



Center for Advanced Research on Language Acquisition

# **CARLA's 20<sup>th</sup>: Improving Language Learning & Teaching**

Elaine Tarone  
Director

**CARLA** | Center for Advanced  
Research on Language  
Acquisition

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UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA



# **Why should Americans know more than one language (English plus ...)?**

- 1. Improved cognition and thinking skills**
- 2. More creativity**
- 3. Economic competitiveness**



# 1. Improved Cognition

Research shows adding a second language improves:



- the brain's executive control and working memory (Bialstok 2001)

*“If you have two languages and you use them regularly, ... every time you speak, both languages pop up and the [brain's] executive control system has to sort through everything and attend to what's relevant in the moment. ... bilinguals use that system more, and ... regular use ... makes that system more efficient.”* (Bialystok, 2013)



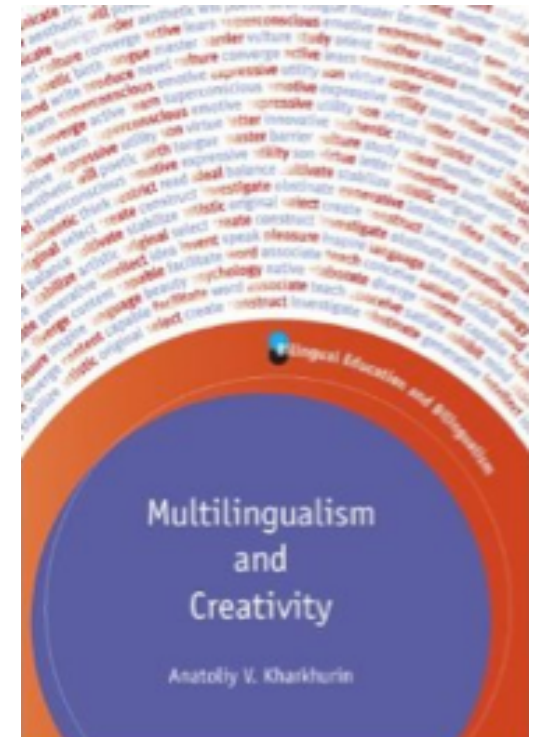
# 1. Improved Cognition



- clarity of thinking in decision-making  
(less bias) (Keysar et al, 2011)
- (for older learners) delay of onset of dementia  
and Alzheimer's (Bialystok et al, 2004, 2007)

## 2. More creativity

- Research also finds that multilinguals have higher levels of creativity (Kharkhurin 2012)





# 3. Economic competitiveness: *“The world is flat”*

Hindi  
+ English +

Portuguese  
+ English +

Arabic  
+ English

Korean  
+ English

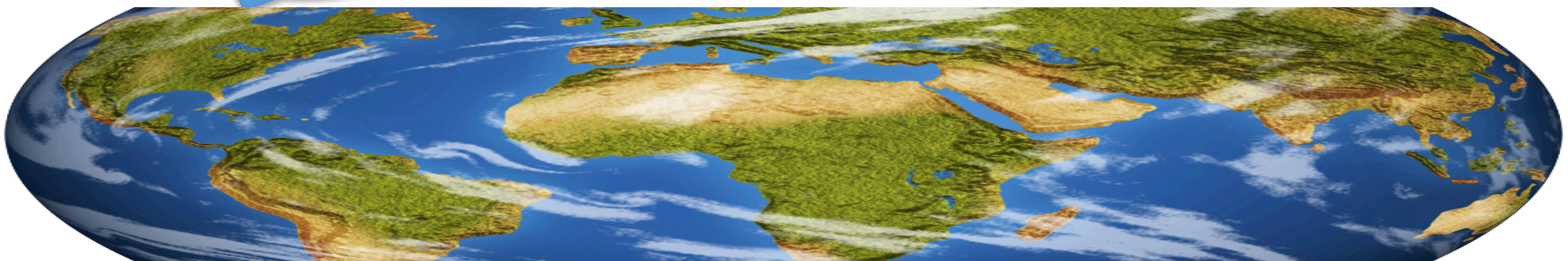
Chinese  
+ English +

Spanish  
+ English +

French  
+ English +

German  
+ English +

English





# 3. Economic competitiveness

## The case of Utah

- Utah created more tech jobs than any other state
- **Their secret economic weapon:** Utah has more foreign language speakers than any other state
- Utah govt. funds a huge dual language immersion program, guided by a Foreign Language Roadmap
- **Result:** Tech and security companies are relocating to Utah.

