

## **Mission Statement**

### **Department of Foreign Languages / USI**

The mission of the Department of Foreign Languages is to educate students in another language, its culture and its literature, both as a vital part of a liberal arts education and as preparation for a profession. We believe that there is intrinsic value in learning to communicate in another language, and in discovering how history and culture are encoded in language. We educate students to function in a multilingual, multicultural world. We are confident that these students will create bridges of understanding between local and global communities. We prepare students for careers in such fields as teaching, international law, government, tourism, international business, social work, journalism, and the arts. We offer a comprehensive program of study in French, German, and Spanish, including teacher certification and a Concentration in Language and International Trade in those languages. Courses in Latin and Japanese provide students with insight into the internal workings of a foundation culture of the Western world and a major Oriental civilization. **We make the following commitments:**

#### **To Students:**

- To provide students with the individual attention and technological knowledge they need to become proficient in a language.
- To facilitate their participation in summer, semester or year-long study abroad programs.
- To provide extracurricular opportunities such as cultural events, clubs, and other opportunities for language practice and enrichment.
- To help them develop knowledge of multiple literatures and cultures.
- To advise them as they choose a career.

#### **To the University:**

- To continue to work for the internationalization of the curriculum and cultural life of the university.
- To continue to work with those colleges and programs which recognize language study as necessary to their disciplines and educational mission.
- To respond creatively and quickly to the changing needs of the university.

#### **To the Community:**

- To encourage the study of other languages in area schools through faculty visits to high schools, and through activities like foreign language competitions and international fairs.
- To invite high school and middle school students and their teachers to campus for a variety of cultural events.
- To develop and support credit programs with local high schools.
- To serve the community, both as individual faculty members and as a department, as links to other countries.
- To develop a variety of cultural initiatives involving both western and non-western countries.