
MODERN LANGUAGES

July 19, 2017

Mr. Kristopher Morehead
President, Foreign Language Association of Missouri

Dear Mr. Morehead:

The Department of Modern Languages at Missouri Southern State University wishes to endorse the initiative to institute the use of a Seal of Biliteracy to recognize the apprehension of bilingual skills of K – 12 students in the state of Missouri. This "Seal," if implemented, would put us in line with some 27 other states in America.

Knowing two or more languages assists students to have better reading comprehension, math, musical and creative skills. The brain that knows two or more languages functions well in "creative/artsy classes" as well in classrooms of the "hard sciences." To recognize the achievement of being bilingual with a Seal of Biliteracy, we deem it appropriate and justified to reward and to provide an incentive for the extra effort that bilingualism requires.

MSSU currently recognizes the study of languages at the high school level by extending university level credit by means of CLEP exams, AP exams, and/or our own in-house placement exams. This "Seal" will give us, yet another avenue, to help students graduate sooner with a degree in languages or any other field of study.

As an institution, we would gladly facilitate the acquisition of 12 credit hours of language coursework for any student who has achieved the K – 12 benchmarks that this "Seal of Biliteracy" requires.

We wholeheartedly support, and we look forward to the possible adoption of this new "Seal of Biliteracy" for the state of Missouri.

Sincerely,



James E. Kilpatrick, Jr., Ph.D.
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Coordinator of Foreign Language Education K - 12
Supervisor--Certificate in Medical Interpretation
Internship Coordinator