

# SPEAKING THE WORLD

Multilingualism and Cultural Fluency  
in the Professional World



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# Strategies for School Leaders to Foster Multilingualism and Cultural Fluency

## 1. Curriculum Integration

- **Cultural Studies Across Disciplines:** Incorporate global perspectives in all subjects to contextualize multilingualism, showing its relevance across fields like history, literature, and science.
- **Language and Culture Clubs:** Support clubs that celebrate linguistic diversity, where students practice language skills and learn cultural traditions through events and discussions.

## 2. Professional Development for Educators

- **Cultural Competence Workshops:** Train teachers in cross-cultural understanding and responsive teaching practices to better support students from diverse backgrounds.
- **Mentorship Programs:** Connect teachers with multilingual mentors or cultural exchange partners, fostering a supportive network for multilingual teaching methods.

## 3. Student Engagement Programs

- **Exchange Programs and Study Abroad Opportunities:** Facilitate opportunities for students to immerse themselves in different cultures, enriching their language skills and cultural knowledge.
- **Language Partner Initiatives:** Create buddy systems pairing students who speak different languages, allowing them to practice and learn from each other.

## 4. Community and Parental Involvement

- **Family Language Programs:** Offer workshops and resources to support families in maintaining heritage languages, fostering intergenerational language learning.
- **Community Cultural Events:** Organize school events celebrating diverse cultures and languages, fostering a sense of global community among students, families, and staff.

## Leadership Reflection and Implementation Questions

- **Self-Assessment:** Reflect on how your leadership style promotes multilingual and culturally inclusive education. What steps can you take to enhance this within your school?
- **Application in the Classroom:** How can teachers use students' linguistic and cultural backgrounds to enrich learning experiences?
- **Long-term Impact:** Consider how promoting multilingualism may shape students' readiness for global careers and contribute to a more inclusive, understanding world.

## Why this guide?

By fostering multilingualism and cultural fluency, school leaders are not only preparing students for professional success but are also building compassionate, culturally aware citizens. This guide offers a starting point for implementing these essential skills in educational institutions, ensuring that students can thrive in our interconnected world.

# Section 1: Core Competencies in Multilingual and Culturally Fluent Schools – A Guide for School Leaders

## Introduction

Building a multilingual and culturally fluent school community begins with establishing core competencies. These competencies form a foundation that fosters a supportive environment for language acquisition and cultural understanding, empowering students, staff, and families. For school leaders, nurturing these competencies is key to guiding curriculum development, staff training, and community involvement in a way that values and utilizes linguistic diversity.

## 1. Mindsets for a Multilingual and Culturally Fluent School Community

Creating a school environment that fosters the right mindsets sets the tone for respectful and open interactions among students, teachers, and families. School leaders play a crucial role in modeling and encouraging these mindsets:

- **Inclusivity and Openness**
  - **Definition:** Inclusivity involves welcoming and respecting all languages and cultures present in the school community. Openness is the willingness to explore, value, and learn from various cultural perspectives.
  - **Implementation:** School leaders should encourage inclusivity by integrating multilingual perspectives into school policies and daily interactions. This can be accomplished by:
    - Developing language-supportive practices, such as signage in multiple languages or allowing students to use their native language in informal settings.

- Creating curriculum components that emphasize global stories, traditions, and cultural perspectives, making all students feel represented and valued.
  - **Outcomes:** Students develop respect for different cultural backgrounds, which fosters mutual understanding and reduces prejudice, making the school a safe space for all learners.
- **Empathy and Cultural Sensitivity**
  - **Definition:** Empathy is the ability to understand and share another's feelings. In a multilingual context, this extends to recognizing and valuing cultural and linguistic backgrounds. Cultural sensitivity involves being aware of and respecting cultural differences, including norms, values, and communication styles.
  - **Implementation:** School leaders can nurture empathy and sensitivity by:
    - Encouraging teachers to adopt culturally responsive teaching practices, recognizing and valuing students' cultural backgrounds in lesson planning.
    - Implementing programs or workshops on empathy-building exercises focused on understanding diverse cultural narratives.
  - **Outcomes:** Students and staff gain skills in active listening and understanding, fostering an environment where individuals feel valued and respected, regardless of their linguistic or cultural background.
- **Adaptability and Resilience**
  - **Definition:** Adaptability is the ability to adjust one's behavior to fit new or changing environments. Resilience in a multilingual setting involves maintaining commitment and confidence when navigating language barriers or cultural misunderstandings.

