



## American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages

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January 22, 2009

The Honorable Arne Duncan  
Secretary of Education  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Ave., SW  
Washington, D.C. 20202

Dear Secretary Duncan:

Congratulations on your appointment and confirmation as Secretary of Education! Your long time involvement with education and management experience with the Chicago Public Schools makes you an ideal choice for Secretary, and I look forward to working with you in your new capacity.

I understand from foreign language educators in the Chicago area that you have been a strong supporter of language education. Chicago has gained some world renown as a pioneer in the expansion of Mandarin language education programs in the U.S. The Chicago schools and the language programs, in particular, are a shining example of the positive educational outcomes that can result with foreign languages.

ACTFL is involved in many aspects of the expansion and improvement of language learning. Along with a coalition of language organizations, we developed the teaching and learning standards for foreign language education in the 1990's. You may also be aware that ACTFL set the standards for foreign language proficiency testing and works very closely with the Department of Defense and other federal agencies on training and testing initiatives in more than 60 languages. In addition, our public relations initiatives such as *2005: The Year of Languages* and our current ongoing campaign *Discover Languages – Discover the World!* are leading efforts to communicate the power of language learning to the American public. I look forward to meeting with you to discuss our current activities and how ACTFL might assist you in achieving the goals of the Obama Administration.

Again, I offer my congratulations and wish you the best of luck in your new role. I will call your office soon to schedule a meeting. Please feel free to call on me if I may be of assistance in any way.

Sincerely,

Bret Lovejoy  
Executive Director