



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CAL Selects University Partners for Advanced English Language Program

Washington, DC, November 29, 2005 --- The Center for Applied Linguistics (CAL) is pleased to announce the initiation of the first pilot year of its EHLS (English for Heritage Language Speakers) program. The mission of EHLS is to provide an English for professional purposes program for adults who are native speakers of critical languages. The program will enable participants to acquire the English language proficiency they need to function effectively in government and business positions in the United States.

In the first pilot year, instruction will take place at two universities: the University of Washington (www.washington.edu) and Georgetown University (www.georgetown.edu). The intensive program will entail 720 hours of instruction that combines class work, tutorials, and lab work as well as internships and mentoring. Instruction will begin in March, 2006 and conclude in August, 2006. In the pilot year, the program will recruit participants who are native speakers of Arabic, Chinese, and Russian. Participants must have advanced level proficiency in the native language to be admitted to the program. Competitive scholarships will be available to individuals who meet the language qualifications, are U.S. citizens, and are willing to commit to work for one year within the federal government.

Funding for the EHLS program comes from the National Security Education Program (NSEP). As part of the U.S. Department of Defense, NSEP has worked for over ten years to help English-speaking U.S. citizens develop high-level proficiency in less commonly taught languages and cultures. With Congressional authorization to initiate the EHLS program, NSEP is now working with heritage communities and helping individuals who have fluency in their native languages to develop proficiency in English.

For more information, watch the CAL Web site (www.cal.org) for a link to the coming EHLS program Web site.

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About CAL

The Center for Applied Linguistics is a private nonprofit company working to improve communication through better understanding of language and culture. Established in 1959, CAL has earned a national and international reputation for its contributions to the fields of bilingual education, English as a second language and foreign language education, literacy education, dialect studies, language policy, refugee orientation, and the education of linguistically and culturally diverse adults and children. CAL's staff of researchers and educators conduct research, design and develop instructional materials and language tests, provide technical assistance and professional development, conduct needs assessments and program evaluations, and disseminate information and resources related to language and culture. For more information about CAL, visit www.cal.org.

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Improving communication through better understanding of language and culture

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