- **Implementation:** To build adaptability and resilience, school leaders should:
  - Encourage student and staff participation in multicultural and multilingual activities that expose them to unfamiliar languages and cultural practices.
  - Support language-learning efforts, providing language resources and highlighting examples of resilient students who have overcome language-related challenges.
- **Outcomes:** Students become more flexible in thinking and communication, developing resilience that helps them work through challenges in a multicultural world.

## 2. Essential Skillsets for a Multilingual and Culturally Fluent Community

Skillsets in language, cultural intelligence, interpersonal communication, and global awareness are practical tools that enable students and staff to function effectively in multilingual environments. School leaders can establish these skillsets as integral components of a successful, culturally fluent school.

- **Language Proficiency Across Key Languages**
  - **Definition:** Language proficiency is the ability to speak, read, write, and understand multiple languages with fluency appropriate to the context.
  - **Implementation:** School leaders can strengthen language proficiency by:
    - Offering a curriculum that includes multilingual instruction, beginning with major languages relevant to the local community and extending to less commonly taught languages.
    - Organizing language clubs or immersion programs where students practice language skills in real-life settings.

- Providing language resources for teachers to enhance their language instruction methods and allowing flexibility in assessments to support multilingual learners.
  - **Outcomes:** Students achieve proficiency in languages that align with the school's goals, empowering them to communicate across cultural divides and supporting their academic and career success.
- **Cultural Intelligence (CQ)**
  - **Definition:** Cultural intelligence is the ability to relate and work effectively across cultures, involving an understanding of cultural norms, practices, and beliefs.
  - **Implementation:** School leaders can promote CQ by:
    - Integrating intercultural communication training into professional development, equipping teachers with tools to navigate and teach cultural differences.
    - Hosting cultural celebration days and exchange programs where students experience diverse customs, rituals, and etiquette firsthand.
    - Including CQ-focused modules in courses that emphasize global issues, highlighting the significance of cultural understanding in various fields.
  - **Outcomes:** Students and staff become adept at interpreting cultural cues, enhancing interpersonal communication and minimizing misunderstandings in multicultural settings.
- **Interpersonal Skills for Multicultural Engagement**

- **Definition:** Interpersonal skills include communication, negotiation, and conflict resolution tailored to multilingual and multicultural contexts.
- **Implementation:** School leaders can foster these skills by:
  - Establishing conflict-resolution protocols sensitive to cultural differences, ensuring that all voices are heard and respected.
  - Providing leadership opportunities where students practice negotiating and collaborating with peers from different backgrounds.
  - Creating a peer-mentorship program where older students support younger students from various cultural backgrounds.
- **Outcomes:** Students and staff are equipped to manage social interactions respectfully, navigate conflicts thoughtfully, and build trusting relationships within the school community and beyond.
- **Global Awareness and Perspective**
  - **Definition:** Global awareness is an understanding of international issues, cultural diversity, and how these shape human experiences and interconnections.
  - **Implementation:** To instill global awareness, school leaders can:
    - Embed international studies within the curriculum, covering topics such as global history, economics, and environmental issues that highlight interconnectedness.
    - Partner with global organizations to provide virtual exchange programs, guest lectures, or collaborative projects that bring in international perspectives.
    - Encourage students to participate in discussions on current world events,



considering how these impact various cultures and communities.

