Partnership Across Languages

A Coalition of Educators, K-16, Committed to
Promoting Cultural Understanding through Language Learning

November 2006

Dear Second Language Teacher:

The annual **Southern Arizona Language Fair** is to be held on Saturday, March 31, 2007 on the campus of The University of Arizona, from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. K-16 language students are invited to come enjoy exciting multicultural opportunities and attractions, including the following:

- **There is NO participation fee this year!!**
- Competitions in poetry, drama and oral proficiency
- Certificates for all Fair participants and instructors. There will be prizes and recognition for top winners in drama, poetry and prose recitation and oral proficiency
- Art competitions, including a Language Fair poster contest, with cash prizes
- On-stage performance opportunities for students ("non-competitive entertainment")
- The Game Room: Opportunities to play games exclusively in a second language, with peers, parents, and students and instructors from the University of Arizona and Pima Community College
- Multicultural and multilingual booths and activities provided for all ages
- Lively world music

Please read carefully and note the changes for this year's Fair. Highlights are in the box below. Read this entire letter for further explanations.

- **The Opening Ceremony will begin at 9:00 am on March 31st** at the outside stage in the patio area between the Student Union and the Second Street parking garage.
- All teachers will be required to judge at the Fair, including those teachers whose students are only entered in the art competitions.
- The Judges' Orientation meeting will take place in the Modern Languages Building auditorium, room 350 at 9:15 am.
- Students of teachers who do not sign in and attend the Judges' Orientation will be eliminated from all competitions.
- Registration and editing must be completed online by **5:00 pm on Friday, February 16, 2007**. The online registration site will be disabled after this deadline.

All students who are actively learning a second language are encouraged to compete in one or more categories according to their current level of language study. The categories of competition are**: poetry recitation, prose recitation, drama** and **oral proficiency.** In addition, there is a *non-competitive entertainment* category in which students and teachers are invited to perform individually or as a group on an auditorium stage. This entertainment will take place throughout the day of the Fair, ending prior to the 2:00pm (approx.) Awards Assembly.

Critical:

ALL teachers will be required to judge at the Fair, including those teachers whose students are only entered in the art competitions. Teachers who are not signed in and present at the Judges' Orientation will

have their students eliminated from all competitions including art. *When judges do not show up to meet their obligations and responsibilities, it undermines the competitions themselves. More significantly it jeopardizes the fair assessment of the competitions.* We are counting on your presence to help make this a memorable and worthwhile experience for all students.

ONLINE GUIDELINES AND INSTRUCTIONS FOR REGISTRATION

Registration will be done entirely online. Teachers will be able to register their students directly into the database. You will have an opportunity to edit your registration until February 17, 2007 at 5:00p.m.

Pledge Form:

- Teachers will need to click the "Submit" link on the Pledge form before you will be able to register your students online.
- We are *requiring* that each teacher sign (electronically online) the Pledge form, which will indicate that all guidelines and regulations for the Language Fair are understood and accepted by participating teachers. Pay close attention to all attendance requirements for the Fair: Opening Ceremony, Judges' Orientation, Awards Ceremony, etc.
- **Participating teachers must serve as judges, including those teachers whose students are only registered in the art competitions**. Every effort is made to limit the judging commitment to about 1-2 hours, so that teachers can have time with their students as well as enjoy the Fair activities.

Online Registration:

To register your students directly into the Language Fair database, go to **www.coh.arizona.edu/pal** and follow the instructions. Copies of all rules, registration forms, rubrics, judges' instructions and other information are also available online. These forms can be printed, filled out and kept for your records and files.

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Competition Guidelines and Regulations:

Teachers are responsible to study closely the Guidelines and Regulations for each competition posted at the 2007 Language Fair registration link.

Finally, encourage parents to attend the Language Fair, as families play an important role in promoting second language education. Some teachers make it an annual tradition to involve parents in preparing their students for the Fair, for example, by having parents help with memorization of texts.

We urge you to begin recruiting students and parents now. Last year's Fair offered spectacular entertainment, including impressive performances by students, colorful interactive booths, and exciting student artwork. The 2007 Fair will continue this tradition of dynamic multicultural entertainment and competition to help your students recognize the excitement and rewards of their language study.

Hope to see you on March 31st !

2007 Southern Arizona Language Fair Committee

Language Fair Information Check List

- ☐ **There is NO participation fee this year!!**
- ☐ Registration and editing must be completed online by **5:00 pm on Friday, February 16, 2007**. The online registration site will be disabled after this deadline.
- ☐ **Absolutely NO registrations will be accepted** after the deadline (February 16, 2007).
- ☐ **The Opening Ceremony will begin at 9:00 am on March 31st** at the outside stage in the patio area between the Student Union and the Second Street parking garage. All participants and their teachers MUST be present. At this ceremony, you will receive programs and competition schedules. Please don't be late, as changes and other important announcements will be given at this time.
- ☐ **Parking in the Second Street Garage,** at Mountain and 2nd Street, is free and recommended, since it provides the easiest and quickest access to the opening ceremony and to the competition rooms. For parking area maps go to: **http://parking.arizona.edu/pdf/maps/campus.pdf** .
- ☐ If your school will be bringing students on a school bus or in a school van please let us know so we can send the parking arrangements to you.
- ☐ **The Judges' Orientation** will take place in the Modern Languages Building auditorium, room 350 at 9:15 am. Please be prompt. Teachers who are not signed in and present will have their students eliminated from all competitions.
- ☐ Students may bring a bag lunch or use the restaurant and fast food facilities in the Student Union (**www.union.arizona.edu**) or at food carts in the area.
- ☐ Remind your students to act responsibly while on campus.

If you have questions about the registration process, please contact John T. Urban at 626-3643 and **jturban@email.arizona.edu** .