



NORTHWEST
MISSOURI STATE
UNIVERSITY

**Department
of English
and Modern
Languages**

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July 20, 2018

Ms. Astrid Ruiz
President, Foreign Language Association of Missouri

Dear Ms. Ruiz,

Thank you for reaching out to our department to let us know about the Foreign Language Association of Missouri's effort in establishing a Seal of Biliteracy that recognizes the language proficiency of K-12 students. The Department of Language, Literature, and Writing at Northwest Missouri State University strongly endorses this proposal. We believe that the initiative will encourage stronger language study at the K-12 level, which will in turn draw more students into our university programs thus bolstering our efforts to recruit more students into upper-level language study.

The Language, Literature, and Writing Department at Northwest is making every effort to insure that all students graduating from Northwest have some experience in the study of foreign language. The Seal of Biliteracy initiative will certainly help in that effort.

Northwest already awards credit for prior learning based on several of the assessments the Seal might incorporate, including CLEP and Advanced Placement exams. Students who have taken high school language courses may also test out of our beginning-level classes in order to receive credit for the work they have already completed and pursue study at the appropriate level. The Seal of Biliteracy initiative will certainly help students receive credit at these beginning levels and move more quickly through the early stages of language acquisition in order to study at a more advanced level in the pursuit of fluency.

Please let us know if you need anything further from us as you work to further this initiative.

All the Best,

Michael Hobbs

Northwest
focuses on
student success –
every student,
every day.