- **Outcomes:** Students develop a broad understanding of global dynamics, gain insight into the complexities of international relations, and are inspired to act as responsible global citizens.

## Activities to Promote Core Competencies

### Sample Activities for School Leaders to Initiate:

#### 1. Language & Culture Workshop Series

- **Description:** Organize a series of workshops exploring different languages and cultures, focusing on customs, communication styles, and languages unique to each.
- **Objective:** Increase cultural sensitivity and appreciation among students, encouraging them to respect and celebrate linguistic diversity.

#### 2. Multilingual Student Council

- **Description:** Establish a multilingual student council where representatives from diverse linguistic backgrounds meet to discuss ways to improve inclusivity in the school.
- **Objective:** Empower students to advocate for linguistic diversity, providing a platform to voice cultural insights and suggest school-wide initiatives that foster inclusion.

#### 3. Global Awareness Project

- **Description:** Assign projects where students research current global issues and present findings on how these issues impact various cultural and linguistic groups.
- **Objective:** Build global awareness, prompting students to analyze issues from multiple perspectives and develop empathy for communities worldwide.

## Reflection and Self-Assessment for School Leaders

School leaders can periodically reflect on the development of these core competencies within their school communities.

Consider the following questions:

- **Inclusivity and Openness:** How inclusive is our school environment? Are all languages and cultures valued equally?
- **Empathy and Cultural Sensitivity:** Do our policies and practices actively promote empathy and cultural understanding?
- **Language Proficiency Support:** Are there adequate resources and programs to support language learning at all levels?
- **Cultural Intelligence:** Are staff and students equipped with skills to navigate cross-cultural interactions effectively?
- **Global Awareness Initiatives:** Are students engaged in learning about international issues that foster global citizenship?

Regularly evaluating these questions will help school leaders identify areas for growth, ensuring the school remains committed to fostering multilingualism and cultural fluency at all levels.

By cultivating these core competencies, school leaders lay the groundwork for a dynamic, inclusive, and globally aware school environment. These mindsets and skillsets are integral to students' academic, personal, and future professional success, preparing them to contribute meaningfully to an interconnected world.

# Section 2: Preparing Future Professionals to Be Multilingual and Culturally Fluent – A Guide for School Leaders

Preparing students for the global workforce requires equipping them with multilingual abilities and cultural fluency. These skills are invaluable for effective communication, critical thinking, and adaptability in diverse environments. This guide provides a roadmap for school leaders to foster these competencies through curricular enhancements, experiential learning, and inclusive practices, setting the stage for students' professional and personal growth.

## 1. Embedding Language Education into Early Learning

Language skills are foundational for cultural fluency and are best developed from an early age. School leaders can create programs that foster language acquisition and ensure multilingual competence becomes a core component of education.

- **Early Introduction to Languages**
  - **Implementation:** Begin language education in early grades, focusing on languages relevant to local communities and world languages that offer broader career opportunities (e.g., Mandarin, Spanish, French).
  - **Outcomes:** Early exposure allows students to acquire language skills more naturally and prepares them for advanced proficiency levels as they progress through their education.
- **Integrating Language Across the Curriculum**
  - **Implementation:** Embed language elements in subjects like science, math, and social studies by introducing vocabulary, concepts, or short

readings in different languages. This reinforces language learning and contextualizes language use in various fields.

- **Outcomes:** Students gain language exposure across disciplines, increasing both their vocabulary and comfort with using language skills in diverse academic and professional contexts.
- **Encouraging Multilingual Communication at School**
  - **Implementation:** Designate specific days or periods when students are encouraged to speak a language they are learning. Include announcements, signage, and even school events in multiple languages.
  - **Outcomes:** Students practice language skills in real-life settings, making language learning an active part of their school experience.

## 2. Developing Cultural Competence Through Curriculum and Activities

Cultural competence is essential for students to navigate global environments respectfully and effectively. This requires a curriculum and school culture that emphasize global understanding, empathy, and cross-cultural collaboration.