“Utah’s Silicon Slopes” (Henn, NPR, 3/12/12)



Center for Advanced Research on Language Acquisition

- **THE MISSION:** To improve U.S. national capacity to teach and learn world languages effectively ... for learners of all ages, K-16+
- **THE MEANS:** By providing excellent resources and professional development for second language educators and administrators





# CARLA—THEN

- CARLA began in 1993 with Title VI Language Resource Center funding from the U.S. Department of Education
- Skeletal staff, housed in a broom closet





# CARLA—NOW

- One of 15 USDE Title VI Language Resource Centers (LRCs)
- National leader in second language education
- Huge impact





# Improving language teaching and learning for all, K-12 and up

- Through models of content-based language instruction, including language immersion
- Schooling conducted through the medium of a foreign language as well as through English





# Minnesota Mandarin Immersion Collaborative



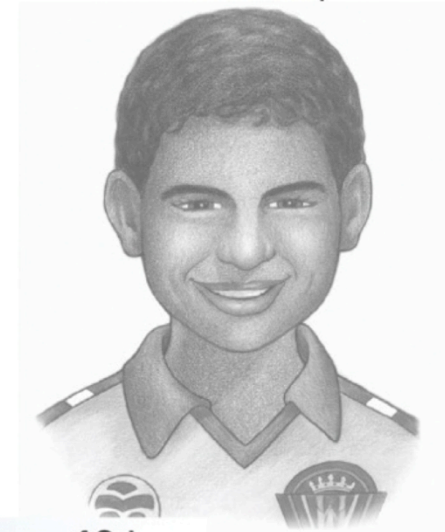
Juan Daniel 的  
幸运蛙


一个  
生物工程  
的故事

Engineering is Elementary Team 著

Minnesota Mandarin Immersion Collaborative Team 译

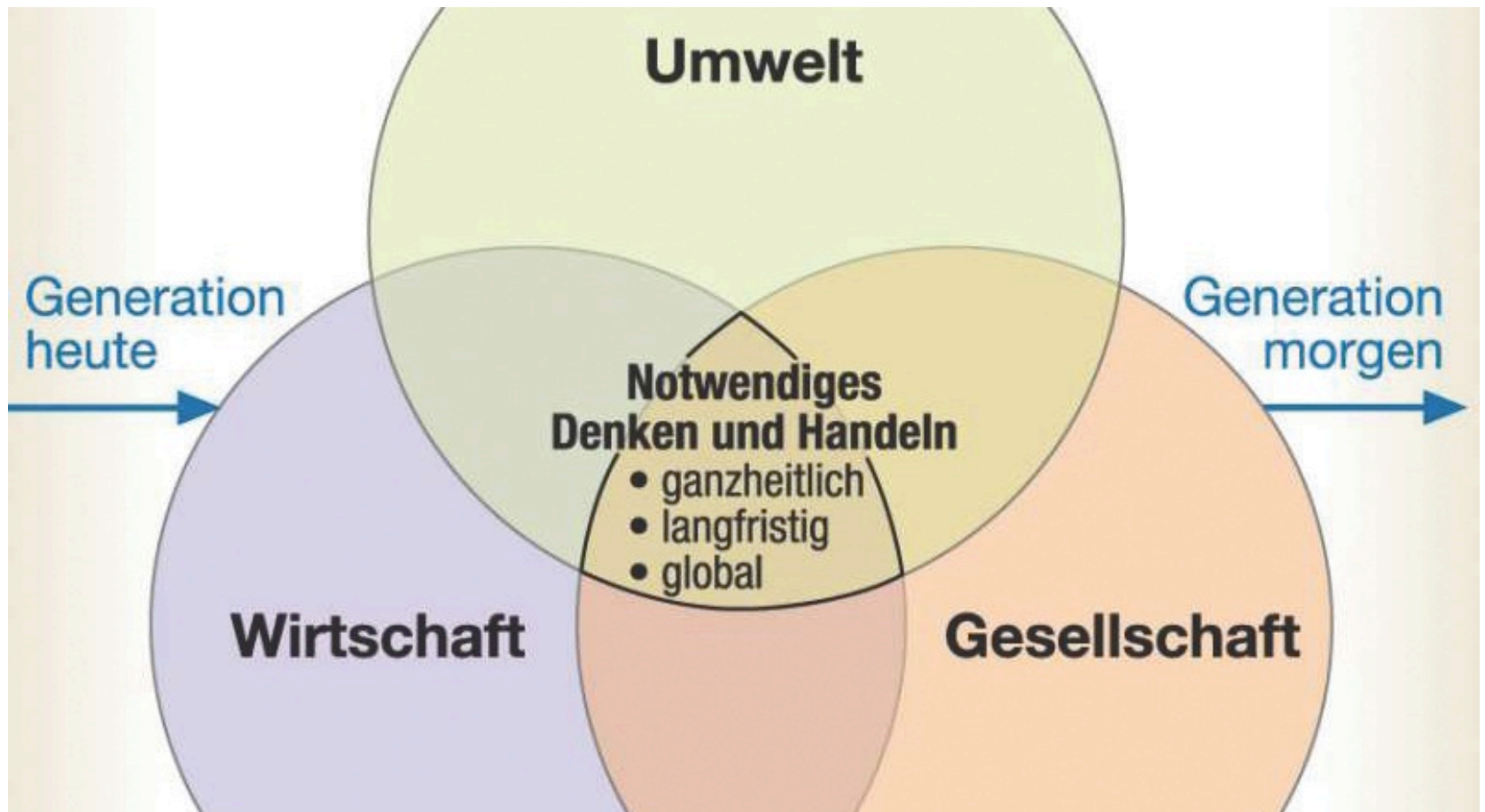
Keith Favazza 插图



 Museum of Science



# Green Languages at UMN





# Conference on Cultures & Languages Across the Curriculum

The University of Minnesota Center for International Business Education and Research (CIBER) supports the integration of language and culture study in the business curriculum. We serve students, faculty, and professionals in gaining critical skills for practice around the world.

