

## **Program Planning Summary for the Proposal to Add a Bachelor of Arts in Modern Languages Education at The Citadel**

**Proposed Date of Implementation: Spring 2009**

### **Introduction**

The Citadel's Department of Modern Languages in collaboration with the School of Education is pleased to submit a Program Planning summary for a new program: A Bachelor of Arts in Modern Languages Education. We submit this planning summary following a very successful state and NCATE focus visit and review (September 30-October 2, 2007), and with the understanding that consideration of this proposed program is contingent upon a full accreditation ruling by NCATE's Unit Accreditation Board in April 2008.

### **Justification of Need for the Proposed Program**

The School of Education and the Department of Modern Languages at The Citadel recognize that a critical need exists in South Carolina and the tri-county (Berkeley, Charleston and Dorchester) area for PreK-12 teachers of foreign languages. On January 9, 2007 the Transition Leadership Team's Committee on the Teaching Profession—a body appointed by Dr. Jim Rex, the State Superintendent of the South Carolina Department of Education—finished its report that "issued seventeen recommendations in four areas that contribute to the development of a caring and qualified teaching workforce: teacher preparation, recruitment and retention, professional development, and leadership." In prefacing its recommendations, the committee wrote: "Yet today, as large numbers of experienced educators retire and too few candidates emerge to replace them, South Carolina and the nation as a whole are facing a critical shortage of qualified teachers. The shortage is especially acute in math, physical sciences, foreign languages, and special education; among teachers of color; and in inner-city and rural areas." Supporting these observations is the fact that during the 2005-06 school year, districts in S.C. reported 240 vacancies in French, German, Latin and Spanish and were only able to fill 216 (or 65%).

In the Lowcountry, of the three 4-year undergraduate institutions, only Charleston Southern University has a PreK-12 foreign language certification program, and it is limited to Spanish. Given the unique environment and academic regulations at The Citadel, cadets interested in pursuing foreign language certification have had no options. In the past, interested students simply majored in our current Modern Languages degree programs while taking select education courses to prepare them for the PRAXIS exams. After years of such a band-aid approach, and with the remarkable surge in students majoring and minoring in languages at The Citadel (a 70% increase since May 2006), we now wish to pursue a formal certification program to assist the Lowcountry area and the State in addressing the critical need for foreign language teachers.

The Citadel's Modern Languages Department has already demonstrated its sustained commitment to foreign language education in the region and state with two programs. One is our yearly South Carolina Spanish Teacher of the Year Award ([www.scspanishteacheroftheyear.org](http://www.scspanishteacheroftheyear.org)), the only program in the State that recognizes outstanding K-12 Spanish teachers of both public and private schools. Founded in 2005, this program has garnered major corporate and local business sponsorships, and has become widely recognized throughout S.C. Second, since 2002 our Modern Languages Department has directed a statewide award certificate program (<http://www.citadel.edu/mlng/tauiota/merit.htm>) for outstanding high school students of Spanish. The program is a free service that provides award certificates to all high schools whose Spanish teachers verify the eligibility of their students. Each year, our department issues approximately 250 certificates to high schools across the state.

Given these factors and our college's desire to take one more logical step toward enhancing foreign language education in the region, The Citadel proposes the addition of a B.A. in Modern Languages Education with concentrations in French, German and Spanish, a program akin to our existing foreign language degree program. Other existing teacher certification programs (graduate and undergraduate) at The Citadel in Social Studies, English, Biology, Mathematics, and Physical Education have provided strong teacher-leaders for the state and the region over the years. Adding a Modern Languages Education at the cadet level to these programs will fill a long-standing void in our current undergraduate teacher education programs.

### **Anticipated Demand**

Based upon expressed student interest teacher preparation in modern foreign languages and in the recent growth of our language programs, we anticipate enrolling 6 to 10 undergraduate majors in Modern Languages Education each year. Currently we have approximately 54 language majors and 116 minors, a significant pool to support a teaching certification program in foreign languages.

### **Duplication**

As previously mentioned, since Charleston Southern University is the only undergraduate institution in the area that offers a similar program (but limited to Spanish), and since The Citadel's unique undergraduate environment prevents cadets from taking day classes at a neighboring institution, there would essentially be no duplication issues with the proposed new program.

### **Costs**

We foresee virtually no additional costs, with the exception of those associated with field supervision, for the adoption of this program since all of the required courses are currently found and regularly offered in our existing programs.

## Summary

In direct response to the aforementioned critical need of foreign language teachers in South Carolina, to the insufficient availability of similar programs in the Lowcountry, and to our Modern Languages Department's already demonstrated commitment to foreign language education in South Carolina, The Citadel proposes to add a Bachelor of Arts in Modern Languages Education for the PreK-12 grades.

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Date

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Tony W. Johnson , Ph.D.  
Dean of the School of Education at The Citadel

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Date

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Lieutenant General John W. Rosa (USAF, ret.)  
President, The Citadel