- **Global Studies and Cultural Curriculum Integration**
  - **Implementation:** Include courses or modules in global studies, cultural history, and international relations that explore diverse traditions, customs, and social norms worldwide.
  - **Outcomes:** Students develop a broad understanding of various cultures and become aware of cultural dynamics that influence communication, teamwork, and decision-making.

- **Project-Based Learning with Cultural Relevance**
  - **Implementation:** Implement project-based assignments where students research and present on cultures, languages, or international issues. Encourage projects that require collaboration with peers from different backgrounds, either in person or through virtual exchanges.
  - **Outcomes:** Students learn to work collaboratively across cultures and develop research skills that enhance their cultural awareness and sensitivity.
- **Language-Linked Cultural Clubs**
  - **Implementation:** Support student-led language and culture clubs where members can engage in language practice, cultural discussions, and events that celebrate global traditions.
  - **Outcomes:** Clubs provide a student-centered approach to learning languages and cultural practices, fostering a sense of belonging and community around multilingualism.

### 3. Promoting Real-World Language Application

Providing opportunities for students to apply their language skills in real-world settings makes learning more relevant and equips them with practical communication skills.

- **Language Internships and Community Engagement**
  - **Implementation:** Partner with local businesses, nonprofits, and community organizations where students can intern or volunteer in roles that require language skills. This could include assisting in language classes, translating community resources, or working in culturally diverse settings.
  - **Outcomes:** Students gain firsthand experience in using language skills professionally, preparing them for global careers that demand multilingual capabilities.

- **Virtual Exchange Programs and Global Classrooms**
  - **Implementation:** Create virtual exchange programs where students interact with peers from schools abroad, participating in language and cultural exchanges that allow them to apply their language skills.
  - **Outcomes:** Students experience international perspectives, expanding their language skills and cultural understanding in a meaningful, real-world context.
  
- **Experiential Language Events**
  - **Implementation:** Organize school events that emphasize immersion, such as “Language Days” where the school operates primarily in a different language or hosts workshops on cultural etiquette and language skills.
  - **Outcomes:** By experiencing language and culture firsthand, students develop confidence in navigating linguistically and culturally diverse environments.

#### **4. Enhancing Digital and Technological Tools for Language and Cultural Learning**

Technology plays an essential role in language education, providing innovative ways for students to learn and practice languages outside traditional classrooms.

- **Language Learning Apps and Software Integration**
  - **Implementation:** Incorporate apps and software like Duolingo, Babbel, or Rosetta Stone into the curriculum or as supplementary resources. Create “language challenges” where students can track their progress on digital platforms.
  - **Outcomes:** Students engage with language learning outside the classroom, reinforcing vocabulary, grammar, and pronunciation in a

flexible format that suits varied learning styles.

- **Virtual Reality (VR) and Augmented Reality (AR) for Cultural Immersion**
  - **Implementation:** Use VR/AR technology to simulate cultural environments, allowing students to “visit” historical sites or experience daily life in another country. Pair these experiences with language practice relevant to the setting.
  - **Outcomes:** Immersive technology gives students a tangible sense of different cultures and contexts, bridging the gap between language learning and real-world application.
  
- **Global Online Discussion Boards and Forums**
  - **Implementation:** Set up language and culture discussion boards where students can converse in different languages, post research findings, or share insights from cultural studies with peers from around the world.
  - **Outcomes:** Students practice their language skills and cultural fluency by engaging in dialogue with global perspectives, building their comfort with digital communication across cultures.

## 5. Fostering Critical Thinking and Cultural Reflection

### Activities and Practical Applications for School Leaders

#### Sample Activities:

1. **Language Mentorship Program**
  - **Description:** Create a mentorship program pairing students studying a language with fluent peers or teachers. Mentors guide language practice and

help mentees navigate cultural elements related to the language.