**Students**

- ▶ **Language and Culture for Education Abroad**  
We integrate language and culture learning into short-term education abroad programs by partnering with language departments at the U of M.
  - **Chinese: Beijing and Shanghai, China**  
MSA students study language and culture to support their teamwork with peers from the Cheung Kong Graduate School of Business for a consulting project.  
Undergraduate students link language and global entrepreneurship.
  - **Portuguese: São Paulo, Brazil**  
Undergraduate students integrate language and culture learning into their course on managing innovation and change.
- ▶ **Business Language Scholarships**  
We provide scholarships to undergraduate students at the U of M for enrollment in business language courses.

**Faculty and K-16 Teachers**

- ▶ **Content-Based Language Instruction**  
We provide opportunities for educators to incorporate international business concepts into the foreign language curriculum through a summer institute presented in partnership with the U of M Center for Advanced Research on Language Acquisition (CARLA), July 23 – 27, 2012.
- ▶ **Business Language Course Development**
  - We work with U of M language departments to integrate business case studies and current business topics into French, German, and Spanish language courses.
  - We support the development of new business language courses in Chinese and Portuguese.
- ▶ **K-12 Language for Business and Policy**
  - We host the Spanish Model United Nations State Conference in partnership with the United Nations Association of Minnesota Global Classrooms program.
- ▶ **CIBER Business Language Conference**
  - Annual conference on business language teaching and research. **March 21-23, 2012**

**Business Professionals**

- ▶ **Chinese Language and Culture for Professionals**
  - Half-day Chinese language and culture orientations presented in partnership with the Confucius Institute at the U of M. **April 26, 2012**

**What is CIBER?**

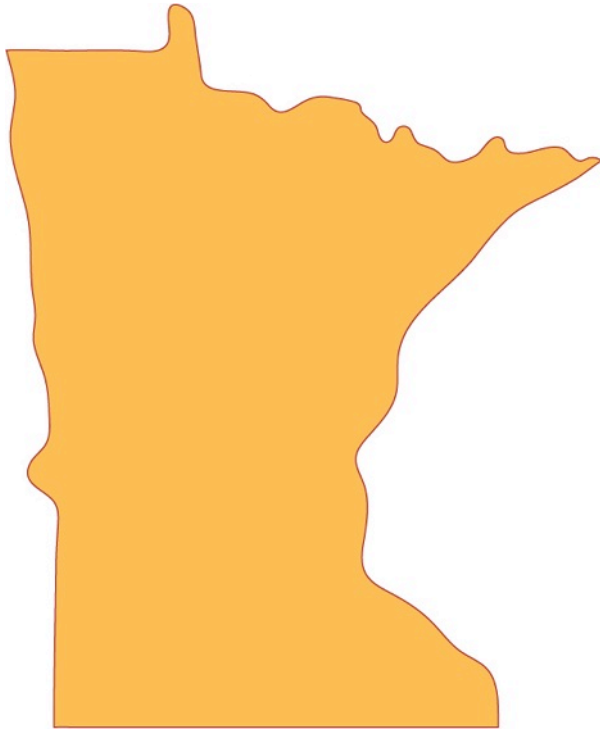
- ▶ **A resource for businesses, educators, researchers, and students.**
  - Established in 2010, we are one of 33 centers across the U.S. that serve businesses, educators, and students. These centers connect the needs of the business community with the international education, language training, and research capabilities of top U.S. universities to increase the nation's capacity for international understanding and economic enterprise.

Michael Houston | Abby Pinto | Jennie Meinz  
carlsonschool.umn.edu/ciber | ciber@umn.edu

**CARLSON**  
SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT  
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA



# Partnering throughout the State



*Where would language teaching and learning be without CARLA's work? CARLA has been the "go to" resource for language teachers not only in Minnesota but nationwide for the last 20 years!*

