



**Missouri State**  
U N I V E R S I T Y

May 5, 2017

Mr. Kristopher Morehead  
President, Foreign Language Association of Missouri

Dear Mr. Morehead:

Thank you for taking the time to speak with me about FLAM's effort to join dozens of other states in establishing a Seal of Biliteracy to recognize the language proficiency of K-12 students. The Department of Modern and Classical Languages at Missouri State University strongly endorses this initiative, which is consistent with our focus on proficiency and credit for prior learning. This is clearly something that students and parents want, and it has been very successful in the states that have pioneered it. As you know, languages are a critical 21<sup>st</sup> century skill alongside first-language literacy, strong verbal and written communication, mathematics, the life sciences, and others. In today's competitive and globalized job market nothing has more potential to set Missouri graduates apart than the kind of cultural competence that language study helps to foster.

MCL already awards credit for prior learning based on several of the assessments the Seal might incorporate, including the IB, CLEP, and Advanced Placement exams. (Please see our existing policy at <http://www.missouristate.edu/mcl/priorlearningassessment/>.) Students who demonstrate proficiency at the ACTFL Intermediate Mid level receive credit for 12 hours in any modern language. Therefore, if the ACTFL APPL assessment were included, the Department would grant 12 hours of credit for scores at the upper range of the Intermediate Mid level (14 or higher) on the interpersonal speaking section.

Should Missouri establish a Seal of Biliteracy for K-12 learners, any student earning it would indeed have reason to be extremely proud, as would his or her teachers and parents. Additionally, because the Seal would result in 12 hours of university credit, it represents a powerful means of helping students complete their degrees faster and at lower cost.

Please let me know if you have any questions about our prior learning assessment policies. And feel free to share this letter with anyone working with you on this project. Best of luck!

Sincerely,

Dr. Jason R. Jolley  
Head and Associate Professor of Spanish