- **Objective:** Enhance language skills through peer learning and cultural engagement, building confidence and fluency among mentees.

## 2. Cultural Exchange Panels

- **Description:** Host a panel featuring students, teachers, or community members from diverse cultural backgrounds who share insights into their cultural traditions and experiences.
- **Objective:** Foster understanding and respect for cultural diversity, allowing students to learn about different backgrounds from firsthand perspectives.

## 3. Global News Presentations

- **Description:** Assign students to present news from a country they're studying, summarizing the story in the relevant language and discussing its cultural implications.
- **Objective:** Encourage global awareness, language application, and the development of cultural context understanding.

## Reflection Questions for School Leaders

- **Language and Culture Curriculum:** How can we further integrate language learning across all subjects in a way that is meaningful and engaging for students?
- **Real-World Language Opportunities:** Are there partnerships we can establish with local businesses or global organizations to give students hands-on experience with language and culture?
- **Technology and Innovation:** How can we incorporate cutting-edge technology into our language and cultural programs to make learning more immersive and impactful?

By addressing these questions, school leaders can ensure their strategies are comprehensive, creating an educational environment that prepares students to thrive as multilingual and culturally fluent professionals.



Building multilingual and culturally fluent school communities prepares students not only to excel academically but also to navigate and contribute to a diverse global society. By focusing on these core strategies, school leaders can empower students with the skills, mindsets, and adaptability necessary to become effective and culturally competent professionals in an increasingly interconnected world.

# Section 3: Upskilling Professionals to Be Multilingual and Culturally Fluent – A Guide for School Leaders

## Introduction

In a globalized education system, it's vital for educators and staff to be equipped with multilingual skills and cultural fluency. When professionals possess these competencies, they serve as effective models for students, enhance the school's inclusive environment, and contribute to culturally responsive teaching. This guide provides school leaders with a framework to support professional development in language and cultural skills, ensuring that the school environment reflects the diverse, multilingual world students are preparing to enter.

## 1. Establishing Language Training Programs for Educators

Language proficiency is a foundational skill that enables educators to communicate effectively with students and families from diverse linguistic backgrounds. Offering language training programs equips staff with the necessary tools for meaningful engagement and cultural responsiveness.

- **Customized Language Learning Programs**
  - **Implementation:** Develop or partner with language institutions to offer tailored language programs that focus on conversational proficiency, common terminology, and culturally relevant communication for educators.
  - **Outcomes:** Educators build language skills that enhance communication with students and parents from various linguistic backgrounds, improving student support and community relationships.
- **Focus on Practical Language Application**
  - **Implementation:** Structure language training to emphasize practical application in the school

setting, such as classroom vocabulary, parent-teacher communication, and common phrases needed for daily interactions.

- **Outcomes:** Staff members gain confidence using language in authentic scenarios, making them more likely to apply their skills effectively in their interactions with students and families.
- **Online Language Resources and Self-Paced Learning**
  - **Implementation:** Provide access to online language resources like apps, podcasts, and language modules that allow staff to learn at their own pace, complementing formal training sessions.
  - **Outcomes:** Flexible resources encourage self-directed learning, accommodating staff schedules and reinforcing their language skills over time.

## 2. Building Cultural Competency through Workshops and Seminars

Cultural competency involves understanding, respecting, and adapting to diverse cultural norms and values. Workshops and seminars focused on cultural awareness equip educators to recognize and appreciate the cultural backgrounds of their students, fostering an inclusive environment.

- **Cultural Awareness Workshops**
  - **Implementation:** Organize workshops that delve into cultural norms, communication styles, and values specific to the student populations served by the school. Include training on recognizing and mitigating unconscious biases.
  - **Outcomes:** Educators become more aware of cultural differences and develop strategies for inclusive, culturally responsive teaching that enhances student engagement.

