Range Plan for 2006-2011.

The plan includes "Internationalization: Promote an international perspective throughout the University community to prepare citizens to become leaders in a multi-ethnic and global society."

One supporting strategy is "Through North Carolina in the World and other programs, support the public schools in expanding international understanding among teachers and students."

International School Partnerships

The North Carolina State Board of Education approved a resolution declaring the intention of developing an educational relationship with Jiangsu Province, China, just north of Shanghai, which will result in school-to-school partnerships and other cooperative activities. The resolution, signed February 2, affirmed the "importance of maximizing opportunities to bring global perspectives to our schools and to expose North Carolina students to the world in which they will live and work."



North Carolina in the World is a statewide collaborative effort to prepare students to be citizens, workers and leaders in the global age of the 21st Century.

Matt Friedrich, Project Manager / 919-733-0601
mfriedrick@northcarolina.edu

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**THE CENTER for
INTERNATIONAL
UNDERSTANDING**
The University of North Carolina

412 N. Wilmington St.
Raleigh, NC 27601
Phone: 919-733-4902
web: ciu.northcarolina.edu