Ursula Lentz, Minnesota Dept. of Education



# Developing quality language teachers







# Professional Development

Professional Development Participants  
1993-2013



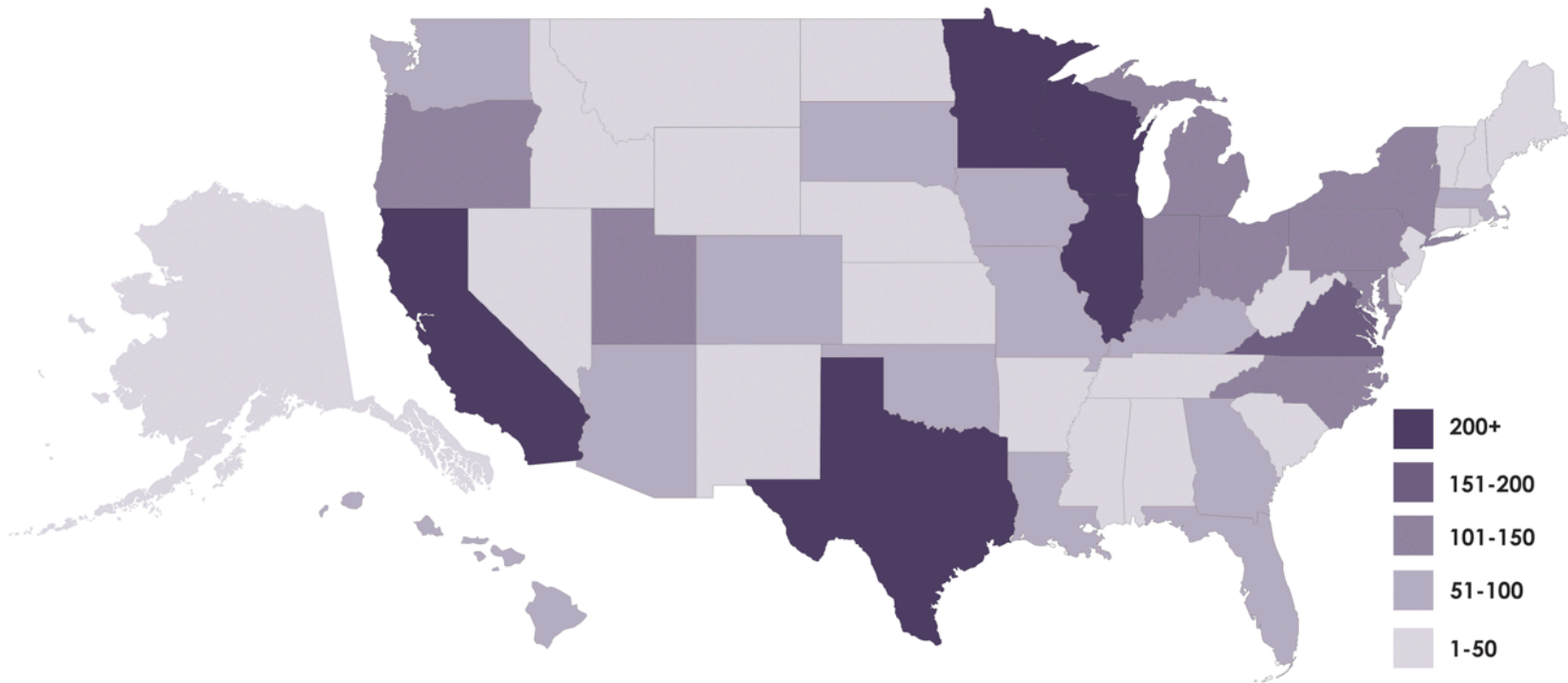
*I can't even begin to count the number of people that have been impacted by the outreach of the CARLA institutes, the LTE conferences, the brown-bag presentations, and research and teaching collaboration that has occurred over the last 20 years. I know that the attendees of these events have come away with a renewed sense of their ability to teach language learners.*