- **Interactive Seminars on Cross-Cultural Communication**
  - **Implementation:** Host seminars that involve role-playing, scenario-based activities, and discussions on navigating cross-cultural communication challenges within the school setting.
  - **Outcomes:** Staff gain hands-on experience with culturally sensitive communication strategies, helping to reduce misunderstandings and build rapport with diverse students and families.
- **Encouraging Reflective Practices**
  - **Implementation:** After each workshop, encourage educators to reflect on how the new cultural insights could influence their teaching practices and student interactions. Use journals, group discussions, or action plans to guide reflection.
  - **Outcomes:** Reflection fosters continuous improvement, allowing educators to translate cultural insights into actionable strategies that benefit their teaching and interactions.

### **3. Promoting Immersive Cultural Experiences and Exchange Programs**

Immersive experiences allow staff to experience cultural and linguistic diversity firsthand, deepening their understanding and empathy. School leaders can facilitate such experiences through exchanges, virtual programs, and local immersion opportunities.

- **International Exchange Opportunities for Staff**
  - **Implementation:** Partner with schools abroad to offer short-term exchange programs where educators can experience different teaching practices, languages, and cultural settings.
  - **Outcomes:** Educators return with broadened perspectives, applying new insights to their work and enriching the school's cultural landscape.
- **Local Cultural Immersion Experiences**

- **Implementation:** Organize visits to local cultural centers, festivals, and community events where staff can engage directly with cultural practices and languages represented in the school community.
- **Outcomes:** Local immersion strengthens connections to the community, enhancing educators' understanding of the cultural contexts their students experience daily.
- **Virtual Cultural Exchange Programs**
  - **Implementation:** For schools with limited travel budgets, establish virtual exchanges where educators meet with international peers for discussions on cultural and educational practices.
  - **Outcomes:** Virtual exchanges allow staff to experience diverse perspectives and gain cross-cultural insights, building empathy and broadening their cultural fluency without leaving the school.

#### **4. Encouraging Mentorship and Language Partnerships within the School**

Mentorship programs that pair bilingual and culturally fluent educators with colleagues offer an opportunity for skill development and collaborative growth in cultural understanding and language proficiency.

- **Peer Language Mentorship Programs**
  - **Implementation:** Match educators fluent in certain languages with colleagues who are interested in learning those languages, creating a structured mentorship for language practice and cultural exchange.
  - **Outcomes:** Peer mentorship fosters community among staff, enhancing language skills while providing cultural insights directly from colleagues who speak the language natively or fluently.

- **Cross-Cultural Mentorship for New Staff**
  - **Implementation:** Pair new teachers with experienced staff who have deep cultural knowledge of the student population, allowing them to learn effective, culturally sensitive teaching strategies.
  - **Outcomes:** New staff become more adept at navigating cultural differences, leading to a smoother transition into the school environment and a stronger connection with students.
- **Building a Support Network**
  - **Implementation:** Encourage language partners to share resources, meet regularly, and support one another in their learning goals, building a network of staff who prioritize language and cultural growth.
  - **Outcomes:** A support network increases accountability, encourages language retention, and promotes a collaborative learning culture within the school.

## 5. Incorporating Language and Culture into Professional Development Plans

Professional development plans that include language and cultural goals signal a commitment to growth in these areas, making them integral to career advancement and teaching efficacy.

- **Customized Professional Development Plans**
  - **Implementation:** Work with staff to set language and cultural fluency goals as part of their professional development, using metrics such as language proficiency or successful implementation of culturally responsive practices.
  - **Outcomes:** Personalized development plans encourage sustained focus on language and culture as valuable professional skills, aligning with the

school's vision of multicultural education.

