LUCE WORLD PATHWAYS HERITAGE LANGUAGE SCHOLARS PROGRAM

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Luce Heritage Scholars Project

- Funded by the Henry Luce Foundation for 2013-2014
- For 2013-2014, nine students were selected for the project
  - 3 Spanish heritage speakers
  - 3 Mandarin Chinese heritage speakers
  - 2 Japanese heritage speakers
  - 1 Mandarin-Spanish heritage speaker
Who are the HL Speakers?

Heritage language speakers are those:
- whose parents speak a language other than English at home.
- who were raised in a bilingual community in the U.S.
- with possible improvement in HL literacy skills.
- who identify English as their primary language.

Linguistic profiles of HL speakers:
- Higher oral skills (almost no accent) than literacy skills
- The gap is even wider in non-Alphabet languages
How many HL speakers are there in our community?

U.S. Census and American Community Survey
- Decennial U.S. Census (all residents in the U.S.)
- Annual American Community Survey (sample-based)

CUNY Institutional Research Database (IRDB)
- Demographic survey upon entrance into the CUNY system
LUCE HERITAGE SCHOLARS PROJECT
DEFINITION AND DEMOGRAPHICS OF HL SPEAKERS

2007-2011 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimate
People who speak a language other than English at home

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Number of Speakers</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All States</td>
<td>61,569,743 spks</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>14,885,203 spks</td>
<td>24.18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York</td>
<td>5,346,114 spks</td>
<td>8.67%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2007-2011 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimate
People who speak a language other than English at home AND speak English "Very well"

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Number of Speakers</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All States</td>
<td>33,774,239 spks</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>8,093,084 spks</td>
<td>23.96%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York</td>
<td>2,929,341 spks</td>
<td>8.67%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Luce Heritage Scholars Project**

**Definition and Demographics of HL Speakers**

ACS 2007–2011: Languages spoken at home (by respondents who speak English "very well") in New York State (n=2,929,341)

- **Spanish:** 1,414,802 (48.30%)
- **Chinese:** 175,801 (6.00%)
- **Tagalog:** 54,560 (1.86%)
- **French:** 101,895 (3.48%)
- **German:** 56,917 (1.94%)
- **Italian:** 138,004 (4.71%)
- **Vietnamese:** 9,511 (0.32%)
- **Arabic:** 46,087 (1.57%)
- **Korean:** 48,083 (1.64%)
- **Hindi:** 43,804 (1.50%)
- **Russian:** 90,329 (3.08%)
- **Portuguese:** 27,492 (0.94%)
- **French Creole:** 86,962 (2.97%)
- **Polish:** 52,313 (1.79%)
- **Urdu:** 41,681 (1.42%)
- **Japanese:** 17,290 (0.59%)
- **Others:** 523,810 (17.88%)
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Definition and Demographics of HL Speakers

- Findings from the Census/ACS data
  - Depending on the definition, the estimated number of HL speakers in the U.S. ranges from 33.7M to 61.5M speakers.
  - Spanish is the most frequently spoken HL (59.94% in the U.S.), but its proportion is smaller in urban areas (44.63% in Queens).

- Findings from the CUNY IRDB data
  - At LaGuardia, among the 51% of students who are U.S.-born, 10.4%-18.3% identify themselves as heritage speakers
LUCE HERITAGE SCHOLARS PROJECT

GOALS OF THE PROJECT

- To help heritage language speaking students enhance their language, cultural, and other soft skills; therefore to transform them into World Citizens.
LUCE HERITAGE SCHOLARS PROJECT PROGRAM DESIGN PROCESS

1. Recruiting students
2. Build a curriculum
3. Required heritage language courses
4. Culture events and workshops
5. Conversation partners
6. Faculty one-one-one coach on transfer and career plan
7. Independent study on global business
8. Entrepreneurs' presentations
9. Cover letters, resumes, mock interviews, elevator speeches.
10. Personal financial planning workshop
11. Internships
Luce Heritage Scholars Project Recruitment Process

- An estimated number of heritage language speakers: 2,036 - 3,562 students in LaGuardia Community College (out of 19,464 students)

- We decided to recruit participants from several different heritage languages (Mandarin Chinese, Spanish, and Japanese).

- We established highly selective requirements:
  - GPA of 3.0 or above
  - Minimal 15 cumulative credits
  - Reference letter(s) from faculty
  - High proficiency in the HL
Luce Heritage Scholars Project Heritage Language Class

- All participants took a heritage language course (in addition to their regular major curricula)
  - These heritage language courses (when possible) focus on the HL in a professional register
  - High-register language (e.g., *keigo* in Japanese)
  - Low-frequency, high-register vocabulary (e.g., Sino-Japanese words in Japanese)
  - Language in a professional register
  - Typing in the HL
  - Resume and cover letter writing
  - Business etiquette in the HL culture
LUCE SCHOLARS
LUCE SCHOLARS
Cultural Events
CULTURAL EVENTS
Luce Heritage Scholars Project Assessment

- Language Assessment
  - In-house placement exam
  - ACTFL OPI and WPT tests (as pre- and exit tests)

- Coursework in Fall 2013 and Spring 2014
  - Heritage language and Business courses as part of their degree curricula

- Weekly Being a World Citizen Seminar
  - Developing interpersonal and networking skills

- Cultural activities (e.g., field trips to MoMA and MET)
The results of the pre-test (ACTFL OPI and WPT) show their oral skills are higher than their literacy skills.
The results of ACTFL Oral Proficiency Interview and ACTFL Written Language Test among the participants in the Luce Heritage Scholars Project (n=9)
The project is under progress in Spring 2014.

The culmination of the project is an overseas internship in Summer 2014.

The linguistic development of the participants has been documented and will be tested again with the OPT/WPT in Summer 2014.
- https://www.dropbox.com/sh/lwnfg3fzotm3hga/OfKwItpWpd#lh:null-LuceStudentsVideoLight.mp4

- http://vimeo.com/89029225