— Karen Lybeck, Minnesota State University-Mankato



# Reaching out to the nation

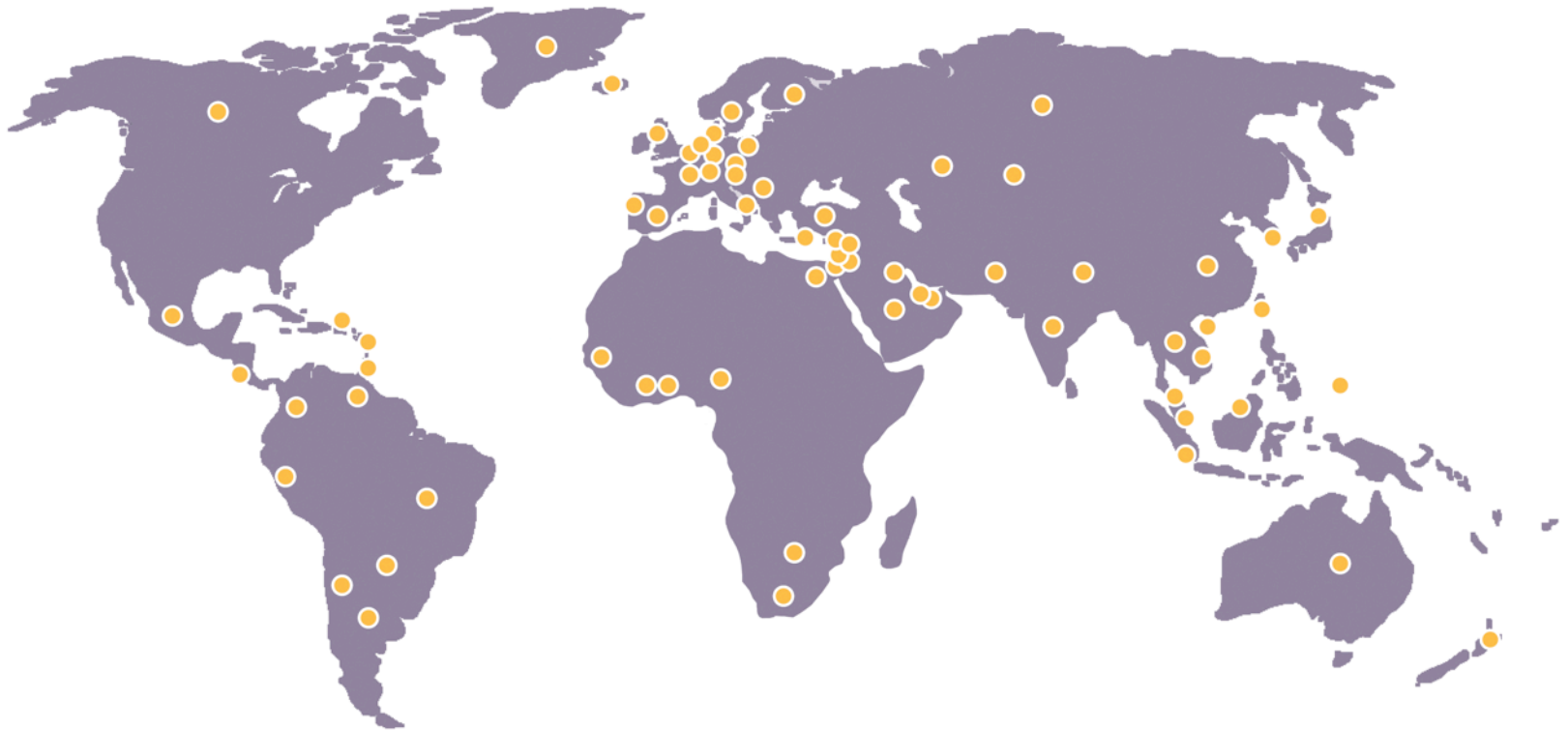
- More than 14,000 teachers have participated in CARLA programs and events – 94% from the US ...





# Reaching out the World

... and 6% (840) from 67 countries around the world!





# Sharing our resources with the world

In one year alone,  
CARLA's 8,500 web  
pages had:

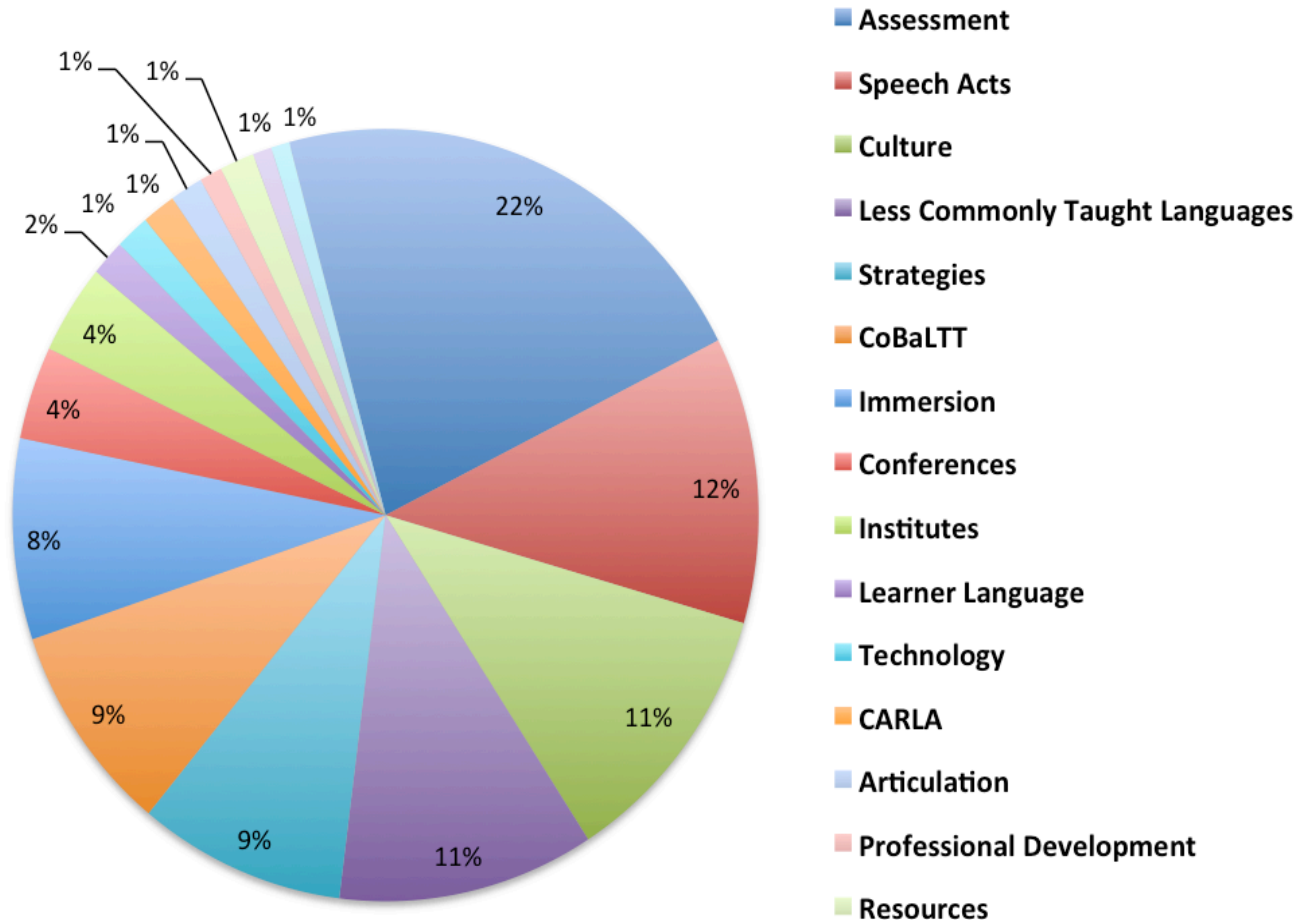
- 1 million visits
- 644,000  
downloads