- **Regular Assessments and Feedback Loops**
  - **Implementation:** Include regular assessments and feedback for educators participating in language or cultural competency training. Schedule reviews to evaluate progress and adjust goals as needed.
  - **Outcomes:** Regular feedback allows staff to gauge their progress, helping them stay on track and maintain motivation as they work towards their language and cultural competency goals.
- **Reward and Recognition for Growth in Cultural Competency**
  - **Implementation:** Recognize staff who reach language milestones or demonstrate excellence in cultural fluency by incorporating achievements into performance reviews or offering incentives like continuing education credits or travel grants.
  - **Outcomes:** Recognition programs motivate staff to engage with language learning and cultural initiatives, showing that these skills are valued and rewarded within the school.

## **Activities and Practical Applications for School Leaders**

### **Sample Activities:**

1. **Cultural Competency Scenarios**
  - **Description:** Use real-world scenarios where staff members work through common cultural misunderstandings, practicing culturally sensitive conflict resolution.
  - **Objective:** Build practical skills in cross-cultural communication, helping staff navigate diverse interactions with students and families.

2. **Language Practice Lunches**
  - **Description:** Host informal, weekly lunches where staff practice a chosen language together, guided by a fluent speaker or language teacher.
  - **Objective:** Increase language proficiency in a relaxed environment, promoting language practice as an enjoyable and social activity.
3. **Staff-Led Cultural Workshops**
  - **Description:** Allow staff members with specific cultural knowledge to lead workshops on topics like cultural holidays, traditional practices, or historical backgrounds relevant to the student body.
  - **Objective:** Encourage knowledge sharing and empower staff to contribute to the school's cultural enrichment efforts.

## **Reflection and Application Questions for School Leaders**

1. **Language Training:** How can we structure language training to support practical applications within the school environment, making it relevant to staff and student interactions?
2. **Cultural Competency Development:** What cultural competency workshops would be most beneficial for our staff, considering the diversity within our student population?
3. **Mentorship Programs:** How can we implement mentorship opportunities that facilitate cultural exchange and language learning among our staff?

By addressing these questions, school leaders can design a comprehensive approach to language and cultural upskilling that aligns with the needs of their school community and professional goals.

School leaders play an essential role in building a multilingual and culturally fluent team of educators. Through structured



language programs, immersive experiences, mentorship, and professional development, educators can acquire the skills and insights necessary to foster an inclusive, supportive learning environment for students. These initiatives empower teachers to become not only proficient in language but also advocates for cultural understanding, equipping them to model the values of global citizenship and empathy.

## About TBR Books



TBR Books is a program of the Center for the Advancement of Languages, Education, and Communities. We publish researchers and practitioners seeking to engage diverse communities on education, languages, cultural history, and social initiatives. We translate our books into various languages to further expand our impact.

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*Myths and Facts about Multilingualism* by J. Franck, F. Faloppa, T. Marinis.

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The Center for the Advancement of Languages, Education, and Communities (CALEC) is a nonprofit organization that promotes multilingualism, empowers multilingual families, and fosters cross-cultural understanding. The Center's mission aligns with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. Our mission is to establish language as a critical life skill by developing and implementing bilingual education programs, promoting diversity, reducing inequality, and helping to provide quality education. Our programs seek to protect world cultural heritage and support teachers, authors, and families by providing the knowledge and resources to create vibrant multilingual communities.

The specific objectives and purpose of our organization are:

- To develop and implement education programs that promote multilingualism and cross-cultural understanding and establish an inclusive and equitable quality education, including internship and leadership training. [SDG # 4, Quality Education]
- To publish and distribute resources, including research papers, books, and case studies that seek to empower and promote the social, economic, and political inclusion of all, focusing on language education and cultural diversity, equity, and inclusion. [SDG # 10, Reduced Inequalities]
- To help build sustainable cities and communities and support teachers, authors, researchers, and families in advancing multilingualism and cross-cultural understanding through collaborative tools for linguistic communities. [SDG # 11, Sustainable Cities and Communities]

- To foster solid global partnerships and cooperation, mobilize resources across borders, participate in events and activities that promote language education through knowledge sharing and coaching, empower parents and teachers, and build multilingual societies. [SDG # 17, Partnerships for the Goals]

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