



IT TAKES A VILLAGE

AFLI & the Language Flagship
Program.

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IT TAKES A VILLAGE — THE PROVERB

- Is no longer viewed as exclusively an African proverb, but it has become a global proverb – and it precisely captures well what the Language Flagship is all about.

TWO LEVELS OF *THE VILLAGE* MACRO & MICRO-LEVELS

- The Language Flagship program (LF) comprises two levels of the village: the macro-level (national leadership & organization) and the micro-level (actual delivery on ground)
- This presentation focuses on the micro-level with specific examples from the African Flagship Languages Initiative (AFLI) Program

MACRO-LEVEL - LF

- *We all know the mission of the LF. It takes a village* metaphor is clearly reflected therein:
 - The Language Flagship leads the nation in designing, supporting, and implementing a new paradigm for advanced language education. Through an innovative partnership among the federal government, education, and business, The Language Flagship graduates students who will take their place among the next generation of global professionals, commanding a superior level of proficiency in one of many languages critical to U.S. competitiveness and security (*Discourse Newsletter of The Language Flagship*, Fall 2015)

MICRO-LEVEL LF

- The purpose of this presentation is to share with you how the key goal of the LF (i.e., to graduate students who will take their place among the next generation of global professionals, commanding a superior level of proficiency in one of many languages critical to U.S. competitiveness and security) is implemented on the ground – actually how it takes a village!
- The case of AFLI Program.

THE AFLI PROGRAM

- The African Flagship Languages Initiative (AFLI) Program constitutes two components: the Domestic Intensive Summer (DIS) and the Overseas Immersion Fall (OIF) programs.
- The AFLI-DIS program has been hosted at the University of Florida since its inception in 2011, and has recorded tremendous growth including rising from a two-language program (Swahili & Yoruba) to a six-language program (Akan/Twi, French –with Basic Wolof, Portuguese, Swahili, Wolof, & Zulu) today.
- The AFLI-OIF Program has been administered by the American Councils who oversees the actual implementation especially at the three Overseas centers in Africa (French in Senegal, Portuguese in Mozambique, & Swahili in Tanzania).
- Both DIS and OIF work closely and collaboratively to ensure a smooth and successful transitioning between the two.

THE AFLI-DIS AT UF

- The AFLI-DIS at UF is viewed as a community of learners and facilitators of African languages working cooperatively towards a common goal
- I call them AfrilanGATORS and FaciliGATORS respectively.



THE AFRILANGATORS

- The AfrilanGATORS have brought in the community, their unquestionable interest, determination, hard-working spirit, open-mind, enthusiasm, curiosity, and smiles



THE FACILIGATORS

- The FaciliGATORS include various groups: administrators, instructors, language partners, host families, and members of the Gainesville community.
- All groups work cooperatively to facilitate the learning experience.
- Instructors do not instruct as the term indicates, but rather facilitates the learning process.



INSTRUCTORS & CLASSROOM LEARNING

- We make a very careful selection of instructors.
- 7 years of the program has seen about 40 individuals facilitating classroom learning (some have participated in the program more than twice)
- In each season they spend 4 hrs a day, 5 days a week for 8 weeks actively and professionally engaging students in classroom settings.



LANGUAGE PARTNERS & CONVERSATIONAL SESSIONS

- Instructors provide guidance on daily basis to language partners on how and what should be covered during the conversational practice sessions that run for 1.5 hrs between 3 and 6 PM on Mondays, Tuesdays, & Thursdays.
- Language Partners, also prepare weekly reports for their students' progress which they share with instructors and administrators.



HOST FAMILIES — MORE EXPOSURE TO LANG & CULT

- In order to expose students to more language and culture, AFLI-DIS has two Saturdays devoted to a day-visit to host families (native or near-native speakers of L2s).
- A group of 3 to 4 students are assigned to one family.
- During the visits they practice conversations and host families share with them the cultural experiences in their L2 countries.



EXCURSIONS

- Relaxing the mind and taking a break outside the campus is viewed as an important activity for productive learning.
- The program has two out of campus excursion trips – St Augustine Historic town & Poe Springs in High Springs
- These activities are intended to strengthen a sense of togetherness and belonging to the community.



THE VILLAGE



- Members of the 2017 AFLI-DIS village.

AT THE END OF AFLI-DIS

- All participants start with one goal in mind: to succeed.
- And at the end of the program, we all come together to celebrate our successes
- Everyone is HAPPY 😊



FROM THE DIS TO THE OIF PROGRAM

- Through a strong support and coordination by the American Councils, the Overseas Centers' academic coordinators visit the DIS program for about a week during which they familiarize themselves with the curriculum and jointly we develop a guideline for the OIF curricula.



A SINGLE CURRICULUM DESIGN

- Besides home stay (one of the key elements in the OIF program), DIS and OIF curriculum structures are more or less the same – classroom instruction (4 hours a day for 4 or 5 days a week); Students are assigned to language partners for practicing communicative and cultural skills, & educational trips.



AFLI-OIF EXPERIENCE

- A great foundation for learning language & culture that students get at the AFLI-DIS, has been very instrumental for them to progress smoothly and successfully when they go abroad for fall semester.
- Arusha, Tanzania (Fall 2017)



OIF — LANGUAGE PARTNERS

- Conversational and cultural practices continue in the OIF Program.
- Dakar, Senegal (Fall 2017)



OIF — EDUCATIONAL TRIPS

- Educational trips enhance both communicative and cultural skills.
- Arusha, Tanzania (Fall 2017)



AND THE RESULTS ARE



- All these efforts have led to very impressive learning outcomes.
- The case of 2017 AFLI - Swahili

Post

Summer	OPI		Reading		Listening		Spring
	Pre-Overseas	Post-Overseas	Pre-Overseas	Post-Overseas	Pre-Overseas	Post-Overseas	Exit OPI
	2 (IH)	2+ (AM)	1+	2+	1	2	
	1 (IM)	2 (AL)	1	2	1	2	
	2 (AL)	2 (AM)	1+	2	1+	2+	
	1 (IM)	2 (AL)	1	2	1	1+	
	1 (IM)	2 (AL)	1	2	1	1+	
	2 (AM)	2 (AM)	1+	2	2	2+	
	1+ (IM)	2 (AL)	1	1+	1	2	
	2+ (AM)	2+ (AM)	1+	2	1+	2+	
	1 (NH)	2+ (AM)	1	2	1+	2	
	2 (AL)	2 (AL)	1+	2	1+	2+	
	2 (AL)	2 (AL)	2	2+	2	2+	
	1 (IL)	1+ (IM)	1	1	1	1+	
	2 (IH)	2+ (AM)	1+	2+	1+	2+	

OH YEAH IT TAKES A VILLAGE — 2017 AFLI — DIS PARTICIPANTS