(LRC Report 2012)

The screenshot shows the CARLA website homepage. At the top, there is a red header with the University of Minnesota logo and the text "UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA". To the right of the header is a search bar with the text "Search CARLA" and a "Search" button. Below the header is a purple banner with the text "CARLA CENTER FOR ADVANCED RESEARCH ON LANGUAGE ACQUISITION". The main content area is divided into several sections. On the left, there is a navigation menu with a yellow background, listing various topics such as "Articulation of Language Instruction", "Assessment of Second Language", "Content-Based Language Instruction", "Culture and Language Learning", "Immersion Education", "Less Commonly Taught Languages (LCTL)", "Maximizing Study Abroad", "Pragmatics/Speech Acts", "Strategies for Language Learning", and "Technology and Second Language Learning". Below the navigation menu are three columns of content. The first column is titled "Research & Programs" and features a photo of a woman. The second column is titled "Professional Development" and features a photo of a woman. The third column is titled "Resources" and features a photo of a woman. Each column has a "What's New!" link at the bottom. At the bottom of the page, there is a footer with the text "Center for Advanced Research on Language Acquisition (CARLA) • 140 University International Center • 331 17th Ave SE • Minneapolis, MN 55414 | Contact CARLA" and copyright information: "© 2009 Regents of the University of Minnesota. All rights reserved. The University of Minnesota is an equal opportunity educator and employer. Last modified: Wednesday, 19-May-2010 CDT." There are also links for "Twin Cities Campus: Parking & Transportation", "Maps & Directions Directories", and "Contact U of M Privacy".

