SPRING 2014

# **U.S.ENGLISH NEWS**

### Did you know?



Thanks to a new grant from Google AdWords, the mission of the U.S. English Foundation has been viewed by

116,778

Americans since February 1st!

This includes

242

new clicks to the U.S. English Foundation website.

# Official English Efforts Progress on State and Local Levels

Already in 2014, legislation to make English the official language has been introduced in several states across the nation.

- Representatives in New York, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin have introduced bills that would declare English the official language.
- A State Senator in Tennessee has introduced a bill that would offer driver's license tests in English, rather than an abundance of foreign languages.
- A resolution has been introduced in Georgia that would add an amendment to the state Constitution
- declaring English the official language.
- Grassroots campaigns are running in California and Florida (where Official English is already on the books) to enforce these provisions.

Action is likely to continue into the 19 states that do not currently recognize English as the official language.

## YOUR STORY: Member of the Month How English is part of my life story...



U.S. English member Cindy Patton

U.S. English recently began a new campaign to feature members sharing the importance of English in their lives.

Our latest Member of the Month is Cindy Patton from Louisville, KY. Cindy, an English as a Second Language (ESL) teacher, has been a member of U.S. English since 1999. Here is her story, in part:

"I teach beginning English, and this is my 6th year in this position. I am passionate about our students learning English. They come from countries all over the world (which encompasses 6,000 + languages!) and our job and our sole focus is to teach them the common language that unites everyone in this country.

I stress to my students how important it is to learn as quickly and efficiently as possible in order to assimilate into their local communities and our greater community at large. We do not 'translate' and we do not facilitate learning in another language. The students are there simply to learn one language, that which is spoken by the residents of this country.

I am dismayed by the efforts of some who, while

possibly meaning well, think that we are doing a service to immigrants by making services available in other languages. I am not sure where this would stop because, as referenced above, there are thousands of languages. To which would we give priority?

In order to avoid this nonsense, I believe that all documents and all correspondence in this country should be done in our national language, and that is English."

To read the rest of Cindy's story and see the latest member highlighted each month, visit our website or check our Facebook and Twitter pages.

To submit your story for consideration, email us at <a href="info@usenglish.org">info@usenglish.org</a>.

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#### OFFICIAL SPANISH & OTHER THREATS

The work of the U.S. English Foundation is more important now than ever.

Pennsylvania State Rep. Angel Cruz recently introduced two bills that would declare Spanish the official language—of Pennsylvania and the United States! The bills would even urge the use

of Spanish in all official state government acts.

Nearly as alarming, a bill currently in the Alaska State Legislature would make 19 Alaska native languages official—in addition to English.

Hawaii faces a similar situation, as the state is now offering driver's

license exams in twelve languages, after offering exams solely in English for vears.

Thanks to the ongoing support from members like you, the U.S. English Foundation will continue to distribute its educational research about the important role English plays as the unifying language of the United States.

#### **ENGLISH: UNITING THE GLOBE**

Over the past weeks and months, we have seen an increase in media coverage featuring other nations recognizing the unifying role of the English language.

• The Economist recently stated that an increasing number of

businesses worldwide are adopting English as their primary means of communication.

 The Harvard **Business Review** found that countries with better English have better economies.

 In India, Korea, Finland and beyond, English is being recognized as a critical tool.

This is why our mission and the work of the U.S. English Foundation are so important. You can find more recent articles on the U.S. English Foundation website.

#### ADVERTISING UPDATE: YOUR DOLLARS AT WORK

Your generous contributions allow the U.S. which has allowed us to English Foundation to conduct non-partisan research and distribute and advertise the results.

These efforts have a positive impact on this critical public policy issue.

As a result, the U.S. English Foundation was recently approved for a

Google Ad Words grant, generate significant new attention to our cause.

Now, when people search for terms relating to our mission, such as 'how to learn English,' a link to the U.S. English Foundation website will appear in their search results.

As the sidebar on the front of this newsletter highlighted, already in 2014, these campaigns have resulted in more than 116.778 ad views and more than 242 clicks to the U.S. English Foundation website.

We will continue these successful campaigns, and add to them, in the coming months.