

**Office of the President  
California State University, Chico**



**Executive Memorandum 21-030**

**November 15, 2021**

**From:** Gayle E. Hutchinson, President

**Subject:** Approval to Change the Name of the Department of International Languages, Literatures, and Cultures

Upon the recommendation of the Academic Senate and with the concurrence of the Provost, I approve changing the name of the Department of International Languages, Literatures, and Cultures to the Department of Languages and Cultures, effective immediately. The department will also use the new abbreviation LANC.

<b>Policy Title:</b>	EM 21-030 Approval to change the name of the Department of International Languages, Literatures, and Cultures
<b>Contact:</b>	Department of Languages and Cultures
<b>Supersedes:</b>	
<b>Revision:</b>	
<b>Enabling Legislation or Executive Order:</b>	



## **Proposed Department Name Change: International Languages, Literatures, and Cultures**

### **Rationale**

The new department name is meant to more accurately and succinctly communicate the scope of the programs delivered by the department. The change will also bring us more in line with common practice among similar departments in the US and Canada.

We would like to drop the designation "international" for several reasons. "International languages" are traditionally thought of as languages that facilitate communication across national boundaries (e.g. English, Esperanto). The term "international languages" is in turn tied to the idea that languages are assigned to certain nations and that nations are monolingual speech communities. In 21st societies and cultures today are multilingual. In addition, all of the languages we teach are spoken by populations domestically. Spanish is the most obvious example. Finally, the designation "international languages" is unique to us in the CSU and is rare among departments like ours in North America.

The new name also collapses literature under the umbrella of culture. Literature is just one of the many aspects of culture that our programs teach and there is no need to single it out.

Least important, but also relevant, is that the current name is just simply too unwieldy. It is stated or written erroneously or in a shortened form by students, faculty, and staff alike. As if to make the point, the attached proposal form for department name changes does not allow the number of characters needed to enter the complete name in the signatures section.

We are also pursuing a parallel change to our MA in Teaching International Languages, which is to become an MA in Language Teaching, if approved.