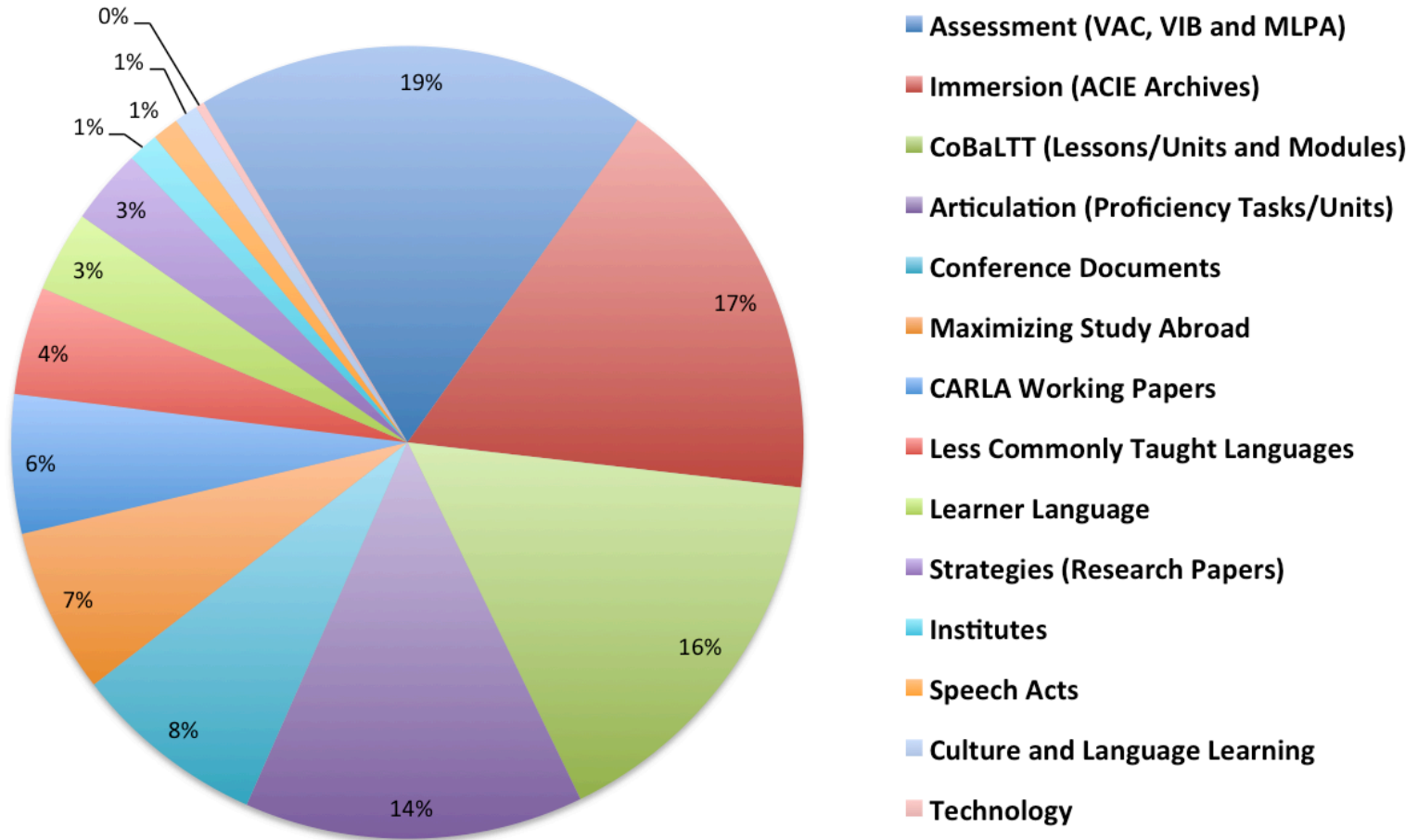


# CARLA Website Activity





# CARLA Website Downloads





# Virtual Assessment Center





# Where Korean is Taught







# Learner Language: Tools for Teachers

- Online multimedia activities invite teachers to understand and use research on the learning of:
  - Chinese
  - Japanese
  - Korean
  - Persian

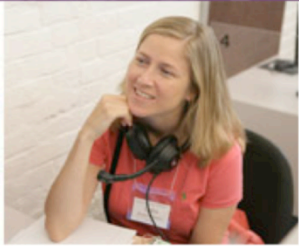


- PDF downloads: 23,277 last year



# Technology & Second Language Learning

CARLA CENTER FOR ADVANCED RESEARCH ON LANGUAGE ACQUISITION



## Technology and Second Language Learning

Technology has always been an important part of CARLA's work and is now included as part of all of CARLA's initiatives. However, there is still a technology-specific project and other related activities.

### Technology Integration Modules

Technology Training Targeted for Language Teachers (LT4), is continuing to add new online modules for using technology in language teaching and learning. These modules were started as part of the CoBaLTT project.

### Technology Summer Institute Wiki

The CARLA Tech Wiki contains the web resources used during the CARLA Summer Institute on Technology. The wiki will almost be like you were there in person! There are pages of links and information that you should find useful.

### Technology Use Survey

The LT4 project would like to know more about what technologies language teachers are currently using in the classroom and which technologies they would like to learn more about. If you are a language teacher, please take five minutes to fill-out a survey!

