



BlendedSchools.net Receives Wall Street West Funding to Enhance Northeast PA's Global Foreign Language Infrastructure to Develop a Competitive Work Force

BlendedSchools.net (BSN) is pleased to announce that it was awarded the largest educational grant in the Wall Street West program to expand the teaching of Chinese, Arabic, Japanese and Russian to K-12, higher education, and adult learners across a nine-county region. The \$292,315 award will be used to inform educational, business, and community leaders about the critical importance of learning foreign languages to help our work force compete in a global economy. The funding will also be used to reduce the cost of language courses to schools, colleges, and businesses.

Wall Street West and BlendedSchools.net recognize that nearly all students in China, India, Japan, and other competitive economies study English, but that few of our schools offer our students a similar opportunity to learn their languages. Even though English is the universal language of business, our work force is at a disadvantage if our competitors have studied our language and culture but we are ignorant of theirs. Students interested in careers in business, diplomacy, entertainment, technology, and the military will find that knowing critical foreign languages opens doors of opportunity. Having these languages on the transcript or resume tells an interviewer that the applicant has skills that elevate his chances of academic and employment success.

While our students of Spanish are learning a truly global language, they also want the opportunity to learn Chinese to learn about one of the world's oldest cultures and fiercest modern competitors, and to learn Arabic to understand the volatile culture of the Middle East and to prepare for careers in diplomacy, energy, or the military. Our students crave Japanese because Japan has created much of the culture of today's youth (as well as being one of the world's strongest economies), and the demand for Russian speakers will only grow as Russia's energy, economic, diplomatic, and military position expands.

The Wall Street West funding covers students enrolled in Fall, 2008 and Spring, Summer, and Fall, 2009. It will reimburse schools up to \$100 for learning materials for each student enrolled in the BlendedSchools.net Language Institute in eleventh grade or higher. It will also fund an unintrusive, standardized assessment of student progress in reading, listening, and speaking the language. Most BSN language instructors are higher education faculty, so the courses may be taken for dual-enrollment credit. Five levels of each language will be offered so that students may achieve language fluency and qualify for AP testing through the program.

For information about the program, look for registration info at <http://www.blendedschools.net>

To schedule a course or enroll students, contact
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For information about the Wall Street West grant, contact
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