

The State of Washington



Proclamation

WHEREAS, communities across America are welcoming many new neighbors, friends, employees, and citizens from countries and cultures throughout the world – people for whom English is not their native language; and

WHEREAS, the state of Washington has growing economic, cultural and social ties to the global community, offering great opportunities, but presenting new communication challenges; and

WHEREAS; studying other languages increases cognitive skills, betters academic performance and assures a greater understanding of others, while also providing life-long learning opportunities for people beyond school age; and

WHEREAS, proficiency in other languages enhances career opportunities and provides employers a workforce with the necessary skills for an international marketplace; and

WHEREAS, language education in the 21st century includes a commitment to longer sequences of world language study beginning in the early grades to enable students to develop the levels of proficiency needed to effectively communicate with people from other cultures;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Christine O. Gregoire, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim 2005 as

The Year of Languages

in Washington State, and I urge all citizens to support and participate in second language programs.



Signed this 13th day of September, 2005

Christine Gregoire

Governor Christine O. Gregoire