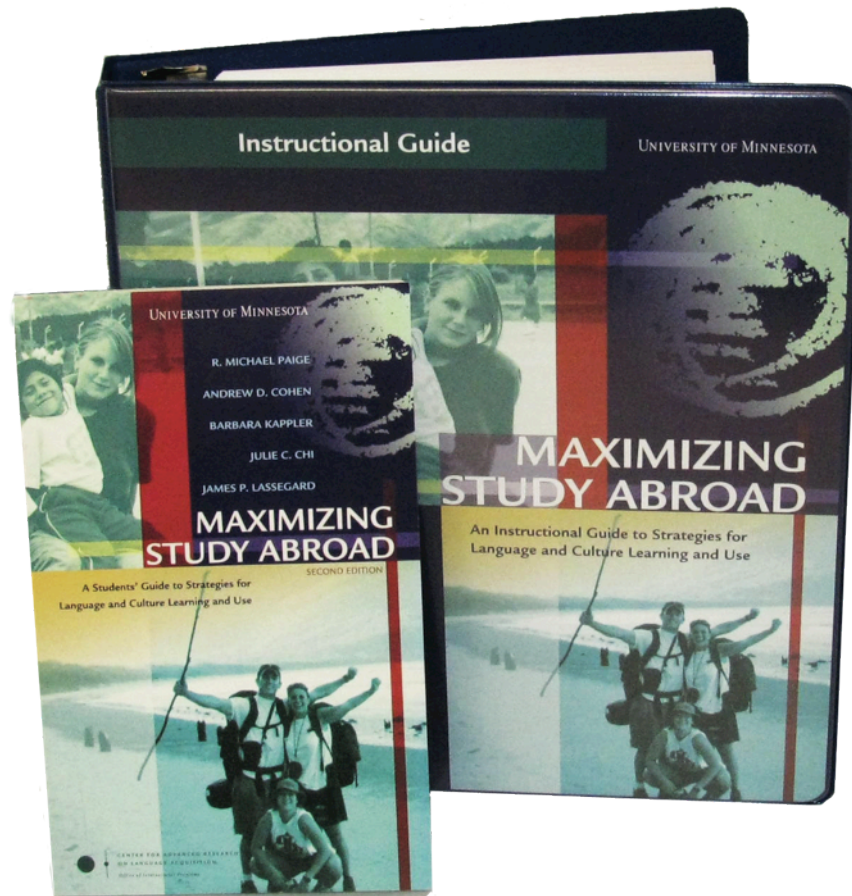
### Other Tech-Related CARLA Projects

Includes information on the some of CARLA's foundational work on technology projects and other CARLA projects with technology content on the CARLA website.

- Tech Integration Modules
- Extensive Wiki Site
  - Information
  - Demonstration
  - Practice
- Online courses on how to teach language online



# Enhancing language and culture in study abroad





# Preparing the next generation

- CARLA Graduate Assistantships

Dr. Julie Sykes  
Now Director, CASL  
(our sister LRC in Oregon)



*"CARLA was instrumental to my professional development as a graduate student and continues to provide valuable resources for language educators around the country. I will always be grateful for the resources provided as well as the support and resources entrusted to me during my graduate work."*



# Preparing the next generation

- CARLA Fellowships

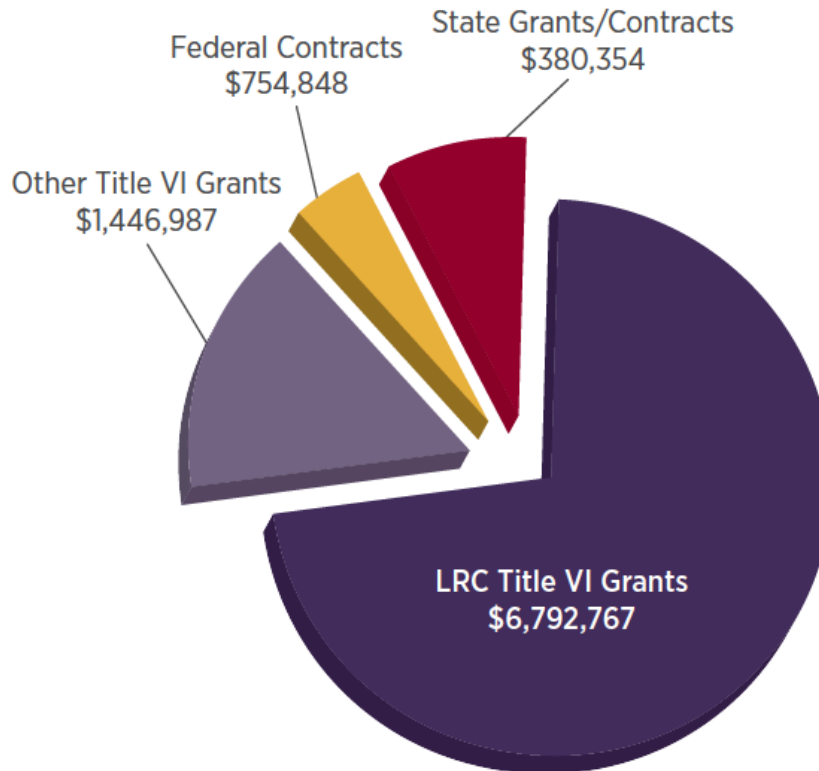
*“... 54% of [UMN graduate student] respondents reported that a lack of funding prevented them from attending a conference.”* (Survey by Council of Grad Students, UMN, 10/11/13)

- Make a pledge to the CARLA Fellows Fund!



# External Funding

CARLA has brought in over \$7.4 million dollars to the University of Minnesota





# It takes a village

CARLA has enjoyed funding support of many units across campus, including:

- College of Education and Human Development
- College of Liberal Arts
- General College
- Global Programs and Strategy Alliance
- Office of the Vice President for Research
- System Academic Administration Office





# Imagine a world in which..

- All students had the opportunity learn two or three languages in addition to mastering their native language...
- Communication and understanding were as valued as getting a high score on a standardized test...
- Language teachers were treated like the heroes they are!







# Together, we can make it happen!

The image shows a screenshot of a Vimeo video player. The video content depicts a classroom where a teacher is standing at the front, and several students are seated at desks, some looking at papers. A large, semi-transparent mouse cursor is positioned over the center of the video frame. The Vimeo interface includes the logo, navigation links (Join, Log In, Create, Watch, Upload), a search bar, and a page number '5'. Below the video, the title 'Language Immersion Education in Minnesota' is displayed, along with the uploader's name 'Joe Pollock Films' and the upload date '6 months ago'.

**vimeo** Join Log In Create Watch Upload Search 5

**Language Immersion Education in Minnesota**  
from Joe Pollock Films 6 months ago



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